



President's Message

By Cheryl Tanaka

Hi Everyone!

It was nice to start out our year by seeing a lot of you at the Shinnen Enkai. I was happy to renew friendships as well as make new friends. There were a lot of new faces at this year's party. The officers and advisors did a great job in planning and holding the party. Gushichan also started this year by helping plan the HUOA Spring Craft Fair in April. Everyone worked hard to make it a successful craft fair.

Each and every one of you have played a part in making Gushichan a strong and successful club as evidenced by your participation in the various activities.

The rest of 2009 is filled with activities, parades, our annual picnic, the Okinawan Festival and our craft fairs. Let's all continue to show everyone in our community our Uchinanchu pride and spirit.

Annual Picnic – June 28 !

Where: Ala Moana Beach Park, Area 24 & 26
(same place as before, behind Ewa restrooms)

Time: 10:00am Relays scheduled to begin
Approx. 1:00pm Afternoon Games &
Lucky Number prizes

Summer is here and it is soon (real soon!) to have our annual picnic. This year, the Sakuma and Zakahi families are in charge. They will have lots of activities/games for all ages in a carnival-style format. Some relay races will be planned too.

PARKING ALERT: Unfortunately, our picnic falls on the same weekend as the Dragon Boat Races. Also that weekend, there may be a Sunset on the Beach event in Ala Moana Park. So come EARLY for parking. These events were booked after we put in our reservation for the picnic date.

During the picnic, we will be collecting dues and selling festival scrip. Don't forget your checkbooks!

Plan to be at this Annual event – you're sure to have a memorable day, visiting with family and fellow club members.

Tech Corner

We have gone viral! No, we've just set up our 'space' on the internet: gushichan.spaces.live.com Here is where we will post pictures from our events and upcoming notices. If you have a few digital photos that you are willing to share, please e-mail them to gushichan@live.com. The site is still fairly new, so we are working to get some older items like photos and past newsletters uploaded. A blog has also been started so that you can get up-to-date information and also see that Gushichan is active all year 'round and not just during the party, picnic and festival time.

Mailing List Updates

If there are corrections needed to your address or if you know of someone who is not receiving this newsletter, please e-mail gushichan@live.com or call Lyn Uesato at 947-6117 x1302. Thank you!

Okinawan Festival 2009

This year's festival will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 5 and 6, 2009 at Kapiolani Park. For more information on the Festival, visit www.okinawanfestival.com.

Volunteer sign up sheets for the Heiwa Dori booth will be available at the Picnic. Shift times for Sunday, September 6 are: 8:45am-12:00pm (shift 1), 11:45am-3:00pm (shift 2), 2:45pm – 6:00pm (shift 3). Please report to the Heiwa Dori before your starting time so that the prior shift can be relieved and that we are assured that we have enough volunteers. Shift 1: the Festival begins at 9:00am, so all workers must be in position before this time. Do not allow customers to enter the booth prior to 9:00am. All volunteers will be required to sign the Volunteer Waiver Form prior to working in the booth. If there are any volunteers under the age of 18, a parent's/guardian's signature is needed.

Loading/Unloading help is also needed during the week prior to the Festival. On Friday, September 4, we will be setting up the Heiwa Dori booth. This is the day we setup all the products and put up the signs and prices. Shift begins at 8:30am and we typically finish around 2:00pm.

Festival Scrip is available! Each scrip is worth 50cents and is available in sheets of \$10. If you are unable to attend the picnic, please contact Lyn Uesato at 947-6117 x1302 for other scrip pickup arrangements. As of this newsletter printing, **festival shirts will not be available at the picnic**. This year, a 'pre-order' system is being implemented and we hope that by picnic time, we will have details.

Spring Craft Fair

The HUOA Spring Craft Fair was held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the HOC. Gushichan Son Jin Kai, Ginowan Shijin Kai, Ginoza Sonjin Kai, and Gushikawa Shijin Kai, planned a great event. It's a great opportunity to support the activities of the HUOA and it also gives a chance to work closely with other clubs and feed off of their enthusiasm.

Gushichan was in charge of manpower, unloading/loading and hospitality. The day started out brisk and early before 5:00am. Those who helped with hospitality chopped veggies and manned the woks for the delicious chicken hekka. Volunteers were delighted to be treated to homemade breakfast biscuits and a home-cooked meal that "tastes like grandma's!" How's that for the ultimate compliment! Thank you to our club members who came out to volunteer during the fair. Robert Araki, Joyce Brubaker, Erin Ito, Megan Ito, Robert Jakahi, Earlyn Koizumi, Cassie Nakagawa, Neil Nakagawa, Andrew Nishihira, Shigemi Nishihira, Susan Omonaka, Ben Sakuma, Cheryl Tanaka, Erin Tanaka, Eme Uesato, Lyn Uesato, George Zakahi. Special thanks to Cheryl Tanaka, Robert Jakahi and Earlyn Koizumi for attending the regularly scheduled meetings during the months leading up to the event. We apologize if we had inadvertently missed anyone else who had come out to help.

Condolences

The Gushichan Son Jin Kai would like to extend its deepest sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Hatsue Zakahi, who passed away in February. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

Shinnen En Kai recap

On February 28, 2009, the Gushichan Son Jin Kai held its Annual Shinnen En Kai (New Year's Party) at Masa's Cafeteria in Mapunapuna. There seemed to have been a surge in attendance this year! There were so many new faces. Everyone feasted on a great dinner and the delicious homemade desserts prepared by our club members. Thank you to the following members for your generosity in bringing the ono pupu and desserts: Daniel Chi, Thelma Akagi, Taylor & Travis Brubaker, Toshiko Hoshijo, Neil Nakagawa, Shigemi Nishihira, Aiko Onaga, Kats Sakuma, Naomi Sakuma, Hanayo Suma, Karin Tamashiro, Nobuko Tamaye, Iris Tamayose, Eme Uesato, Jan Uesato, Lyn Uesato, Gail Watanabe, Janet Yonamine, Shareen Zakahi.

Thank you again to Darwin Uesato and the 'no name band' for providing the live music before and during dinner. The children (and some adults) were treated to some fantastic balloon creations by Balloon Monsoon. HUOA President Ford Chinen addressed the group and thanked everyone for supporting the efforts of the HUOA. We are honored that he was able to join us that evening. Russ Awakuni from the HUOA Capital Campaign committee made a short presentation and also brought some drawings of the planned development across the street of the Okinawan Center.

We installed our officers: President Cheryl Tanaka, Vice President Joyce Brubaker, Secretary Neil Nakagawa, Treasurer Lyn Uesato, and Advisors: Robert Jakahi, Earlyn Koizumi, Helen Oh (not present), Phil Uesato (not present), and George Zakahi. After dinner, we honored our members who will be turning 70 years old this year: John and Mariko Almarez, Beatrice Hara, Kikue Kubo, Helen Shimazu, and Thomas Uesato. Everyone received tickets for the door prize drawing, too. We were entertained by Lexi Hara, who showed us that she could possibly be the next 'American Idol'. We closed the entertainment portion of the evening with songs by Shigeo Tamaye.

Senior Fair at HOC

The Senior Fair will be held on Friday, July 10th at the Hawaii Okinawa Center from 9:00am - 1:00pm. This free event is open to the public and targeted toward those who are 50yrs or older. There will be many varied vendor booths and workshops where you can gather valuable information. Come and check out new products and services that are available to you. In addition to the wealth of information, there will be door prizes, games and giveaways. For more information, contact the HOC office at 676-5400. This event is sponsored by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.



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