

Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai News

Volume XII, Issue 4

July 2008



Our parents and grandparents left Okinawa in the early 1900's with the hope of a better future in Hawaii. Instead, the Issei--the first generation of immigrants--faced discrimination, poverty and homesickness.

In 1928, Okinawans on Maui banded together to help solve their mutual problems. The Issei persevered through their struggles because of their individual and collective determination. Over the years, "Uchinanchu" (what Okinawan people call themselves) have prospered--starting their own companies, providing higher education for their children, attaining prominent positions in business and government, and simply living the life that was envisioned by their elders.

Okinawans on Maui shared a common cultural and historical heritage. They formed a group so that they could distinguish themselves apart from the larger society in which they lived. This community became closer and more unified as they encountered other individuals with the same values. The group members shared cultural connections and common experiences that brought them together over the years. The people expressed themselves and their identity based on this unique association.

This sense of community is a life-long journey and as people grow, they desire to share this kinship with others. Today, 80 years after the first immigrants from Okinawa decided to come together as a community, our organization continues to evolve and grow. The vision of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai is to instill respect for our culture and to inspire future generations to keep our culture thriving. We will accomplish this vision through community.

The values that the Issei held are still the same ideals that we hold today--humility, endurance, hard work, and enjoyment of life. This is the Uchinanchu spirit. We started our journey by acknowledging our cultural identity and helping one another through difficult times. Then we found ways to work together to share what we love about Okinawa through our culture and the arts.

In 2008, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai celebrates 80 Years of Okinawan Community and looks forward to the journey ahead. Our celebration will be highlighted by an Okinawan performance tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2008, 2 p.m., at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Performers who are scheduled to appear include: **Afuso Ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai, Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Taiko Kai, and Young Okinawans of Hawaii.**

Corporate sponsors so far are: **Central Pacific Bank, Dowling Company, Inc. and Gilbert & Associates.** We are looking for volunteers to help us coordinate some of the 80th Anniversary activities: t-shirt sales, Aloha Party (Sunday night after the performance), omiyage and lei for guests and performers, back stage management, and printed programs. Please leave a message at 242-1560 for **Todd Hondo or Linda Kiyabu** if you are able to help.

President's Message



Half of the year has gone by and we have been very busy with fundraisers and other events. So far, we have held our annual Golf Tournament, Shinnen Enkai, Maui Matsuri Andagi Booth, and

Bazaar. It has been challenging for all of us this year as we move forward into a new era with innovative ideas for the organization. Nonetheless, the chairpersons for each event have done an outstanding job and members have been very helpful. Keep up the good work everyone!

Our next event is the Annual Picnic on July 27, 2008, which will be organized by **Tracy Takamine**. Please join us because the picnic is an opportunity for the Kenjin Kai to thank members and friends for the support and donations provided throughout the year.

In August we will be hosting the Rinzaï Zen Obon Concession. Then on Labor Day weekend, we will be celebrating the Okinawa culture at the HUOA festival in Honolulu. In November, our organization, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai, will celebrate its 80th anniversary at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. To close the year, the Bonnen Kai will be held in December. More information about these events will be posted in our newsletters. Please stay tuned!

Mahalo! to our members, friends, business supporters, and community for monetary gifts and various donations to the Kenjin Kai. Please stop by to visit us and we will be happy to provide you with additional information on our organization as well as upcoming events.

Ippeï Nifee Debiru

Dennis K. Shinsato

2008 Calendar

Picnic - July 27 (Sunday)

Tracy Takamine

Velma McWayne Santos Community Center (Wailuku)

Obon Concession - August 16 (Saturday)

Bob Yonahara

Paia Rinzaï Zen Mission

**Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference,
100 year Brazil Centennial Celebration,
12th WUB International Conference,
Argentina 100 Year Centennial**

August 22 to 25, 2008, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Hawaii United Okinawa Assn (HUOA) Festival

August 30-31 (Saturday & Sunday)

Kapiolani Park, Oahu

Clean Up Day - Saturday, September 13, 2008

Bob Yonahara

Maui Okinawa Cultural Center

Genealogy Workshop - Saturday, November 1, 2008

Betty K. Yamashiro

Maui Okinawa Cultural Center

Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai 80th Anniversary Celebration

(tentative) November 9 (Sunday)

Maui Arts & Cultural Center

Todd Hondo, Linda Kiyabu

Bonnen Kai End of the Year Celebration

December 2008 (Date/location to be announced)

Christine Hondo, Sandy Hondo, Jan Matsushita

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 the Okinawan heritage, culture and arts. The newsletter is published for members of MOKK.

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Helen Tamashiro, Joe Toma, Bob Yonahara

The newsletter is printed at Printers, Inc./Wailuku Rapid Print.

Meet MOKK's 2008 Scholarship Recipients



I would like to thank the MOKK for selecting me as one of the 2008 scholarship recipients. I feel very honored and privileged for this wonderful opportunity to help finance my college education.

My grandparents, **Howard (and the late) Masayo Oshiro**, have been a big influence in my ties with the Okinawan culture. Ever since I was little, they, along with my mom, would take me to the Obon festivities and other cultural events and gatherings. Through their influence, I learned Okinawan dances and performed at some of their special occasions and always looked forward to the annual Paia Rinzai Zen bon dance. I hope to follow my grandparents' footsteps in carrying on the Okinawan traditions. They have been so generous in giving of themselves (a typical Okinawan trait) and never expected anything back in return. They were always willing to help out whether it involved family, friends, church activities, etc., and did so whole-heartedly. I hope to be this way too and teach my kids (someday) what my grandparents taught me and exposed me to. I feel it's very important to know your heritage and keep the cultural ties connected to the family.

Thank you very much for making this scholarship available. I will complete some of my pre-requisites at Maui Community College this fall before transferring to Linfield College in Oregon and hope to pursue a degree in Business Administration.

Brandy Cordeiro is the daughter of **Glenn and Audrey Cordeiro** of Makawao. She graduated from King Kekaulike High School and plans to attend Maui Community College and later transfer to Linfield College to pursue a degree in Business Administration.



Brandy A. Cordeiro

Aloha MOKK,

My name is Eli Smith. As a citizen of Hawaii my entire life (and of Maui since I was four years old), I have enjoyed many of the same adventures that all children of Hawaii do. However, one thing that sets me apart from most others is my Okinawan ancestry. I have always felt much pride to be Okinawan, telling anyone who would listen of my grandma's pure blood quality.

Now, with the help of MOKK, I get to go to college to extend my education and perhaps the education of others, with the same pride I have had my whole life. I would like to give my sincerest thanks to the membership for helping to make this possible for me. It really means a lot.

Once again, Aloha and Thank you!

*Sincerely,
Eli Smith*



Eli Smith is the son of **Charles and Andrea Smith** of Makawao and graduate of King Kekaulike High School. He plans to attend Whitworth University in Washington. His major is yet undecided.

Meet MOKK's 2008 Scholarship Recipients *continued*



Amanda Van Scoy, the daughter of **Richard and Annette Van Scoy** of Kula, is a graduate of Seabury Hall. The family has been involved with eisa taiko through Amanda's brother and she has also volunteered at Children's Camp. Amanda's maternal grandmother, **Sumiko Tanaka**, is Okinawan.

Dear Mr. Shinsato and the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai for providing this wonderful scholarship opportunity. My respect for the Okinawan culture will allow me to continue giving back to the Okinawan community by continuing to provide services to MOKK and also to be a proud representative of the Okinawan heritage.

In August, I will attend Kansas State University to pursue a Masters degree in Architecture. I am also very passionate about the environment and imagine that I will also likely become involved in environmental science. I want to make an impact in the up and coming "green design" building projects to help ensure that we preserve our natural resources and maintain the natural beauty of our world for the future generations.

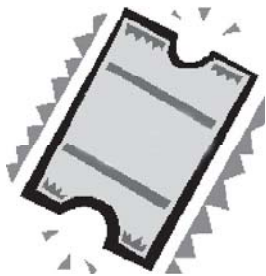
This scholarship from the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai will help to make it financially possible for me to attend a university and pursue my studies in architecture. This investment in my future will enable me to expand my knowledge and experience. Thank you again for providing this educational opportunity. It is truly an honor and blessing to be recipient of this scholarship. I look forward to meeting you at the annual MOKK picnic on July 27th.

With warmest regards,



Each year, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai awards three \$1,000 scholarships to Maui high school graduates. This scholarship is available to children of Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members or students of Okinawan ancestry residing on Maui. Applicants are selected on the basis of financial need, academic achievement, educational plans, and school and community activities.

Celebrate all things Okinawan at the HUOA Festival



The 26th Annual Hawaii United Okinawan Association (HUOA) Festival will be held August 30-31, 2008, at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. Performers from Okinawa and Hawaii will entertain you. And, of course, you'll never go hungry with the great menu of Okinawan foods, such as pig feet soup, champuru, Okinawa soba, oki-dog, and andagi.

Scrips, which are used for food and other purchases, are available at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center or at the Annual Picnic. Those who are planning to attend the festival are encouraged to purchase these presale scrips for themselves, family or friends as 30 percent of the sales will be given back to MOKK. Scrips are \$10 per book. Last day to purchase will be July 27th, the day of the picnic, as any unsold scrips will be sent back to HUOA. Call 242-1560 if you have any questions or check out www.okinawanfestival.com.

Keeping Our "House" Clean

by **Bob Yonahara**

When the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center was completed in 1992, a schedule was drawn up where members would come in one Saturday a month to assist with cleaning the inside of the hall as well as maintain the outside of the building, including the landscaped areas. Members were grouped by geographic location. We want to thank our members who have been coming out on a regular basis to help maintain our building and grounds.



In recent years, these groups have gotten considerably smaller, primarily because they consist of our more senior members. While we appreciate all who come out to help, it is time for our younger members (at MOKK, 80 and under is considered "young") to step up and let our elders assume the supervisory roles. Work starts at 8:00 am and rarely goes past 11:00 am. The more people that come out, the easier and faster the work gets done. Please consider volunteering to help one Saturday a month.

On the same note, we have scheduled another semi-annual clean up day for **Saturday, September 13, 2008, starting at 8:00 am.** We would like to do a general cleaning and tidying up of the hall (dusting and cleaning windows, walls, cabinets, shelves, displays, and areas that are not tended to on a regular basis). If you prefer yardwork, bring a hoe or weed tool. The workday is 3 to 4 hours and lunch will be served.

At the last clean up in March, four people showed up in addition to the "regulars" who come out every Saturday. We are hoping to shatter that record by at least 100 people. MOKK prides itself on being able to carry out its mission primarily with volunteers. Help us to continue with this proud tradition. Please call our office at 242-1560 to let us know if you are able to help so we can get a count for lunch.

Donations to the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

03/17/2008-07/02/2008

General Fund

Ajifu, Paul & Thane	\$50
Arakawa, Elsie	\$25
Curtiss, Debra & Jed	\$10
Fusato, Roy & Charlotte	\$25
Fusato, Ryan	\$25
Hawaii Alpha Delta Kappa	\$231
Higa, Leighton & Lynn	\$25
Hokama, Masatoshi/Charlene	\$100
Isa, Gelvin & Pam	\$20
Isagawa, Kiyoko	\$25
Masuda-Koga, Michelle	\$25
Kiyabu, Samuel & Mitsuko	\$75
Nakagawa, Harry & Jo Ann	\$50
Nakaima-Bartolome, Faith	\$15
Ohta, Walter & Alice	\$25
Oshiro, Hatsue	\$50
Serikaku, Jane	\$100
Shimabukuro, Yoshio	\$100
Shinsato, Kooen & Margaret	\$25
Sugino, Stanley & Nancy	\$50

In-Kind

Nishihara, Toshiko - Box, Green Tea

In memory of Mrs. Kiku Takara

Daughters of Mrs. Takara	\$300
Step-children of Mrs. Takara	\$300

In memory of Raymond F. Sasaoka

Sasaoka, Ruby	\$50
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To honor Yoshio Yamanuha's 80th

Birthday on Aug 6th	
Cornwell, Linda & James	\$500

Library

Burge, Ethel - DVD "Only the Brave"	
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Shinnen Enkai - March 8, 2008

Sugumura, Yuki Lei	\$20
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Gateball

Wolter, O. Wailani	\$25
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Picnic - July 27, 2008

Goya, Glenn	\$50
Okuma, Cheryl	\$50
Uehara, Clarence	\$100

Scholarship Fund

Arakawa, Elsie	\$25
Kohatsu, Marion	\$25
Montgomery, Robert	\$100
Tamashiro, Wendy	\$25
Tokishi, Walter & Ione	\$50

In-kind

Kunitake, Rita - Kinko's (250 copies of applicants' forms for committee)

In memory of Mrs. Kiku Takara

Anonymous	\$20
Higa, Yoneko	\$10

In memory of Teiki Shiota & Dianne S. Yoshizawa

Shiota, Masako	\$100
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Building Fund

Takamiya, James	\$200
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Ikebana

is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. According to Ikebana International, "Ikebana is more than simply putting flowers in a container. It is a disciplined art form in which the arrangement is a living thing in which nature and humanity are brought together. It is steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness with nature."



On April 20th, 23 ladies from the Fujinkai, Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai’s women’s group, were treated to an Ikebana demonstration by **Evelyn Sano**. Evelyn has been an Ikebana instructor for many years. She was assisted by **Sarajeen Tokunaga**. The demonstration also included hands-on instruction where the ladies were able to create their own flower arrangements to take home.



Evelyn Sano



Sarajeen Tokunaga

MOKK SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB ON THE GO

by **Helen Tamashiro**

The Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Senior Citizens' Club was formed in 2000 as a member of the Maui Senior Citizens Planning & Coordination Council of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO). There are about 50 clubs throughout the island, Molokai, and Lanai.

MEO provides coordinators who help each club with program planning, make available a speakers' bureau, inform members of legislative activities pertinent to seniors, and provide educational speakers, tours and fun activities. Any member of MOKK over 55 years of age is welcome to join the Senior Citizens' Club.

The Senior Club also sponsors the MOKK Gateball Club. Presently, there are about 14 members who play every Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot of the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center (kaikan). These members participated in an invitational Gateball tournament in Hilo in March. It was a friendship game where members were able to get acquainted with other gateball club members from Hilo, Kohala and Waikoloa. Despite the "liquid sunshine," the members had a wonderful time.

In April, 22 members boarded the MEO bus and headed to Lahaina on an educational tour to see

the Ulalena play. The history of Hawaii was presented in fabulous dances and music. Many would not have had the opportunity to see the play on their own. The bus ride reminded us of going to school. The tour ended with bento at the Kaikan.

The club meets the first Monday of each Month at 9:00 a.m. at the Kaikan. The July 7th meeting was a celebration for Father's Day. Member entertainment and a buffet luncheon honored the Father members at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center.

Twenty-eight members will be attending the Kupuna Aloha Party on July 26, 2008, at the Grand Wailea Resort. This event is sponsored by MEO to thank all the seniors for their volunteerism and service to the community.

Koki Tamashiro will explain about the artifacts displayed at the Cultural Center at the August meeting. Since many will be attending the HUOA Festival on Oahu, there will be no meeting in September. An early Christmas Party in Kihei is being planned for October. A speaker on Alzheimer's disease for the November meeting will complete the year's program.

For more information about Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's Senior Club, call 242-1560.



Search your family history!

Members from the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii from Oahu will be the guests at a Genealogy Workshop to be held on **Saturday, November 1, 2008, at 10 a.m.** at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center.

The Genealogical Society is willing to share information with anyone who is interested in tracing their roots in Okinawa and learning more about their Okinawan culture. The workshop will include a group presentation as well as individualized help. You are encouraged to bring family documents (Japanese can be translated) that may help with your research.

Although there is no cost to attend for MOKK members, workshop organizers are requesting that you sign up by October 25th so that enough materials can be prepared.

For more information, please leave a message for **Betty K. Yamashiro** at 242-1560.

Bazaar: Thank You!

by Dennis & Amy Shinsato

This year the Bazaar was held on Saturday, June 14, 2008. However, it actually began three weeks prior when volunteers started to plan, advertise, set up tables, donate items, prepare foods, and help organize the donations. As the “big day” drew nearer, the countdown began and we really buckled down to prepare for the labor-intensive fundraiser.

The night before the Bazaar, many volunteers and members worked at the Kaikan until 11:00 p.m. to finish up last minute details – more pricing, organizing, and preparing. A few hours later, at 1:30 a.m., the first Bazaar worker arrived to prepare the area. Slowly, the other workers started showing up, and by sunrise all the volunteers were busy as bees. To keep up the energy of the workers, a complimentary breakfast was also cooked and served to the volunteers.

Doors to the rummage portion of the Bazaar opened at 7:00 a.m. The crowd seemed smaller compared to previous years; however, everyone appeared to be enjoying the rummage and other goods that we had to offer.

I overheard one Maui resident say, “With the rising cost of everything, we need a bargain to help off-set the high costs of our daily living.”

Another resident arrived to the Bazaar upon its completion. She told me with disappointment, “Oh! I missed it. I missed all the good stuff that you guys sell. Anyway, I will see you next time.”

These two individuals affirm the importance of the Bazaar. Each year, the MOKK hosts either a Bazaar or Festival. Both are fundraisers; however, with different objectives. The Bazaar focuses on community service while the Festival emphasizes cultural awareness. Each President has the option to choose the Bazaar or Festival, and this year I believe the Bazaar was the right choice, especially because of current economic hardships. Next year we can lean more towards the Festival and cultural awareness.



Yuki Shiroma, Irene Arakaki and Shigeru Nakanishi were part of the early morning crew that helped cook and package andagi.

I would like to close by quoting Ford Chinen in this month’s HUAO Uchinanchu newsletter. “Yuimaaruu or working together for the successful completion of a job without expecting any compensation or reward. That is truly giving from within.”

With that said, I would like to thank all of the committee chairmen, volunteers, and donors for the tremendous help and dedication in making this year’s Bazaar profitable:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Co-Chair | Dennis & Amy Shinsato |
| Plants | Ed/Doris Miyahira |
| Produce | Tracy Takamine |
| Country Store | Grace Oshiro/Paul Horikawa |
| Andagi | June Konno |
| Chow Fun | Bob Yonahara |
| Drinks/Hot Dogs | Kimo Kaimiola |
| T-Shirts | Linda Kiyabu |
| Cut Flowers | Helen Tamashiro/Gateball |
| Storage | Lynette Shiroma |
| Volunteer Check-In | Annette Omuro/Cara Shinsato |
| Security/Traffic | Dennis Shinsato |
| Parking/Shuttle | Jerry Arakawa |
| Man Power | Amy/Cara Shinsato |
| Grounds Set Up | Dennis Shinsato/Mike Hondo |
| Lighting | Dennis Shinsato |
| Kaikan Set Up | Mike Hondo |
| Signage/Publicity | Linda Kiyabu/Todd Hondo |
| Rummage | Christine Hondo |
| Supplies | Helen Tamashiro |
| Ice | Hideo Goya |

MAUI OKINAWA CULTURAL CENTER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week
Sunday	1-3pm Odori 3pm RMD	1-3pm Odori 3pm RMD	1-3pm Fujinkai Mtg (Jan, Apr, July, Oct) 1-3pm Odori 3pm RMD	1-3pm Odori 3pm RMD	1-3pm Odori 3pm RMD
Monday	7-9am Gateball 9am-12n Seniors 7-9pm HTK (Koten taiko)	7-9am Gateball 7-9pm HTK (Koten taiko)	7-9am Gateball 7-9pm HTK (Koten taiko)	7-9am Gateball 7-9pm HTK (Koten taiko)	7-9am Gateball 7-9pm HTK (Koten taiko)
Tuesday	6-9pm Iaido (Sword) 6-7pm Uchinaguchi/ Culture Class - kitchen	6-9pm Iaido (Sword) 6-7pm Uchinaguchi/ Culture Class - kitchen	6-9pm Iaido (Sword) 6-7pm Uchinaguchi/ Culture Class - kitchen	6-9pm Iaido (Sword) 6-7pm Uchinaguchi/ Culture Class - kitchen	6-9pm Iaido (Sword) 6-7pm Uchinaguchi/ Culture Class - kitchen
Wednesday	7-9am Gateball 10am-12n Fun Day 6-7:30pm MOT (Drums)	7-9am Gateball 10am-12n Fun Day 6:30pm Sanshin 6-7:30pm MOT (Drums)	7-9am Gateball 10am-12n Fun Day 6-7:30pm MOT (Drums)	7-9am Gateball 10am-12n Fun Day 6-7:30pm MOT (Drums)	7-9am Gateball 10am-12n Fun Day 6-7:30pm MOT (Drums)
Thursday	6:30pm Sanshin	6pm Board Meeting	6:30pm Sanshin	6:30pm Sanshin	6:30pm Sanshin
Friday	6-9pm Iaido (Sword)	6-9pm Iaido (Sword)	6-9pm Iaido (Sword)	6-9pm Iaido (Sword)	6-9pm Iaido (Sword)
Saturday	8-11am Workday 9am-1pm MOT (Drums)	8-11am Workday 9am-1pm MOT (Drums) 1-5pm Hawaii Taiko Kai	8-11am Workday 9am-1pm MOT (Drums)	8-11am Workday 9am-1pm MOT (Drums)	8-11am Workday 9am-1pm MOT (Drums)

Contact:

Fun Day (Hanafuda, bingo, craft, etc) Robert Miyashiro
Gateball Charlene Yamashiro
iaido (Sword) Robert Montgomery
Hawaii Taiko Kai (Koten-Drums) Janet Miyahira
Maui Okinawa Taiko (Drums) Wendy Tamashiro
Odori (Dance) June Konno
Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (Drums) Traci Villarosa
Sanshin Koki Tamashiro
Senior Citizen's Club Helen Tamashiro
Fujinkai (Women's Group)
Project DANA (Service Group) Betty Yamashiro
Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month
Classes and activities held at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center (MOCC). Call 242-1560.



2008 Maui Matsuri
 by Joe Toma

A big Mahalo to all the Maui Matsuri andagi workers who helped make the event a big success for MOKK! **June Konno** and the gang making the andagi cranked out the usual great product. Over 700 bags of andagi were sold with gross sales over \$3,000 and a net profit to MOKK over \$2,500.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual picnic is just around the corner! This year the picnic will be held on **SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008**, at the **VELMA MCWAYNE SANTOS WAILUKU COMMUNITY CENTER** from **10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.** **GAMES** will be held starting at 10:00 a.m., **POTLUCK LUNCH** starting at 11:00 a.m. and finally, **BINGO** at 12:00 noon. We will also be selling the **NEW MOKK T-SHIRTS**, so come and get yours! Meet our **2008 MOKK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** and junior high and high school **EXCHANGE STUDENTS FROM MIYAKO, OKINAWA.**

As always, this is a potluck lunch so please bring your favorite dish or desert for all to share. Drinks will be provided by the MOKK. Bring the family and have some fun! Donations for picnic expenses and bingo prizes are welcome. For more information, please leave a message for **TRACY TAKAMINE** at 242-1560.

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