



Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai News

Volume VIII, Issue 1

January 2004

President's Message

Dear Fellow MOKK Members,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a terrific holiday season.

On behalf of MOKK, I would like to thank **Todd Hondo** for serving as President in 2003. I saw firsthand the hard work and dedication he put forth, not only during the past year as President, but as a board member prior to that. MOKK can look forward to having Todd's continued service for many years to come.

This year will be another very busy one for our organization. Although we will not be having our Maui Okinawan Festival, our calendar will be filled with many other activities. As always, we will need a lot of help with these events so please call the MOKK office at 242-1560 or any of the chairpersons if you are able to volunteer.

Thanks again for your continued support and let's have a great 2004.

Bob Yonahara



*Li Sogwachi Debiru!
Happy New Year!*

Shinnen Enkai

(New Year's Party)

Saturday, March 6, 2004

Maui Okinawa Cultural Center

5:00 p.m.

potluck dinner, program and
entertainment by MOKK members



2004 Officers are sworn in by HUOA President **George Tamashiro**.

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 24, 2004

"Bentos to Mixed Plate"

Family Fun Festival

Maui Arts and Cultural Center

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairpersons June Konno & Todd Hondo

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15, 2004

26th Annual Maui State Okinawan

Golf Tournament

Waiehu Golf Course

Chairpersons Patrick Miyahira & Ronald Gibo

Saturday, February 21, 2004

Aloha Reception for Honolulu Performers

4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Koki Tamashiro

Saturday, March 6, 2004

Shinnen Enkai (New Year's Party)

5:00 p.m.

Chairperson Joe Toma

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Bazaar

Chairpersons

Dennis Shinsato & Helen Tamashiro

Saturday, May 29, 2004

Maui Matsuri

Main Street, Wailuku

Tuesday-Saturday, June 8-12, 2004

Youth Camp

Chairperson Traci Villarosa

Sunday, August 8, 2004

Annual Picnic

(location to be announced)

Chairpersons

Wendy Tamashiro & Charlene Gima

Friday-Saturday, August 20-21, 2004

Obon Concession

Paia Rinzai Zen Mission

Chairperson Jana Yamashiro

Saturday, October 30, 2004

Youth Halloween Party

Chairperson Traci Villarosa

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Bonen Kai (End of the Year Celebration)

Chairpersons Todd Hondo & Linda Kiyabu

Events held at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.



Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai News is a publication of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK), a non-profit organization committed to promote, perpetuate and encourage the appreciation of Okinawan heritage, culture and arts. The newsletter is published for members of MOKK.

Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

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Correction to last issue:

Maui Sugar Plantation Festival volunteers - should have read "Leila Leong." We apologize for the error.

County of Maui
Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai will celebrate its 75th anniversary at its annual Bonenkai celebration, November 22, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai is a non-profit organization promoting fellowship and understanding among its membership which is open to those who trace their roots to Japan's Okinawa Prefecture as well as others interested in Okinawan culture; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai is committed to the preservation, perpetuation and appreciation of Okinawan heritage, culture and arts, and to this end conducts classes in *odori* (dance), *sanshin* (3-string musical instrument), *taiko* (large drum), *karaoke* (singing), *paranku* (small drum), *hogen* (language), history, culture and *laido* (swordsmanship); and

WHEREAS, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai is an active participant and supporter of the programs and activities sponsored by the Hawai'i United Okinawan Association and is among its 50-member clubs statewide; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui's goodwill to Okinawa extends to its valued Sister City relationship with Miyako island in Okinawa

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALAN M. ARAKAWA, Mayor of the County of Maui, have the distinct honor of proclaiming and do hereby proclaim November 22, 2003 as

"Maui Okinawan Culture Day"

throughout the County of Maui, and urge our community to enjoy this major cultural event.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Maui to be affixed hereto.

DONE at Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, this 12th day of November 2003.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
 MAYOR - COUNTY OF MAUI

CHINU, NAMA, KUREKARA SACHI

by Sandra Goya

Honoring the Past

Over 100 years ago, brave men and women left their village homes in Okinawa to start a new life in Hawaii. Making the long voyage across the Pacific Ocean, they braved treacherous conditions and persevered. Bonds of friendship were formed, forged from kinship and survival.

Early Okinawan immigrants on Maui formed *chiho* (club of the area) *kenjinkai* and *aza son shihin* clubs out of a need to band together to help solve their mutual problems. In the 1920s, attempts were made to organize the Maui Okinawan groups under a single umbrella organization. But the conditions necessary for these clubs to thrive were yet not in place.

In 1945, Maui Uchinanchu collected clothing as part of the postwar relief efforts. Two years later, the Federation of Maui Ryukyu Clubs (Maui Ryukyu Remmei Kai) was formed to encompass all of the island's Okinawan communities. In the early 1960s, the name was changed to the Maui Okinawa Jin Kei Rengo Club (Maui United Okinawan Association). Upon the return of Okinawa to Japan in 1972, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK) as we know it today came to be.

Enjoying the Present

Today, over 550 families - great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren - are MOKK members. A building dedicated to the issei, whose struggles and sacrifices made life easier and more comfortable for all of us, is the *kaikan*

continued on the next page

CHINU, NAMA, KUREKARA SACHI continued

that serves as a gathering place for the Okinawan community. Proudly, the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center (*Bunka Kaikan*) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2002.

The *kaikan* houses a museum of artifacts rich in history and heritage. It seems only fitting that the cultural center attract young and old alike to learn *odori* (dance), *sanshin*, *taiko*, *karaoke*, *koto*, *paranku*, *iaido* (swordsmanship), *hogen* and gateball. In addition, a children's day camp ignites a fire in our youth to preserve and perpetuate our rich Okinawan culture for future generations.



**Chikako Shimamura, Sensei Frances Nakachi,
Jodie Ching and Sandra Uyehara of
Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai entertain at the Bonen Kai.**

Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart possess a heartfelt spirit energized by a true respect for one another and natural ability to reach out and form lifetime bonds of friendship. This spirit of togetherness was ever-present at the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's Bonen Kai and 75th anniversary celebration luncheon

held at the Maui Beach Hotel's elleair Rainbow Room on Nov. 22. The sun shined brightly as over 250 members arrived at the event. Seeing old friends brought lots of hugs and smiles, and soon the room was filled with laughter and elated voices.

MOKK President **Todd Hondo** welcomed everyone and the **Reverend Ryozo Yamaguchi** of Paia Rinzaï Zen Mission blessed the celebration. Guests in aloha wear and MOKK 75th anniversary shirts navigated their way to their seats and found a special souvenir booklet waiting for exploration. Their souvenir brought many greetings from dignitaries and captured the essence of MOKK. History came to life through stories and pictures, setting the stage for what was yet to come.

Honoring the past MOKK presidents was a true reminder of the dedication and the many steps MOKK has taken to where it is today. But it was truly their day as Maui County **Mayor Alan Arakawa** officially proclaimed November 22 as "Maui Okinawa Culture Day." HUAO President **George Tamashiro** and representatives of the Japanese Consulate offered congratulatory messages. The 2002 MOKK Uchinanchu of the Year passed the honor on to the 2003 recipients. And then the lights dimmed and the souvenir booklet came to life on screen. Pictures and music flowed. The narration for each scene was a personal story, a private memory for each, such that no words were necessary as each moment captured and shared, fully embraced one and all.

Educating the Future

As we look ahead, we wonder what will sustain the strength of Okinawan

CHINU, NAMA, KUREKARA SACHI continued

organizations in the next century. Foresight and foundation have provided MOKK with the tools for a positive future. The annual picnic in July brings everyone together for a day of enjoyment and fellowship. The MOKK Senior Citizens Club, formed in 2002, solidifies the deep roots of Uchinanchu bonds. The MOKK scholarship recipients, 79 to date, will be nurtured for future leadership roles. The Fujinkai ladies provide the spirit of volunteerism from the heart in action - magic transformed into reality. The MOKK Golf Tournament attracts golfers from all over Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Japan and Okinawa, linking Okinawans across the globe. The Maui Okinawan Festival reaches out to the community and shares with our neighbors what the Uchinanchu spirit is all about.

The 2004 MOKK leaders filled the stage and took their oaths during the



Koki Tamashiro and Wallace Miyahira inspect a bottle of *awamori* before it is preserved in the time capsule along with other MOKK keepsakes.

2004 Officers

President

Bob Yonahara

Advisors

Alan Arakawa
Todd Hondo
Clarence Uehara

1st Vice President

Traci Fujita Villarosa

Honorary Advisors

2nd Vice President

Dennis Shinsato

Wallace Miyahira

Roy Fusato

Robert Miyashiro

3rd Vice President

Joseph Toma

Michael Hondo

Tony Arakaki

Koki Tamashiro

Recording Secretary

Janet Miyahira

Building Committee

Kiyoshi Miyahira

Corresponding

Secretary (Japanese)

Nancy Kiyabu

Toshio Shiroma

Grounds Committee

Shigeru Nakanishi

(English)

Charlene Gima

Shigeru Nakamura

Scholarship Committee

Jan Matsushita

Treasurer

Colleen Takamura

Investment Committee

Clarence Uehara

Assistant Treasurer

Debbie Yoshimi

Newsletter Committee

Linda Kiyabu

Historian

Koki Tamashiro

Events Committee

Jerry Arakawa

Auditors

Ed Ige, Jr.

Frank Kawahara

Diane Nako

Hideo Goya

Donald Shimabukuro

Ty Yoshimi

Golf Committee

Ronald Gibo

Fujinkai

Helen Kawahara

Patrick Miyahira

Grace Oshiro

CHINU, NAMA, KUREKARA SACHI continued

installation of officers by HUAO President Tamashiro. The 76th year of MOKK was now promised to the next generation of officers. Fittingly, the young 90-year-old **Wallace Miyahira** brought everyone to their feet with a toast to the future.

The 75th anniversary culminated with joyful entertainment that celebrated this special occasion. The tantalizing sounds of Okinawan music provided by **Afuso Ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai (Sensei Grant "Sandaa" Murata, Sensei Kenton Odo, Tom Yamamoto)** was accented in harmony by **Sensei Jane Kaneshiro** on *koto*, **Sensei Terry Higa** on *taiko* and **Richard Yamashiroya** on *kuucho*. Led by **Sensei Frances Nakachi**, the dancers (**Sandra Uyehara, Chikako Shimamura, Jodie Ching**) of **Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai** through gesture and expression told the story expressed in each song to an appreciative crowd.

Then audience members stood with their hands in the air moving in rhythm as the traditional *kachashi* began. The fun-loving Okinawan was alive at this program. As the music ended, hugs were exchanged for promises to see each other again soon.

Forward to the year 2028, the 100th anniversary of MOKK. On this occasion, club officers in a special ceremony will reveal the contents of the MOKK Time Capsule buried on December 11, 2003, filled with photos; a can of the "official" MOKK beer, "Keystone;" messages; plantation toys; club bylaws and a bottle of *Kiku No Tsuyu* (100 years old in 2028) *awamori*.



The Saturday Work Gang help place the *sotetsu* plant on the kaikan grounds:
Shigeru Nakamura, Hideo Goya, Shinyei Yogi, Tokusei Gusukuma and Shigeru Nakanishi

S O T E T S U

A 100-year-old *sotetsu* tree, also known as sago palm or king sago, was donated to Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai by **Mrs. Fukuda**. On October 11, 2003, **Toshio Shiroma, Frank Kawahara, Shigeru Nakanishi, Shigeru Nakamura and Hideo Goya**, under the supervision of **Michael Hondo**, went to the Fukuda's home to dig up the huge plant to bring it to the *kaikan*. **Doris Miyahira** was consulted and she suggested planting the *sotetsu* on the left side of the *Kaikan*. The *sotetsu* really looks very good in this location.

Sotetsu is native to Southern Japan, China and Okinawa. They grow slowly, but require very little care. These plants are a reminder to us of Okinawa.

Donations to Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

as of 10/14/03 to 1/14/04

General Fund

J & G Arakawa	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Emura	50.00
Foodland Super Market Ltd	41.69
Fred Kishaba	100.00
Nakayama Minyo Kai	25.00
Jane & James Sakugawa	100.00
Jane Serikaku	200.00
Yoshiko Tamanaha	20.00
Dr. Marvin Tanaka	75.00

75th Anniversary/Bonen Kai

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Arakaki	50.00
Frank & Helen Kawahara	30.00
Ed & Bobbi Kuba	100.00
Jinsei & Patricia Miyashiro	25.00
Yasuo & Claire Nagamine	100.00
Henry & Florence Shimomura	100.00
Eileen Taketa	20.00
Trans Pacific Tours, Inc.	100.00
Sozen Yogi	100.00

In Memory of Our Parents Kama Shimabukuro, Shutetsu Shimabukuro & Kama Ishikawa

Dora Watanabe, Jane Sakugawa, Eichi Ishikawa, Larry Ishikawa, Shuei Shimabukuro, Stella Nishibayashi, Hazel Okawaki, Elsie Nakasone, Naomi Shimabukuro, Robert Shimabukuro	350.00
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In Memory of Kama Shimabukuro

Jane Sakugawa	25.00
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In Memory of Yoshio Tengan

Richard & Alma Hashi	100.00
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In Memory of Roy Yonahara

Anonymous	50.00
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In Kind

Alan Arakawa	2 cassette tapes, 1 CD of Jun Nakimi
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Oya	togan & squash for 10/18/03
Donald Shimabukuro	computer

Okinawan Festival 2003

Richard Oya
Howard Oshiro

If you think there is an error or omission on the donation list, please contact the office so we can make the correction. Thank you.

MENSORE "Welcome"

<u>Class/Activity</u>	<u>Day of the Week/Time</u>	<u>Contact:</u>	
Fun Day (Hanafuda, cribbage, piute, socializing, bingo, craft, etc.)	Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Robert Miyashiro	572-9145
Gateball	Monday/Wednesday 7:00 a.m.	Umeno Toyama	572-8503
Hogen (Okinawan Language) and Culture	Monday 7:00 p.m.	Charlene Yamashiro	877-5985
Iaido (Sword)	Tuesday/Friday 6:00 p.m.	Nancy Kiyabu/Koki Tamashiro	877-6816
Karaoke	1st/4th Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Robert Montgomery	572-4021
Odori (Dance)	2nd Sunday of the month	Wallace Miyahira	572-7595
	Sunday 1:00 p.m.	Cheryl Nakasone	242-1560
Paranku	Sunday 3:30 p.m.	June Konno/Yoneko Higa	877-7084
Senior Citizen's Club	1st Monday, 9:00 a.m.	Fumiko Cup Choy	871-6593
Sanshin	Thursday 6:30 p.m.(except 2nd Thursdays)	Ralph Yamanuha	877-6362
Taiko (Drum) for all ages/levels	Monday 5:30 p.m.	Hirotsada Toyama	572-8503
Taiko (Drum) for beginners	Saturday 8:45 a.m.	Wendy Tamashiro	242-1560
Taiko (Drum) for children	Saturday 9:45 a.m.	Darren Konno	877-7320
Taiko (Drum) for advanced	Saturday 10:45 a.m.	Darren Konno	877-7320
Workday	Saturday 8:00-11:00 a.m.(potluck lunch)	Darren Konno	877-7320
General Board Meeting	2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov)		
Executive Board Meeting	2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec)		
Project Dana	Last Friday of the month, 11:00 a.m.	Betty Yamashiro	871-8178

These classes and activities are held at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center (MOCC) unless otherwise noted.
For more information, please call the contact person or MOCC at 242-1560.



**Maui
Okinawa
Kenjin Kai
Scholarship**

All children of Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members or students of Okinawan ancestry who are residents of Maui may apply Applications are available through counselors at most high schools or the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center office. Three scholarships at \$1,000 each are available. There are no restrictions on place of schooling or field of study. Application deadline is April 1, 2004. For more information, contact **Jan Matsushita** at 244-9791 or MOKK at 242-1560.

B A Z A A R

Saturday, May 8, 2004



We need your help for the bazaar! This is our major fundraising event for 2004. Please keep clean and useable items, such as clothing, housewares, toys, books, crafts, luggage, shoes, etc. New items are welcome also. We will accept donations of food items, plants, vegetables, fruits and flowers closer to the big event. Volunteers are needed for pricing, food prep and other committees. Please contact the MOKK at 242-1560 to help.

MAUI OKINAWA KENJIN KAI 2004 DUES

Dues are \$20.00 per family. (Adult children living in the same home are considered a separate family.) Members who are 80 years or older are exempt from dues. Please fill in the form and make check payable to Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai. DO NOT SEND CASH WITH THIS FORM. Send forms and dues to: Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai, PO Box 1884, Wailuku HI 96793. Thank you!

New Member **Renewal** **Exempt (80 years old)**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Birth Date: _____ Birth Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(Street Address or Post Office Box, City, State, Zip Code)

Home Address (if different from mailing address): _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Work Telephone Number: _____

I would like to volunteer for the following committees:

- Building Maintenance Grounds Picnic Membership Scholarship
- Bazaar Golf Newsletter Musuem Hospitality
- Fujinkai (Women) Festival Children/Youth Other _____



Aloha Reception for Honolulu Performers

Saturday, February 21, 2004

4:30 p.m.

MOKK will be hosting Honolulu performers of sanshin, taiko and odori with a potluck at the kaikan. In appreciation, they may let us enjoy a sample of their performances. Please come to support these performers and show them the Maui hospitality. Donations are welcome to help defray some of their travel expenses. If you have questions, contact **Koki Tamashiro** at 572-1781 or the MOKK office at 242-1560.

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