

2009 UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR

KITANAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

AILEEN S. MIYAGAWA

Dedicated, kind, generous, and spirited are just a few superlatives that describe our honoree, Aileen S. Miyagawa. Aileen is our “go to” volunteer who can be counted on to help out at club and HUOA functions throughout the year. “Just let me know and I’ll be there”, is her usual response. Over the years she has been involved with HOC & HUOA activities and events. She is a full-time Mom and Grandma and more recently, a care giver to her elderly Mom. She has faithfully supported our Shinnen Enkai and shares her Uchinanchu culture and heritage with family and friends.

Influenced by Issei grandparents and parents, George and Clytie Yogi (George was an accomplished sanshin player), Aileen, in turn, has influenced her children and grandchildren to get involved with their Uchinanchu culture and heritage. Nothing brings more happiness than seeing her granddaughters; Krislyn and Noelani perform Okinawan odori and grandson, Reyn, demonstrating karate at our Shinnen Enkais. Aileen truly exemplifies chimugukuru or the Uchinanchu spirit. We are so very grateful to have a special person like Aileen in our Club.



KOCHINDA CHOJIN KAI

DAVID TOKUDA

David agreed to take the office of President of Kochinda Chojin Kai in 2007 at a time when the club was in jeopardy of dissolution. Active participation had been declining for years and finding someone willing to assume the presidency had been increasingly difficult. He knew that his grandfather, the late Seiko Chinen, one of the founding fathers of Kochinda, and his grandmother, Grace Chinen, would be proud if he agreed to take the presidency. David’s enthusiasm and commitment brings new life to Kochinda. He’s active in HUOA, served on the Executive Council, participated in service projects, Okinawan cooking 101, Chibariyo and the Okinawan Festival. He participated in the 2007 HUOA Leadership Study Tour, further strengthening ties to his Okinawan heritage. David’s hopes for the future is that his and future generations will continue to perpetuate the spirit and legacy of Kochinda and the HUOA. David’s respect for his elders, appreciation of his culture, enthusiasm for learning, willingness to work hard, and his easy-going personality embody the spirit of the Uchinanchu. Kochinda is proud to present David Tokuda as our Uchinanchu of the Year.



MAUI OKINAWA KENJIN KAI

DENNIS & AMY SHINSATO

Dennis and Amy Shinsato consider their work for the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai to be a team effort. Whether coordinating the annual picnic, festival, food concession or bazaar, daughters Cara and Lori, as well as extended family members, all help. Both Dennis and Amy are third generation Uchinanchu. Their interest in the culture was inspired when their daughters participated in sanshin and paranku. The Shinsatos have been active in leadership, including vice president and president for Dennis, and corresponding secretary for Amy. During the year that Dennis was president (2008), MOKK observed its 80th Anniversary with special events that made for a jam-packed schedule. Serving on the board, gave the Shinsatos an insider’s view of the many people who kept the culture alive through their generous donations of time and money to make the organization successful. Dennis and Amy have come to appreciate who they are as Uchinanchu and enjoy their participation in MOKK. They are grateful for this recognition and hope that the pride they feel about their heritage will be passed down to the next generation.



NAGO CLUB

ALICIA ROGAN

Nago Club is proud to recognize Alicia Rogan as its 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year. Alicia’s fond memories of her childhood experiences at the Nago summer picnics spurred her to give back to the club by organizing the picnic games when she became a parent. Years later, when she became a grandmother, Alicia returned to run the games again, provided props and equipment, purchased prizes, and recruited volunteers to staff the prize table. A Granddaughter of Soyei and Yoneko (Kokuba) Nakaima and a daughter of Charles and Alberta Nakaima, Alicia has worked diligently to encourage members of her large family to participate in Nago Club activities and remain connected to their Okinawan heritage. Alicia is an art teacher at Castle High School, a Nago Club Advisor, and a volunteer at the Heiwa Dori tent at the Okinawan Festival. Nago Club congratulates and thanks Alicia Rogan for her many years of service!

