



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

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“UCHINANCHU: THE NEXT GENERATION”

The Future Rests in Good Hands

by Karleen Chinen

After a year of honoring the sacrifices and perseverance of our Okinawan immigrant pioneers who began settling in Hawaii 100 years ago — and their American-born children — “Okage Sama de 2000: Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha” came to an official close on Dec. 10 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

“Hukurashaya Uchinanchu — We are Proud to be Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-Heart” was the theme of the closing banquet program which looked to the future with optimism and confidence that the Okinawan cultural legacy rests in the capable hands and dedicated hearts of the next generation of Okinawans.

More than 700 Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart attended the banquet, which was organized by the Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH) and the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club. The event was co-chaired by YOH immediate past president Sandy Goya and Shuri-Naha Club president Nellie Borja. People gathered outside the Hawaii Ballroom before lunch to greet each other, talk story, and enjoy the photo boards displayed by the HUOA clubs.

Those attending the banquet were taken on a video stroll down memory lane with a look back at the more than a dozen events that were held during the centennial celebration year. It began with the interring of the ashes of Toyama Kyuzo — “the father of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii” — at Mililani Memorial Park and a moving opening program at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 8, 2000 — exactly one hundred years to the date after the first 27 Okinawans arrived in Hawaii, and continued on through the year. The video montage was assembled by HUOA’s “Hawaii Okinawa Today” video team. It brought back heart-warming memories of a year marked by celebration, appreciation and reflection.

The banquet program featured a full cast of young Okinawans who, indeed, make up the “the next generation.” In their program, this “next generation” made it known that they stand proudly and with deep gratitude on the shoulders of the generations that came before

grandmother and great-grandmother in the program, as did her stage “husband,” YOH president Jon Itomura. “I told Jon and Sandy that it would mean so much more to us, because then we can also give back to our parents, family and ancestors. Those in the audience who

knew those names were deeply touched.”

Many people never realized how committed young people are to preserving Okinawan culture, she said. “After they saw the show, I think they know that they will not lose the history — and that it will be passed on to the next generation.”

She said many of the young performers — children like 11-year-old twin sisters Carolyn and Marlene Shimamura; Tori Eguchi, 9; and Shannon and Lauren Asato, 9 and 6, respectively — are lucky to have parents who teach them about their culture. “The parents will teach the young ones to understand and cherish the true Okinawan history. That’s how the legacy will live on.”

“I’m really glad that I was part of this program and of Young Okinawans of Hawaii. It was a great opening to the new future we face,” said Hiramoto. “I will keep this one in my heart forever.”

For Grant “Sandaa” Murata Sensei,

“Hukurashaya Uchinanchu — We are Proud to be Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart” was a gift to — and from — the Okinawan ancestral spirits. He said the program was a means of assuring the spirits that Okinawan culture will live on well into the new century and among young people who, even with the benefit of an education, have made — and continue to make — Okinawan culture an important part of their lives.



GENERATIONS: Shizuko Shiroma and her granddaughters, Sherice and Tiffany; 91-year-old nisei Haruko Arakaki, daughter Lillian Takata and great-granddaughter Chantelle Takata; and nisei Janet Tamashiro, daughter Pam Tamashiro and granddaughter Chiemi Bryant perform “Kariyushi — Imin Hyakunensai.”

them. They took time to honor a few who have given selflessly to their country and their community.

• Yeiki Kobashigawa, who, in June, more than 50 years after fighting with the famed 100th Infantry Battalion in Europe in World War II, was presented America’s highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, along with 21 other Asian Pacific Americans — 18 of them AJsAs.

• Akira Sakima, who last month was awarded an Imperial Decoration, The Order of the Sacred Treasure — Gold Rays with Rosette, by the government of Japan for his contributions to strengthening the ties of friendship between Japan and the United States.

• One hundred-year-old Kamesuke Nakamura was born in Okinawa the year the first immigrants arrived in Hawai’i. Little did he know then that he would follow in the footsteps of those first 27 pioneers. Nakamura was instrumental in the establishment of not only the Hawaii Okinawa Center but the HUOA as well. Nakamura now lives in Okinawa with his Hawai’i-born wife after living many years in Hawai’i.

Event co-chair Sandy Goya said YOH and Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club were honored and appreciative of the opportunity to present the final event of the Okinawan Centennial Celebration year. “Everytime I reminisce about the program, the joy of fellowship, community support and love in our community overwhelms me. With tears in our eyes, smiles on our faces, and joy in our hearts — to our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, relatives, Uchinanchu pioneers and friends — Ippe nihei deebiru!!”

Goya said the centennial year was a year of learning and of continually seeking advice and knowledge. She credited Clarence Tomokazu Nakasone for his assistance in creating the event theme. “Our goal was very simple, yet sincere,” she said. “It was to assure Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart that we, the next generation, have taken to heart our momentous task in passing on our culture. We thank you for hearing our voices.”

Iris (Yafuso) Hiramoto, who co-wrote the script for the program, said she used the names of her mother,



Calvin Nakama and Tom Yamamoto gave the audience a good laugh with their performance in “Bazangaa,” an Okinawan comic opera.

He believes the Okinawan ancestral spirits have guided the young performers “to love their Okinawan culture and to bring them closer to their roots. After 100 years of gulping down Coca-Cola and eating french fries, something’s gotta change,” he said. “I always tell my students, ‘There’s something spiritual inside of you. You are special because you take the time and effort to learn your culture.’”

*Mighty spirits of young Okinawans
Elevating the pioneer’s dreams
Like golden flowers blooming
all over the Hawaiian islands
Hukurashaya Uchinanchu
Yes, we are proud to be Uchinanchu
and Uchinanchu-at-Heart.*

excerpt from “Hukurashaya Uchinanchu”
by Clarence Tomokazu Nakasone

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UCHINANCHU

Ippe nihei deebiru . . mahalo . .

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 information and experiences, *Uchinanchu* keeps us connected as a family, dedicated to preserving, sharing and perpetuating the Okinawan cultural heritage.

HUOA received total of \$1,860.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* during the month of November. Every dollar donated — along with income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a heartfelt ippe nihei deebiru to the following donors, including one from California, one from Utah, three from Maui, and one each from Kauai and the Big Island. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Albert H. Miyasato
President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association
Member, Club Motobu

The 120 participants in our annual HUOA Study Tour to Okinawa left Honolulu on Nov. 1, with the main body returning to Hawai'i on Nov. 11. The others opted to continue on to Kyushu and Hiroshima.

Various factors contributed to the large sign-up: Recruitment publicity started early — in the latter part of 1999; recruitment efforts were eased by emphasis on the significance of the Year 2000 as not only the turning point of the millennium but more importantly, the centennial celebration year of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i; the special worldwide focus on Okinawa when the Japanese government selected Nago City as the site of the G-8 Summit; the international debut of the Japanese American National Museum exhibition, "From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i," and here at home, the growing reputation of the HUOA as the largest and most active and viable volunteer organization in the state of Hawai'i.



HUOA President Albert Miyasato joins Study Tour members dancing the hula, "Boy from Laupahoehoe," at the group's aloha party.

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Please contact Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400 or 676-7811 (fax) for more information.

Uchinanchu

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E-mail articles to Kchinen@lava.net

Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

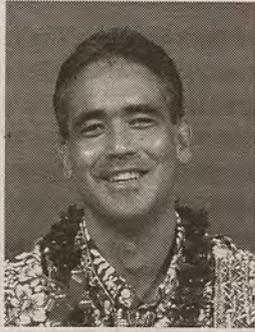
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With 113 people traveling in three separate buses in Okinawa, it is amazing that no one was late boarding the bus. Many friendships were spawned. Everyone was cordial and showed genuine interest in learning as much about Okinawa as possible as observed by their intense attention to every place visited. Fortunately, no one became ill or met with accidents. When you consider that the age range was 7 years to 94 years, this group was truly special. Akira Sakima, Calvin Nakama and N&K Travel president Nadine Shimabukuro served as dispensers of rich information about Okinawa throughout the tour. They were assisted by professional bus guides as well

(continued on page 3)

Karii! . . . Congratulations!!

Mike McCartney has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Public Television. His appointment concludes an extensive search by the board of directors of the Hawaii Public Television Foundation (HPTF), the governing body for Hawaii Public Television, which became a totally independent public broadcasting station on July 1, 2000.



McCartney's appointment was announced by HPTF board chair Neil Hannahs. "We thought it essential to find an individual who best combines dedication to the mission of public television, communications skills, commitment to producing programs that showcase our local cultures and values, talent for generating resources and the ability to manage operations," said Hannahs. He cited McCartney's "unique set of qualities" as an entrepreneurial television producer as well as his background in public service, fund-raising and management. "He has worked with the grass roots and highest levels of community leadership, with government officials and business executives. Beyond that, HPTF board members were impressed by his passion and energy, qualities that are difficult to capture on paper or to measure," Hannahs added.

McCartney has served as executive producer and creative consultant for several television productions, including ESPN's "Golf Hawaii" and "Hawaii Stars," which he co-founded. "Hawaii Stars," which has fulfilled the dreams of many a karaoke singer, is one of Hawai'i's longest running, locally produced television shows.

McCartney's paternal grandparents (Toyama) immigrated to Kohala on the Big Island from Ikei Jima in the early 1900s. The Castle High alumnus earned his bachelor's degree in biology and physical education from Pacific University in Oregon. He previously worked as an aide to former state Sen. Charles Toguchi. McCartney and his family are members of Yonashiro Chojin Kai. He is also a member of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Group.

McCartney served three terms in the state Senate before being appointed director of the state Department for Human Resources Development.

He said he was honored to have been selected to head Hawaii Public Television. "This is a job I'm really excited about and feel like it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to work at Hawaii Public Television," McCartney told *Uchinanchu*. "It's a good place to put all of the things that I've done in my life into something that's good. It's a good mission and purpose."

Lisa Wakasugi, Julia Wakasugi, Nadine Nakamatsu, Ryan Nakamatsu and Lynn Miyashiro earned *shinjinsho* certificates in their study of classical Okinawan *uta-sanshin*. The exam for *shinjinsho* was sponsored by the *Ryukyu Shimpo* newspaper this past summer. The Hawai'i students impressed the judges, capturing five of the top 10 spots in the competition.



Shinjinsho certificate recipients with their sensei. Front row, from left: Lisa Wakasugi, Nadine Nakamatsu and Julia Wakasugi. Back row: Ryan Nakamatsu and Grant Murata Sensei.

Lisa, Julia, Nadine and Ryan — all yonsei — are *sanshin* students of Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei, head instructor of the Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai - Hawaii Shibu. Lynn Miyashiro is currently attending the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai) on a one-year scholarship awarded by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. She took a year off from teaching at Waianae Elementary to study the performing arts of Okinawa and has been studying *sanshin* with Choichi Terukina Sensei only since arriving in Okinawa last March. Terukina Sensei is a noted teacher of the Afuso-ryu

style of classical *uta-sanshin*. Earlier this year he was named a National Living Treasure of Japan in the area of Okinawan *sanshin*.

Approximately 70 Afuso-ryu students took the *shinjinsho* test for *sanshin* proficiency. It is the first of several tests for *sanshin* proficiency.

Lisa and Julia, who are 20-year-old twin sisters, are also students of Okinawan dance and koto, as is Nadine Nakamatsu, 20. Her brother, Ryan, 17, also takes Okinawan dance lessons.

Drusilla (Akamine) Tanaka has been appointed program director for the Lanakila Multi-purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Elderly Services. In her new post, Tanaka is responsible for coordinating all programs and services at the center and for supporting Lanakila's various senior clubs, whose membership totals 2,640. She also oversees a staff of three.



Catholic Charities has been contracted to operate the senior center, which is a state facility. Seniors who join the center can enroll in a variety of adult education classes, including *sanshin*, taisho koto, exercise, music, dance ukulele, crafts, Japanese poetry and calligraphy.

Prior to joining Lanakila on November 1, Tanaka was executive secretary of Club 100, an organization made up of veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion. She also held positions at Hawaii Baptist Academy, the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and the UH College of Tropical Agriculture, among others. Tanaka volunteers with Hospice Hawaii and is an active member of the Sons and Daughters of the 100th Infantry Battalion. She is also a member of the Hawaii Nikkei History Editorial Board, which produced the book, "Japanese Eyes, American Heart: Personal Reflections of Hawaii's World War II Nisei Soldiers." Tanaka is a member of Haeburu Club and is involved in the club's cultural exchange homestay program with students from Okinawa.

A graduate of Kaimuki High School and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, she is married to Stanley Tanaka and has three adult children. She is the daughter of Haeburu Club members Bernard and Jeanette (Arashiro) Akamine.

President's Message (continued from page 2)

as by two other unexpected "professors" of information from among our tour members. One was Takejiro Higa, who had no dearth of first-hand information about the closing days of the Battle of Okinawa and many poignant stories about Okinawan citizens literally caught between the invading American forces and the defending Japanese army.

The other "professor" was Edwin Kawahara, a Yamatunchu (non-Okinawan) who, immediately after the Pacific War, had lived several years in Kochinda and on Miyako Jima. He had seriously studied Uchinaguchi, music, culture, traditions and the ways of the Ryukyu Kingdom. He is currently the official volunteer historian for the *USS Missouri*. In fact, after the study tour, he had planned to meet with former Japanese military families in mainland Japan to research Japanese involvement with the *Missouri*.

The two added more color and meaning to the trip. In the case of Takejiro, riders in the other two buses heard of the rich information only we in bus #1 were getting — and began demanding equal information. From then on, we shared Takejiro with the other buses.

Overall, the groups in each bus expressed their gratitude at having gained information about Okinawa they might not have gained otherwise. Many said it made them feel an even stronger emotional attachment to Okinawa.

Whether most on the tour felt the same aura I felt no matter where we

traveled in Okinawa, I really cannot say. For me, the moments we were in Okinawa in the closing year of the millennium were distinctly flavored by a growing recognition of Okinawa by the international community.

How can anyone in the world not be affected by Okinawa's role as the site of the G-8 Summit? The summit came and went, but the after-effects will long endure and grow. Why else would the U.S. Ambassador to Japan spend substantial time in Okinawa participating in the opening ceremonies for "From Bento to Mixed Plate" at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum and with the Obuchi Okinawa Education and Research Program with U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Hawai'i Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono and other international figures?

Okinawa indeed will be a positive presence in the new millennium. The year 2001 will bring together Uchinanchu from throughout the world for the Third World Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa. HUOA will definitely be a part of the celebration under the leadership of our official coordinator, Dexter Teruya, who is already hard at work in preparation.

This year we definitely lived our Okinawan centennial theme, "Okage Sama de 2000: Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha." Now our administration slogan, "Shike ya Chode (One World, One People)" must be continually nurtured to meet the promise of a positive presence of Okinawa in the next millennium.

UCHINANCHU OHANA

HUI O LAULIMA . . . by Thelma Lam

Hui O Laulima members introduced their newly published cultural cookbook, "Okinawan Mixed Plate: Generous Servings of Culture, Customs and Cuisine," to the media on Nov. 4 at Paki Hale. Media representatives had an opportunity to not only see the new publication but also to sample some of the scrumptious recipes featured in the 194-page book. Book coordinators Bobbi Kuba and Gerri Maeda, both of whom are past presidents of Hui O Laulima, provided introspective information on the book.

"Okinawan Mixed Plate" features valuable information on Okinawan history and culture — the language, music, dance, hairdressing, textiles, lacquerware, pottery, awamori, festivals, religion, tattoos and karate. Articles on healthy food and a genealogy "how-to" are also included in the book. Some of the writers had firsthand knowledge of their subject, while others conducted extensive research on their respective subjects. A bibliography of sources consulted follows each cultural article.

Maeda and Kuba, along with Hui O Laulima members Ella Teruya and Fumiko Yoshimoto and others, spent five years working on the book. Yoshimoto and Teruya served as recipe section coordinators because of their firsthand knowledge of Okinawan cooking. "Okinawan Mixed Plate" also includes a *tumai kuru*, or purple potato, section featuring purple potato recipes collected over the years from HUOA's "Kariyushi" programs.

What began as Hui O Laulima's simple desire to share the Okinawan culture through a new cultural cookbook evolved into an informative, beautifully designed, four-color, semi-hardcover book that is probably the most comprehensive book on Okinawan culture and cuisine in Hawai'i today. "Okinawan Mixed Plate" has been — and continues to be — a labor of love by Hui O Laulima members.

Five hundred advance copies from the printer arrived in time for this year's Okinawan Festival. By early Sunday afternoon, all 500 copies had been sold.

"Okinawan Mixed Plate" can be purchased for \$20 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and Jikoen Hongwanji Mission on Oahu, and from Hui Alu on Kauai, Hui Okinawa in Hilo, and the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center. Additionally, it is available for retail purchase from Border's Books and Music, Marukai and the University of Hawai'i Bookstore for \$25.

YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII . . . by Jon Itomura

The sun shined bright as the smiling faces of our Uchinanchu seniors filled the Hawaii Okinawa Center on the morning of November 19 for the Young Okinawans of Hawaii's (YOH) 19th annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon. The event was themed "Aya Modoru Nu Hana (Looking to the Future)." This year's luncheon was held before Thanksgiving because of the centennial celebration closing banquet. That didn't deter almost 600 seniors from attending the luncheon. Many of the special guests from the various Okinawan senior centers and performance groups arrived early in anticipation of YOH's annual entertainment program, which featured many young performers.

Buses were dispatched to three locations around town to bring our special guests to Waipio in comfort. They were greeted at the Legacy Hall and served by "young" volunteers like HUOA president Albert Miyasato and president-elect Jimmy Iha, Yomitan Club president Linda Takushi and her crew, Tomigusku president Sandy Kaneshiro, the 2000 Cherry Blossom Court and many other HUOA and YOH members. The women of Hui O Laulima arrived early in the morning to drop batches of delicious andagi for our guests to munch on. They also displayed and made available their beautiful Okinawan cultural cookbook, "Okinawan Mixed Plate: Generous Servings of Culture, Customs and Cuisine."



Bobbi Kuba (left) and Gerri Maeda talk about the club's new cultural cookbook.

The entertainment program was organized and coordinated by YOH members Francis Nakachi and Iris Hiramoto. The formal program opened with thoughtful remarks from Young Okinawans member Reverend Bruce Nakamura of the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission.

Students from the Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai — Furanshisu Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, Kaneshiro Kikue Ryubu Kenkyu Kai and the Nakasone Hooqe Kai — Nakasone Yoshiko Ryubu Kenkyusho dance schools performed various dances. The YOH board of directors treated the guests to a comedic performance of the *minyō* (folk) dance, "Mamidoma." Sanshin music was provided by the Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai, and Miyashiro Soho Kai students performed koto.

Karate students of Alan Lee Sensei and Mitchel Shimamura Sensei displayed their skill and appreciation of Okinawan karate. Mitchel Shimamura's twin daughters Carolyn and Marlene, exhibited their versatility by performing karate and later singing a beautiful rendition of "Chimuganasa Bushi."

Lucky numbers were called by YOH member Tomomi Shimabukuro between the dance numbers. The prizes were delivered to the lucky winners by YOH members and the Cherry Blossom court. The party ended with some guests dancing kachashi for the first time and everyone leaving with a delicious loaf of holiday cinnamon bread from Larry's Bakery.

We would like to acknowledge our many special contributors: Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Teruya, Tori Richards, Central Pacific Bank, Larry's Wholesale Bakery, Kelly Nelson for Mary Kay Cosmetics, Ka Lei Eggs, First Hawaiian Bank, McDonald's, Ala Moana Hotel, Territorial Savings, Kyo-Ya Restaurant, Flyin Hawaiian,



The YOH board of directors dance a comedic performance of the *minyō* (folk) dance, "Mamidoma."

Consolidated Amusement, Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Star Market, Aloha Tofu, Okuhara Foods, Crazy Karaoke, Mr. and Mrs. George Tokuhama, Bobby Unten, StarCom Wireless, Anthony Akamine, Geno and Kathy Oshiro (Saimin House) and Mrs. Karen Yonamine.

Special thanks to Gary Honda, HUOA Administration Committee members, HUOA Executive Council, Yomitan Club, Tomigusku Sonjin Kai, Miyashiro Soho Kai, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Miyashiro, karate sensei Mitchel Shimamura and Alan Lee, Carolyn and Marlene

Shimamura, Kaneshiro Kikue Ryubu Kenkyu Kai, Nakasone Hooqe Kai - Nakasone Yoshiko Ryubu Kenkyusho, Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai, Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai - Hawaii Shibu, Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko, Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce Cherry Blossom Court, Victor Yamashiroya and the entire YOH Board of Directors and YOH member volunteers for a job well done.

MAUI OKINAWA KENJIN KAI . . . by Alan Arakawa

The Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai has scheduled its 23rd annual Maui State Okinawa Golf Tournament for Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 and 18, 2001, at the Waiehu Golf Course. Five flights of play are scheduled: the A and B flights, for which the cut-off will be determined by the number of entries; Senior Flight, which is open to golfers 60 and older; women's flight; and a guest flight.

Prizes will be awarded for the closest to the hole #2, benefiting Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai and for the closest to the hole #16, benefiting Maui Junior Golf. An awards banquet will be held at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center at the conclusion of the tournament. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner is at 6.

The \$90 entry fee covers green and cart fees and dinner; dinner for non-golfers is \$15. Checks should be made payable to Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai and mailed to Mike Hondo, P.O. Box 1884, Wailuku, HI 96793. Application forms are available from the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai, or at the HUOA office. Golfers must include their lowest handicap as of Jan. 1, 2001. The application deadline is Feb. 12.

HUI OKINAWA . . . by Amy Shiroma

Hui Okinawa held its annual bonen kai (year-end party) on Nov. 12 at Wailoa State Park. The program was highlighted by the naming of Alma Yogi as Hui Okinawa's "Member of the Year." Yogi's loyalty and commitment to Hui Okinawa and her dependability and dedicated service to the club made her a natural for the award. Yogi will also be recognized at next month's installation program.

Awards Committee chair Carolyn Oki spoke highly of Yogi's "dedicated service" to the club, particularly as editor of Hui Okinawa's quarterly newsletter. "Loyal, dependable and committed" all describe her dedication to Hui Okinawa. Whether help is needed to staff a ticket booth or to make andagi at functions, or help with cultural exhibits, Yogi can be counted on to be there.

Alma Yogi retired from Hilo High School in 1995, where she taught American history and was a newswriting advisor. She now teaches English at adult education classes at the Puueo Community Center, where most of her students are immigrants.

Also honored at the bonen kai were:

- Yoshiko Miyashiro — "Distinguished Service Award" for sustained and superior service to Hui Okinawa;
- Clifford Kaneshiro, Lynn Namihira, Carolyn Oki, Kris Ortogero and Glenn Toyama — "Chibayaa Award" for dedication and diligent service and for setting a good example for others to follow;

- June Bratton, Kazuko Kaneshiro, Aileen Nagamine, Janet Yamashiro, Susan Kaneshiro, Thomas Ortogero, Ronald Iyo, Bert Wagatsuma, Brian Watanabe, Alex Antonio, Sharon Sasahara and Allan Sasahara — "Hatarachaa Award" for the extraordinary time and effort they gave to further projects and goals; and

- Katie Shiroma, Jesse Shiroma, Ryan Paik, Erin Irie, Ann Inouye, Kevin Kaneshiro, Jonathan Hara, Owen Tomori, Marlene Yafuso, Jaime Morishita, Gerrie Morishita, Mariso Ochi and Preston Chibana — "Warabincha Award" for service and participation in Hui Okinawa activities by our youth members,

The bonen kai was chaired by Kaye Nagamine with assistance from committee members Natalie Higa, Kathy Okunami, Milton Yafuso, Nancy Nakaishi, Bernard Sagawa, Roy Hokama, Aileen Kaneshiro, Myrtle Zukeran, Jan Nakahara and Thomas Ortogero.

Our 2001 officers will be installed at our shinnen enkaï on Feb. 4.



PRESERVING OUR LEGACY

(Donations received November 1 and 2)

Ippe nihei deebiru to the following individuals for their generous contributions during the first two days of our campaign. Your support for the Hawaii Okinawa Center's "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign is greatly appreciated.

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In Honor of the Hawaii Okinawa

Center - Yoshiko Yoza

SECOND "PRESERVING OUR LEGACY" FUND DRIVE OFF TO A GOOD START

by Gary T. Honda
Executive Director, HUOA

"Preserving Our Legacy" — the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's second annual-giving fund-raising campaign for the Hawaii Okinawa Center is off to a great start. More than 80 volunteers turned out on October 27 and 29 to help prep and stuff the campaign literature. On October 30, a total of 11,012 envelopes were mailed to households in Hawai'i and on the continental U.S. Two days later, on November 1, Clement and Beatrice Oshiro walked in the HOC office and hand-delivered the first donation to this year's campaign.

The Oshiros recently moved to Oahu after living in Hilo for many years where they were members of Hui Okinawa. They now live in Mililani and want to ensure that the Hawaii Okinawa Center continues to be a major force in preserving, promoting and perpetuating the Okinawan culture. Mailing the donation would have been easier, said the Oshiros, but they wanted to see for themselves the good work that is being carried out at the Center. Mr. and Mrs. Oshiro spent time talking with the volunteers and the staff and said they would visit again. HUOA extends a heartfelt "Ippe nihwee deebiru" to the Oshiros for launching this year's campaign with their very thoughtful contribution.



Clement and Beatrice Oshiro present their contribution to HUOA executive director Gary Honda.

According to Stan Koki, chair of HUOA's Fund Development Subcommittee, the 1999 "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign was a tremendous success, with 1,039 donors contributing a total of \$138,308. The 1999 goal of \$120,000 was exceeded by 15.3 percent. The average donation was \$133.

This year's goal is again \$120,000. Thus far, the average donation received has been \$96.35. According to Stan, the donations received last month were on par with those received last year. HUOA sends its thanks to

all of the donors who have given to the Hawaii Okinawa Center in the spirit of *yuimaaruu*.

In June of this year, the Hawaii Okinawa Center celebrated 10 years since we opened its door in 1990. As any facility ages — and like human beings, they all do — the greater the need for major maintenance and repair work. Our volunteers have done a terrific job of keeping HOC well-maintained, but there are some needs that cannot be filled by volunteers alone. Ray Tengan, chair of the Facilities and Property Management Subcommittee, has pointed out some areas that need to be repaired; in some cases, equipment needs to be replaced. This work needs to be done in order to keep our grounds and facilities in the best shape possible. We all want "our home" — the Hawaii Okinawa Center — to be a home we can all be proud of.

As we close out this year of honoring our immigrant pioneers for their sacrifice and perseverance, what better way to say "thank you" than with a gift of "okage sama de" in their memory.

Our Hawaii Okinawa Center isn't merely a building where Okinawan culture is showcased. There is so much life within the walls of our Center. So much promise. Our cultural heritage lives on here. It is breathed into the souls of our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren — and in anyone who is Uchinanchu in heart — and nurtured and allowed to blossom into a beautiful flower. 🌸

AKIRA SAKIMA AWARDED IMPERIAL DECORATION

by Karleen Chinen

The numerous contributions of former Hawaii United Okinawa Association president Akira Sakima and four other Hawai'i residents have been recognized by the government of Japan. The five were presented Imperial Decorations on Nov. 28 in a late afternoon ceremony at the residence of Consul General of Japan Minoru Shibuya. He noted that of the 28 foreign recipients of Imperial Decorations this fall, five are from Hawai'i.

Akira Sakima, who turned 82 in October, was presented The Order of the Sacred Treasure – Gold Rays with Rosette for his contributions to strengthening the ties of friendship between Japan and the United States.

"After the war, Mr. Sakima participated in activities to send food and clothing relief from Hawai'i to Japan, and he contributed to the reconstruction of Japan by dispatching agricultural specialists there," noted Consul General Shibuya, who last month succeeded Gotaro Ogawa as Hawai'i's Consul General. "Also, as a member of the House of Representatives for the State of Hawai'i and as chairman of the House Education Committee and subsequently the Higher Education Committee, he helped to reform the Hawai'i state education system, and as a result of these changes, the status of many Japanese Americans was enhanced. By cooperating in the dispatching and receiving of friendship groups from Japan, he contributed toward strengthening the friendly relationship between Japan and the United States," said Shibuya.

Imperial Decorations were also presented to:

- Kenji Sumida, former East-West Center president: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette;
- Jean Estelle Rolles, immediate past president of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii: The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette;
- Paul Shunzo Honda, president of the Honda Foundation: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays; and
- Richard Michio Kibe, former president of the Maui Japanese Community Association: The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays.

Akira Sakima was born in 1918 in Hilo to Matsu and Kama Sakima, immigrants from Ginowan, Okinawa. He graduated from McKinley High School in 1937.

Akira and his wife of 58 years, Jane, have two adult children, Ellen Higa and Dr. Howard Sakima of Sacramento, and four grown grandchildren.

A former pig farmer, Sakima was elected to the Territorial (and subsequently state) House of Representatives in 1958 and served nine terms as Kalihi Valley's representative. He served as a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention in 1978.

While in the House, Sakima chaired the education and higher education committees. He was later elected to the state Board of Education. Although his children — and Hawai'i grandchil-

dren — graduated from public school many years ago, Sakima's commitment to public education for Hawai'i's youth has not waned. Since 1996 he has served as a member of Dole Middle School's SCBM (School Community-Based Management) team.

To Hawai'i's Okinawan community, Akira Sakima represents the quintessential Uchinanchu.

He grew up on a pig farm in Kalihi Valley, which, in the 1930s and '40s, was populated by largely Okinawan and Japanese farmers. In 1949, four years after the end of World War II, Sakima was asked to join a group of Hawai'i Uchinanchu transporting 600 milking goats to Okinawa to nourish the Okinawan people. He was the youngest member of the group. The experience changed him forever.

In 1960, the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyus invited Sakima and five other Hawai'i Uchinanchu legislators to Okinawa on a goodwill mission. Three years later the U.S. Army asked Sakima and four agriculture specialists from the University of Hawai'i to help develop Okinawa's agriculture industry.

In 1985, Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister Shintaro Abe presented Sakima a Certificate of Commendation for his outstanding contributions to promoting goodwill and friendship between the United States, Japan and other nations.

The *Ryukyu Shimpo* presented Sakima its



Akira Sakima flanked by his wife Jane and daughter Ellen Higa.

Sakima's contributions to post-war Okinawa in 1998.

Sakima is an active member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and has actively supported the work of many Kalihi-based health and human service agencies, among them: Kokua Kalihi Valley, a comprehensive health provider for residents of Kalihi Valley, where he has resided for most of his life; Kalihi YMCA, Susannah Wesley Community Center and the Kalihi-Palama Community Council. Earlier this year, 600 people packed the Dole Cannery Ballroom for a testimonial dinner honoring Akira Sakima. Proceeds from the event were earmarked for the establishment of the Akira Sakima Endowment Fund to help needy families in Kalihi Valley.

In 1993, the McKinley Alumni Association recognized Sakima's lifelong service and contributions to the community by inducting him into the school's "Hall of Honor."

Sakima served as president of Ginowan Shijinkai and Hui Makaala several times in the 1970s and '80s. In 1972, he was elected president of the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii, and in 1985 was selected its "Uchinanchu of the Year." Additionally, the Nomura-ryu Ongaku Kyokai – Hawaii Shibu recognized his leadership and dedication to the musical style in 1991.

He served as president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation in 1954 and previously managed Island Pork Producers Co-op. Sakima also worked as a branch manager for International Savings and Loan and held other positions with the financial institution. He is a past president of the Kalihi and the Moiliili business associations.

In accepting the decoration, Sakima said he happened to be in the right place at the right time, which enabled him to accomplish so much in his life. He said the real credit for his Imperial Decoration belongs to his friends. "Without friends, you can't do anything," he said. Using the game of football as an analogy, he thanked HUAO president Albert Miyasato for clearing the path for the awarding of his Decoration. "Doc did the blocking and I just made the touchdown." He also recognized the efforts on his behalf of recently departed Consul General Gotaro Ogawa.

Those Akira Sakima has quietly mentored, like state Rep. Dennis Arakaki from Kalihi Valley, see things differently. "Even after leaving office, he continued to serve the community," Arakaki told *The Hawaii Herald* in May. "It's time-consuming, and you don't get the recognition that you get when you're in elective office. But Akira has continued to go to these meetings and to contribute. That's when you know the person is genuine." 



Japanese Consul General Minoru Shibuya (center) with Fall 2000 Imperial Decoration awardees: Jean Rolles, Kenji Sumida, Akira Sakima and Richard Kibe.

"Ryukyu Shimpo Sho" award in 1991 for his contributions to Hawai'i and Okinawa, and recognized him again in 1996 with its Ryukyu Shimpo Award of Merit for service in promoting goodwill, friendship and cultural and educational exchange between Hawai'i and Okinawa. The award was presented to him in Okinawa.

In 1993 Sakima was invited to speak on Hawai'i's contributions to the growth and development of post-war Okinawa at an East-West Center Alumni Association conference in Okinawa. Then-Governor Masahide Ota also recognized

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TWO TREES GROW IN OKINAWA

by Edward M. Kuba

Chair, State of Hawaii Okinawan Centennial

Celebration Commission

Member, Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club

Two strong and beautiful banyan trees from Hawai'i are now at home in Okinawa, taking root in the rich soil that our immigrant pioneers left 100 years ago to come to Hawai'i. The trees were lowered into the ground last month during a special ceremony commemorating the centennial of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i. The two banyans made the journey to Okinawa in the air-conditioned comfort of a Japan Airlines jet — a sharp contrast to the harsh conditions the first Issei from Okinawa faced aboard the *SS City of China*.

The first of the two three-foot-tall trees was planted November 11 at a middle school in Kin Town, birthplace of Toyama Kyuzo — "the father of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i." The school is a few minutes' walk from Toyama's famous statue pointing the way to Hawai'i.

Representing Hawai'i at the ceremony were HUOA Okinawan Centennial Celebration Committee chair Dexter Teruya, HUOA vice president Keith Kaneshiro and Robert Nakasone, coordinator for Okinawa special projects for the East-West Center. I represented the State of Hawaii Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commission. We were joined by Kin Town Mayor Katsuhiko Yoshida and five students who participated in



Ed Kuba, Dexter Teruya, Keith Kaneshiro and Robert Nakasone join Kin Town Mayor Katsuhiko Yoshida (far right) and Kin students in planting the banyan tree. (Photo courtesy of Masayuki Oshiro)

remind them of the sacrifices of the early Issei pioneers. My speech was interrupted by a cellular telephone call from Gov. Ben Cayetano in Hawai'i, wishing everyone at the ceremony well.

We planted the second banyan tree later in the day in Shuri — Okinawa's ancient capital — within sight of the beautiful Shurijo (Shuri Castle).

Our Uchinanchu "cousins" promised to nurture the trees and invited the people of Hawai'i to visit Okinawa soon so they might sit and enjoy the peaceful shade of the trees.

this past summer's "Voyage of Rediscovery." HUOA president Albert Miyasato and this year's Study Tour group were unable to attend the ceremony as they were returning to Hawai'i that day.

Mayor Yoshida said the school site was selected because it connected the tree-planting ceremony with the Kin voyage. Some 350 middle and high school students from Kin, as well as about 75 from Hawai'i, sailed between Hawaii and Okinawa in July.

I told the students that the tree was planted to commemorate 100 years of close friendship between the people of Okinawa and Hawai'i, as well as to

MAKE IT AN UCHINANCHU HOLIDAY SEASON!

by Karleen Chinen

Member, Bito Doshi Kai

The HUOA's craft fairs are pau for the year, but the holiday spirit dances on with New Year's just a few days away.

The HUOA gift shop at the Hawaii Okinawa Center has a great selection of quality holiday gifts — something to entertain, something to wear, gifts of memory, gifts of knowledge (and a potentially *masan* meal!) — and even the precious gift of legacy by making a donation to HUOA's "Preserving Our Legacy" fund drive in the name of the special person.

The inventory of gift items is a bit wider this year, thanks to the Okinawan Centennial Celebration and Bobbi Kuba, who chaired the centennial souvenir committee. And, because it's HUOA's gift shop, proceeds from the sale of all items go back to HUOA's efforts to keep the Okinawan cultural heritage alive for generations yet unborn. But the signature centennial items won't last forever. Once they're gone, they probably will not be reordered.

Here are a few of the quality — and reasonably priced — gifts to choose from:

- Polo shirts in a variety of colors with our attractive centennial logo embroidered on the shirt: \$25, or \$30 (with fancy collar)
- Centennial t-shirts: \$12 (adult sizes), \$8 (youth sizes)
- Centennial tank tops: \$10
- Beige-colored cloth caps with the centennial logo embroidered in the front, and the words, "Okinawan Centennial Celebration, 1900 – Hawaii – 2000," embroidered near the back clasp: \$10
- Beautiful varnished koa bookmarks bearing the Okinawan Centennial Celebration and HUOA logos along with our centennial theme: "Okage Sama de 2000: Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha" (this bookmark was given to everyone who attended the centennial closing banquet): \$5
- Attractive centennial key chains with our celebration logo in Plexiglas: \$2.50 each (or \$2 for \$4)
- "To Our Issei . . . Our Heartfelt Gratitude," a 164-page commemorative book that looks back at our history as Uchinanchu. The booklet also includes an alphabetical listing of the issei who came to Hawai'i: \$5
- "Okinawan Mixed Plate: Generous Servings of Culture, Customs and Cuisine," Hui O Laulima's newly published cultural cookbook: \$20
- "Chibariyo 1998," a two-CD set featuring 29 Okinawan tunes (18 records in 1998 and 11 from a 1988 recording on audio cassette) recorded by Hawai'i performers and students of Okinawan music: \$20
- "Chibariyo 1988" cassette: \$10

• For a homebound senior or for the "person who has everything" — here's the ideal gift: a VHS copy of the Okinawan Centennial Celebration opening program, "Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Bridges: Rainbows in Time," which was staged at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 8, 2000 — exactly 100 years after the first Okinawan immigrants arrived in Hawai'i. The moving performance was videotaped for the Centennial Celebration Committee. If you missed it, or have a friend or family member who was in the production, here's your chance to capture the moment forever. The VHS copy is \$30.

The two-hour-long performance and Buddhist memorial service is a dramatic and musical tribute to the experiences of Hawai'i's Uchinanchu community — from immigration to the plantation era, the war years, and finally, crossing over the bridge and the passing on of a rich cultural heritage to the younger generation of Uchinanchu. The program also paid tribute to Hawai'i's multiethnic community who made possible our life in Hawai'i.

The script was inspired by the writings and stories of Toyama Kyuzo and several

Hawai'i Uchinanchu — including playwright Jon Shirota; Military Intelligence Service veteran Takejiro Higa, who served in the Battle of Okinawa; and former Kalihi Valley pig farmer Akira Sakima.

"Rainbows" was directed by James A. Nakamoto, a veteran of community theatre in Hawai'i. It wove together performances by Okinawan and Hawaiian cultural groups, among them: Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko, Hawaii Shibu; Jikoen Hongwanji choir; Young Okinawans of Hawaii; Afuso-ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai; Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai - Furanshisu Nakachi Ryubu Dojo; Hawaiian music and hula by *kumu hula* (hula teacher) Blaine Kamalani Kia; songs from Broadway musicals; and a specially assembled centennial chorus. One of the highlights was a Hawaiian chant by master chanter and *kumu hula* Puanani Kanahale which she composed specially for the performance.

Our Okinawan centennial will never come again. It happens not just once in a lifetime — it happens *only* once . . . 🌈

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OKINAWA WELCOMES "FROM BENTŌ TO MIXED PLATE"

by Karleen Chinen

When Hawai'i yonsei Lynn Miyashiro and Allison Yanagi unpacked their suitcases and settled into their studies earlier this year in the land where their great-grandparents had once walked, they never expected to be sharing the story of their own lives in Hawai'i — from emigrant to educated yonsei — with their Okinawan hosts. But the two young women from Hawai'i had a chance to do just that last month when the Japanese American National Museum exhibit, "From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i," made its international debut at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum.

Some 200 Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart from Hawai'i and Los Angeles gathered at the museum on Nov. 10. About 120 had come on the HUOA's study tour. Several other groups also made the journey to Okinawa to celebrate the exhibit's opening. They were joined by an impressive list of Okinawan and American dignitaries that included Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas Foley, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, HUOA president Albert Miyasato, Japanese American National Museum president and executive director Irene Hirano, and George Takei, chair of JANM's Board of Trustees.

"Bentō" was an opportunity for Hawaii Uchinanchu to reconnect with relatives and old friends — and for Uchinanchu-at-heart to discover the essence of the Okinawan saying, "Ichariba chodee — Once we meet, we become brothers and sisters forever."

The "Bentō" exhibit examines how the Issei, Nisei, Sansei and even Yonsei generations have adapted to Hawai'i's various cultural influences — and how each generation has contributed to the evolution of the Japanese American ethnic identity over time. Its debut at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum was timely as OPM had also developed its own exhibition on Okinawan immigration worldwide.

"Looking at the pictures (in "Bentō") and reading about them gave me a sense of nostalgia for Hawai'i, even if I've been here less than a year," commented Lynn Miyashiro, currently attending the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai)

on a prefectural government scholarship. "Seeing the exhibit, especially the panels with the immigration and post-war photos, makes me all the more thankful for what my ancestors did. Taking



Helen and Masaru Asato were thrilled to see a photo of her parents "K.C." Jiro and Agnes Asato and their family business, KC Drive Inn, in the exhibit.

such a risk to go to a foreign country — not knowing what the outcome will be is a brave thing to do," said the 28-year-old Miyashiro.

"As I walked through the exhibit, I heard people from Okinawa comment about how amazing the story of immigration to Hawaii is — and they were surprised and moved by how much the immigrants suffered during their lives," observed Allison Yanagi, 26, a UH-Manoa graduate student in Asian studies currently on an exchange program at the University of the Ryukyus.

"I thought the exhibit was especially important for the Okinawan people because many of them don't seem to be aware of the extent to which people really did suffer and struggle for a better life," she said. "Also, because Okinawans have a long history of personal struggle themselves, I thought that they could really relate to the immigrant experience, and that connection of struggle made the bonds between Okinawa and Hawai'i that much stronger."

Miyashiro was drawn to a pair of slippers in the exhibit: Bulrush slippers her 88-year-old grandfather, Kosuke Miyashiro, had woven with his own hands at his home on Kauai. "When I saw his slippers on the shelf, I felt excitement and pride that something my grandfather made was part of such an important event," she said. "As a child I took his slippers for granted, because all my relatives had them in their house for house slippers. Now I look at them as something special, because I know the labor that goes into them and because my grandfather doesn't make them very often anymore. I look at it as a part of history that should be perpetuated."

The original "Bentō" exhibit debuted at the Bishop Museum in October 1997 and has been shown in Hawai'i and on the continental U.S., including at the Smithsonian Institution. Limited gallery space and the numerous venues the exhibit is expected to be shown in throughout Japan prompted JANM to redesign "Bento" as nine "modules." The script was also edited and made bilingual for both Japanese- and English-reading audiences.

In addition, JANM retained Makoto Arakaki to serve as Okinawa project director. Arakaki, who is from Shuri, is completing work on his doctorate



Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine and HUOA Centennial Committee chair Dexter Teruya in front of an exhibit panel that features a photo of Dexter's father Wallace and uncle, Albert — founders of Times Supermarket.

in international relations at the University of Tsukuba. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California.

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お花は言葉では表せない思いを伝えてくれます。



Tom Nago
President

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455-2012

Charge by Phone



"Flowers Whisper What Words Cannot Express"

Arakaki said he was glad to see people connect with "Bentō" through life experiences — like the story told to him by a woman who had traveled with one of the tour groups. "When she saw the 'Uchinanchu Hearts' panel, she found her mother in the photo of the Wailuku war relief. She told me that she used to go to the center to help pack the clothes that were to be sent to Okinawa," said Arakaki.

And then there's the story of HUOA president Albert Miyasato's family. Shiz Miyasato was taking her time, reading each exhibit panel, studying the photos and captions. When she came to the panel titled, "Uchinanchu Hearts," a photograph of a man holding a piglet caught her eye — he looked so much like her father-in-law Heisho Miyasato.

In 1948 — three years after the devastating Battle of Okinawa — Heisho Miyasato and six other Uchinanchu men had sailed from Oregon to Okinawa with 550 pigs in an effort to provide sustaining nourishment for the people. The piglet in the photo was born during that turbulent voyage. The photo, which was taken by the late Shinyei Shimabukuro — also in the group — had been loaned to the exhibit by his grandson, Young Okinawans of Hawaii president Jon Itomura. Shimabukuro had not captioned the photos, so the identity of the man holding the piglet had remained unknown.

Shiz called over her husband and his sister, Joyce — and all three examined the photo closely, agreeing in the end that the man was indeed their father. "What a wonderful feeling to have seen

Papa under such circumstances," wrote Shiz in the Jikoen Hongwanji newsletter. "We were thrilled beyond words. Just seeing this picture was the highlight of our trip, we three agreed."

The panel on the post-war relief that Hawai'i Uchinanchu provided impacted young and old alike, said Arakaki. "Some kids came up to me and told me that they were moved to know about



You can't take Hawai'i out of them: Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono with (from left) Lynn Miyashiro, Alyce Nakama and Sharon Oshiro — all studying in Okinawa.

the post-war relief efforts."

He said the three 'Uchinanchu panels' that were developed for "Bentō's" showing in Okinawa were "essential for local (Okinawa) Uchinanchu to understand what 'aloha' means." "It helped them understand "Bentō's" message via something of their own," he said.

"I think that the Okinawan panels added to the overall exhibit," said Allison Yanagi, "Especially for the people here. They still remember the assistance they received from Hawaii after the war, and ties between family members are still

strong, even though there may be language barriers and distance separating people," She was moved by the panel titled, "Uchinanchu Aloha," which highlighted the "bridge of Uchinanchu Aloha" that has connected the two communities of Okinawans for 100 years now.

The panel features a 1993 photo of former Young Okinawans president and former HUOA vice president Wesley Waniya with his father's elderly cousin, Eitoku Yamashiro, during Wesley's trip to Okinawa on the HUOA Leadership Tour. "Uncle Eitoku" insisted that Wesley stay at his home in Nakagusuku even if only for a few days. Over those few days, he told Wesley many times about how kind his father, Wallace, had been to him while stationed in mainland Japan with the U.S. Air Force immediately after the war. Whenever he had a furlough, Wallace would hitch a ride to Okinawa on a cargo plane to help Eitoku however he could. Uncle Eitoku never forgot that gift of Uchinanchu aloha.

Allison Yanagi said she has had similar experiences with her own relatives in Okinawa.

"From Bentō to Mixed Plate" closed quietly a month after a "chickenskin" opening that had warmed hearts and reinforced the bonds of "Uchinanchu Aloha" that have been interwoven like a fragrant lei over the last 100 years.

"The special ties between Hawai'i and Okinawa and Japan will never be broken," Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono had told the opening day crowd. "As island homelands, we share a similar culture, and in that, we share an understanding — an understanding that shared differences only adds to the richness of our cultures, heritage and people. 'Mixed plate' is a bridging of nations, a true symbol of peace."



Dignitaries officially open "From Bentō to Mixed Plate" at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum against a colorful backdrop of HUOA banners. From left: Ken Miki, Managing Director, Ryukyu Shimpo; Albert Miyasato, President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association; Yoshimori Onaga, Superintendent, Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education; Irene Hirano, President & Executive Director, Japanese American National Museum; Keiichi Inamine, Governor of Okinawa; Thomas Foley, U.S. Ambassador to Japan; Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator & Chair, Board of Governors, Japanese American National Museum; Mazie Hirono, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i & Honorary Governor, Japanese American National Museum; George Takei, Chair, Board of Trustees, Japanese American National Museum.


JAPANESE AMERICAN
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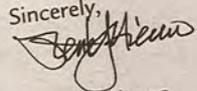
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Telephone 213.625.0414
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Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Japanese American National Museum, I want to thank the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for its support of the exhibition, "From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i," at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum in Naha. The participation of so many people from Hawai'i made the opening on November 10, 2000 an extra special occasion.

It is clear that the many years of work that HUOA has devoted to creating linkages between Hawai'i and Okinawa contributed to the warm reception our exhibition received. We look forward to our continued relationship with HUOA in building bridges between Japanese Americans and the people of Okinawa.

Ippe nihei deebiru!

Sincerely,


Irene Y. Hirano
Executive Director and President

Ippe nihei deebiru



HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

by Bernard Seiso Akamine
Member, Haeburu Club

HUOA president Albert Miyasato's mention of an editorial in *The Hawaii Herald* in his October President's Message prompted Haeburu Club member Bernard Akamine to share this essay with Uchinanchu.

Recently, I overheard an elderly nisei Yamatunchu lady telling another Yamatunchu lady, "Come to my house this weekend; I'm going to make pig's feet soup. I learned how to make it from my daughter-in-law."

How times have changed, I thought to myself. When I was growing up, we were ridiculed by our peers because we were Okinawan. We were teased, "Okinawa ken ken buta kau kau." Although I did not understand the meaning behind it, the sing-song derogatory intonation provoked feelings of hurt and anger.

Near most kitchen doors was hung a square five-gallon can with a lid into which our mothers dropped kitchen scraps and leftovers for the hog farmers to feed to their pigs. These cans were called *buta kau kau* (pig food) cans. Were we Okinawans being reduced to pig slop?

In my adult years I learned that the early Yamatunchu in Hawai'i never ate pork, while pork was — and still is — an Okinawan delicacy. Another translation for "buta kau kau" is "eat pork." So, while it was true that we Okinawans ate pork, the

teasing became malicious because of the double meaning of *buta kau kau*. Thus the seeds of cultural shame were planted for those of us of Okinawan descent.

One incident that I will never forget occurred when I was leaving Oahu for basic training in 1944. Twenty-five to 30 of us inductees were standing in boxcars without roofs or seats as the train slowly made its way to the harbor. I was standing in the second row and had a good view of the passing scenery. The train made a stop in Pearl City. There was a crowd of people — mostly mothers looking for their sons. A woman carrying a *furoshiki* approached our boxcar. I knew right away she was Okinawan because of the tattoos on her fingers. My mouth watered as I imagined the delicious contents of the *furoshiki* and looked around me for the lucky fellow. The woman spotted her son, who was standing next to me. He saw her, too, and as she called his name, instead of returning her greeting, he turned away and worked himself into the middle of the car. Suddenly, the train started to move. The woman ran after the train, yelling, "*Akishamiyoo!* (Oh my gosh!) *Akishamiyoo!*" I, being Okinawan, knew how her son felt. The nisei were already facing discrimination because they were Japanese. As Okinawans, our troubles were multiplied.

Fifty-six years later, I am proud to be Okinawan. But I often wonder if that mother and her son ever got together after the war. ☹

Bernard S. Akamine is a member of Haeburu Club. He served with the 100th Infantry Battalion in Europe during World War II.

CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING EVERY DAY

by Hikoshin Toguchi (Kadena, Okinawa)

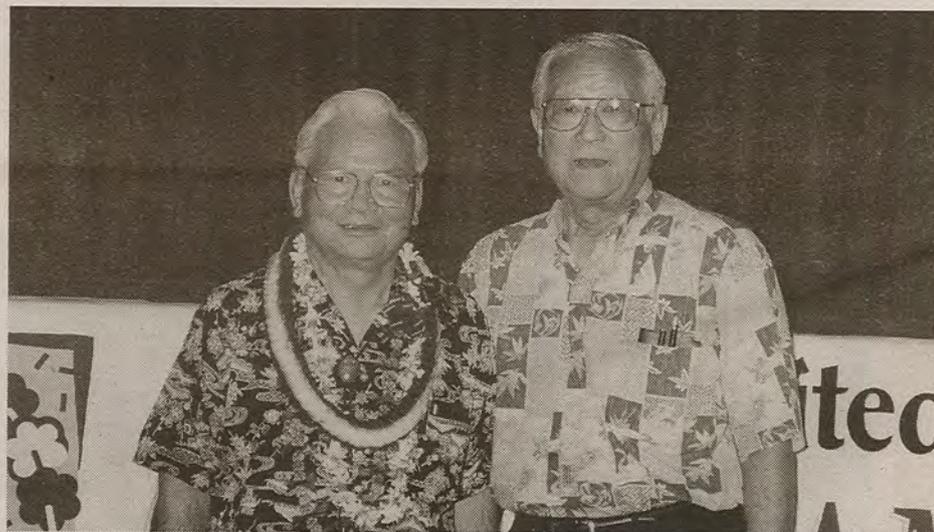
Earlier this year, Mr. Hikoshin Toguchi visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center and presented HUOA president Albert Miyasato a monetary gift as a token of his appreciation for the *chimugukuru* (gifts of the heart) Hawaii Uchinanchu extended to him and other Okinawans while imprisoned in Hawaii during World War II. He delivered the following comments at a reception he hosted at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. They have been edited slightly for clarity.

Hawai'i is a very special place for me and a place I consider in my heart as my second home. The reason for this is because I was sent to Hawai'i as a prisoner during World War II. That was where I began to consider the true meaning of life in earnest. Eventually, Hawai'i became the place of awakening the true natural way of living as a human being for me. In those days, the Okinawan people living in Hawai'i gave all the prisoners hope and also showed us the true meaning of life. You all aided my life.

In retrospect, we survived that terrible war and were fortunate to be taken as prisoners. We were sent to Yaka Prisoners Camp. Then, without any information, Okinawan military servicemen and civilians were loaded onto trucks, flown to Kadena, and then transported on a huge military ship to Hawai'i. Even though we were prepared for death, we couldn't stop the feeling of how miserable we were to be thrown into the sea. After the 21-day trip, we arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i. We were sent to an Army-controlled prisoners camp and started our days of detention.

From July 1945 to December 1946, prisoners couldn't get any information about the safety of their families. Also, we had little hope of being sent back to Okinawa again. Agonizing days were slowly passing. During those sad times in our lives, the people from Okinawa living in Hawai'i came to visit us with gifts. While working outside in the sun, they gave us some food or cigarettes. This certainly encouraged us both openly and secretly.

You showed us the light to live again. On the other hand, during this time, "Remember Pearl Harbor" was hanging as a watchword and a hatred of Japan was swelling among the American people. Specifically during those difficulties, your warm kindness and brotherly love were given to us. We could only thank you for that and took our hats off to you at that time.



Hikoshin Toguchi with HUOA President Albert Miyasato earlier this year.

Christmas Eve, December 24, 1946. I left Hawai'i for Okinawa while still cherishing the complex memories I had. Many Okinawans living in Hawai'i came to the pier, disregarding the traveling distance, to see me off. Even though 54 years have passed, it still seems as though it was yesterday and deep emotions still cross my mind when thinking about it.

September 1981, a group of 45 people headed by Mr. Hosaburo Akamine visited, and I had the opportunity to visit Hawai'i and to say "thank you" to my old friends here. We first visited Punchbowl National Cemetery, where we held a service for the spirits of the soldiers who died during the Pacific war and Vietnam war. Then we went to Sand Island, (where) the prisoners camp (was located); Hickam Air Base, where we cut grass as a duty; and Tripler Army Hospital. We were all filled with deep emotions and had to bite our lips as we stood there once again.

During our visit, chairperson Mr. Hokama, Mr. Ken Kyan, Mr. Peter Iha, Mr. Masaru Nakama and Mr. Bob Kinjo organized an executive committee for accepting us in Hawai'i. The Governor and Japanese Consul General attended the welcoming party held at Kanraku Teahouse. I remembered we had 180 people attending the party for us. We couldn't have expressed our gratitude with only a word.

On the Big Island, there was also a prisoners camp where about 50 Okinawans were detained. When we visited Hilo, the president of the association of the people from Okinawa Prefecture; Ms. Fumie Nakaishi; Hawai'i County Mayor Herbert Matayoshi; president of the Hilo Times, Mr. Okubo, and other kind people welcomed our visit heartily. We will never forget it . . . After this official visit, luckily I had a chance to visit my second home twice.

Now I'm taking this anniversary . . . to express my appreciation to you. I pray for your association to surely make a wonderful advance and to have prosperity (in) the 100th year of immigration anniversary from Okinawa. ☹

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OBUCHI EDUCATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN OKINAWA

Prominent Okinawan and American officials gathered in Naha City last month to formally launch the "Obuchi Okinawa Education and Research Program" — a U.S.-Japan joint effort to be carried out at the East-West Center in Honolulu. The late afternoon program at the Loisir Hotel was attended by, among others, Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Foley, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawai'i Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, East-West Center President Charles Morrison and Yuko Obuchi, daughter of Japan's late prime minister, Keizo Obuchi, and a member of Japan's House of Representatives. Prime Minister Obuchi was instrumental in Okinawa being selected as the site for last July's G-8 (Group of Eight) Summit.

During the Summit, President Clinton announced that the program would be named in memory of Obuchi, who suffered a massive stroke and died shortly after inspecting the Summit site in Nago City earlier in the year. President Clinton said he hoped the beneficiaries of the program would "... add to the friendship and understanding between our nations that he (Obuchi) worked so hard to advance."

The multifaceted Obuchi Education and Research Program will be administered by the East-West Center. One component, the Obuchi East-West Center scholarships, will provide opportunities for young Okinawan graduate students to study international business and Asia-Pacific studies at the University of Hawai'i through the EWC. Another component, the Obuchi Japan Foundation Fellowships, will enable established Okinawan scholars to engage in cooperative research on Asia-Pacific topics and global issues at the center. The first awards — three graduate scholarships and three fellowships — will be awarded in 2001. As part of the Obuchi Program, the East-West Center will facilitate conference and intellectual activities in Okinawa designed to enhance its educational and research ties in the Asia-Pacific region.

While visiting the "Cornerstone of Peace" in Itoman last July, President Clinton noted the tradition of young Okinawans studying in the U.S. He announced then his decision to dedicate the program in memory of Prime Minister Obuchi. The Obuchi Program seeks to re-establish the academic opportunities made available to Okinawans prior to the Ryukyus' reversion to Japan in 1972. Several speakers, including U.S. Ambassador Thomas Foley and U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, noted that more than 2,500 Okinawans had studied at the East-West Center between 1960 — when the EWC was established — and 1972, when Okinawa was returned to Japan after more than 25 years of U.S. military control. Today, some 26,000 American military troops remain in Okinawa.

Governor Inamine said he hopes to develop Okinawa into an "international convention island" and to promote the island prefecture as the "international and academic crossroads" of the Asia-Pacific region.

The idea for an education and research initiative was proposed last year by East-West Center President Charles Morrison. Seed money for the program is being provided by the governments of Japan and the U.S., with additional support from the East-West Center and the Okinawa East-West Center Associates Chapter. Private contributions, particularly endowments for scholarship and research activities, will also be sought.

Morrison acknowledged Choko Takayama, president of the Okinawa's EWC alumni chapter (and vice mayor of Naha City) and the center's many alumni in Okinawa. "Were it not for their dedication, commitment and energy, there would have been no Obuchi



U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas Foley and U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye present a framed photograph of President Clinton and the late Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi to his daughter Yuko.

Okinawa Program. This program builds on a foundation of strong historical and educational ties between the East-West Center and Okinawa."

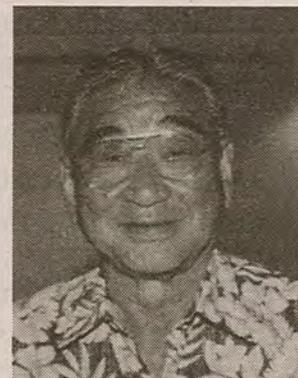
Morrison said the Obuchi Program hopes to work with the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business network on practical internships with businesses and other organizations. WUB co-founder and former president Robert Nakasone is the East-West Center's coordinator for Okinawa special projects.

For more information on the Obuchi Okinawa Education and Research Program, contact Robert Nakasone at the EWC at 944-7474, or by e-mail at nakasonr@EastWestCenter.org.

2001 OFFICERS APPROVED

At its November 20 meeting, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Board of Directors (made up of the club presidents or their representatives) approved the organization's proposed slate of officers for 2001. James Y. Iha will serve as president of the 52-member club HUOA as the organization observes the 50th anniversary of its formation.

Iha, who retired as principal of Leilehua High School, is a member of Chatan Sonjin Kai and Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai. He served as co-chair for both the 1999 and 2000 Okinawan Festival.



James Y. Iha, 2001 president.

The installation banquet for Iha and his fellow officers will be held January 20, 2001, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. HUOA will also recognize the "unsung heroes" of our organization and the community — the "Uchinanchu of the Year" honorees. The installation banquet is being organized by Chatan club members and is chaired by George Kaneshiro. Among the special treats planned for the evening will be singing by a choral group made up of representatives from HUOA's various clubs. Tickets for the 5 p.m. event are \$30 and are being distributed to the HUOA's member clubs. Tickets can also be obtained by sending a check payable to "HUOA Installation Banquet" to Chatan Sonjin Kai, c/o Kenneth Teruya, 1042 Leomele St., Pearl City HI 96782, or by calling HUOA at 676-5400.

Serving with Iha will be president-elect: Gladys Tokunaga-Asao (Tamagusuku Club), vice presidents: Keith Kaneshiro (Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, Kochinda Chojin Kai and Hui Makaala), George Tamashiro (Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai), Karen Shishido (Hui Makaala), executive secretary: Jane Tateyama (Club Motobu), assistant executive secretary: Gerri Nakamura (Chatan Sonjin Kai and Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai), Japanese language secretary: Chikako Nago (Young Okinawans of Hawaii), treasurer: Douglas Miyasato (Aza Yogi Doshi Kai), assistant treasurer: Jane Okamura (Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club) and soon-to-be immediate past president: Albert Miyasato (Club Motobu).

Jimmy Iha has asked Stanley Takamine, Dorothy Hoe, Roy Kaneshiro, Ken Kiyabu, George Uyema and Maurice Yamamoto to serve as his advisors.

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UCHINANCHU SURVEY

It has been nearly three years since we asked you to share your opinions regarding *Uchinanchu*. *Uchinanchu* is *your* publication. The thoughts you share with us in this survey will help us improve the quality of *Uchinanchu*. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it to HUOA (94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, HI 96797, Attn. Gary Honda) by January 31, 2001. Ippe nihei deebiru for helping us improve *Uchinanchu* for you.

- 1) Check the phrase that best describes how you read *Uchinanchu*.
 I just scan through the paper. I read selected articles.
 I read the entire issue. I don't read it at all.
- 2) How long do you keep an issue of *Uchinanchu*?
 one week two weeks one month other
 I toss it out immediately after reading it
- 3) The articles and stories in *Uchinanchu* are (check one):
 Excellent Good Average Fair Poor
- 4) The quality of the writing and editing is (check one):
 Excellent Good Average Fair Poor
- 5) The articles in *Uchinanchu* are well-written and easy to read and understand.
 Yes No
- 6) The articles in *Uchinanchu* are too long.
 Yes No
- 7) Check the response that best describes your assessment of *Uchinanchu's* editorial content.
 I've noticed substantial changes to *Uchinanchu* over the past year — and I like the changes.
 I've noticed substantial changes to *Uchinanchu* over the past year — and I don't like the changes.
 I haven't noticed any change in *Uchinanchu*.
- 8) Would you be willing to pay to subscribe to *Uchinanchu*?
 Yes No
- 9) Check those items that you would like to see in *Uchinanchu*.
 Human interests stories
 Cultural articles about Okinawa
 Articles on younger *Uchinanchu*
 Stories about Okinawans in other parts of the world
 Uchinaguchi lessons
 Recipes for Okinawan food
 Historical articles about *Uchinanchu*
 Biographical profiles on *Uchinanchu* issei and nisei
 More photo spreads
 Fewer photos
 News from Okinawa
 Other: _____
- 10) How often would you like to see *Uchinanchu* published?
 Monthly
 Bi-monthly (every other month)
 Quarterly (once every three months)
- 11) I would like to receive *Uchinanchu*
 early in the month
 in the middle of the month
 in the latter part of the month
 I have no preference; it doesn't matter to me.
- 12) The size of the text in *Uchinanchu* is:
 too small too big just right
- 13) Check the response that best describes your assessment of *Uchinanchu's* layout and design.
 Uchinanchu is attractively laid out and easy to read.
 Uchinanchu is graphically confusing and hard to follow
- 14) *Uchinanchu* is my primary source of information about Hawaii's Okinawan community.
 Yes No
- If not, what is your primary source of information about our *Uchinanchu* community? _____
- 15) What Hawaii publications do you read? Check those that apply.
 Honolulu Advertiser
 Honolulu Star-Bulletin
 Hawaii Herald
 Hawaii Hochi
 Hawaii Pacific Press
 Mid-Week
 Other: _____
- 16) I am _____ years old.
- 17) Besides you, how many people in your household read *Uchinanchu*?
 one to two
 three to four
 five or more
- 18) Including yourself, how many people live in your home?
 Children/Teenagers
 Adults
 I live alone
- 19) In our household we have family members who are — and how many:
 Issei (first generation)
 Nisei (second generation)
 Sansei (third generation)
 Yonsei (fourth generation)
 Gosei (fifth generation)
- 20) What is your zip code? _____
- 21) Feel free to share any other comments in this space.

Ii Soogwachi Shimisoochi!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!