Ginoza Son’s 70th Anniversary Celebration Benefits HUOA

Ginoza is a tiny village located in a remote part of northern Okinawa on the Pacific Ocean side of the island. It is known basically as an agricultural community. During ancient times, however, Ginoza served as a retreat for aristocrats from Shuri who enjoyed the arts of music and dance. It is no wonder that the performing arts have flourished there over time.

Up until World War II, Ginoza was a part of Kin Town. Seventy years ago, following the end of war, Ginoza officially became an independent village, separating itself from Kin. In celebration of Ginoza Son’s 70th anniversary, Mayor Atsushi Touma led a contingent of approximately 80 individuals to Hawaii to present a special dinner concert to benefit the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

On February 25, the concert of music and dance titled Ginoza Son Geinou Kouryu Kouen was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, featuring performers from Okinawa and Hawaii. Joining the Okinawa Ginoza Son Performing Arts group were Hawaii’s Ginoza Sonjin Kai members Dazz Toguchi and the Ishikawa Family.

An audience of over 400 enjoyed the dinner and the memorable performances, principally for the section of Kanna and Matsuda to give Hawaii their special presentation. Shishimai and michijuune processions were performed with precision and Ginoza’s unique flavor.

One of the highlights of the evening was the performance of Shochikubai. Most traditional dance academies have their own renditions of this auspicious number. The people of Ginoza truly gave a meticulous visual interpretation of this dance that was unmistakably filled with color, pride and spirit.

In his greeting to the audience, Mayor Touma emphasized the connection that his village has with Hawaii and his hope for strengthening the bridge of communication and understanding between Ginoza and Hawaii.

All proceeds from the tickets sold were donated to HUOA. HUOA is deeply appreciative of Mayor Touma and the visitors from Ginoza for this wonderful program and for their very generous donation to HUOA.

Kazuo Ishikawa Sensei is surrounded by his daughters Judy Tome and Linda Asato and grand daughters Emily and Miley. Ishikawa Sensei played the jikata along with Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei.

Shochikubai
President’s Message
By Tom Yamamoto

Within these past few months many events and celebrations have occurred, such as our member club Shinnen Enkai celebrations, two fabulous concerts, our cherished Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program Phase I, the Honolulu Festival, and HUOA’s courtesy visit to Okinawa.

With 50 member clubs under our umbrella organization, each Shinnen Enkai varies in size and content, each taken on its own unique flavor reflective of the club’s heritage and customs. Generations of traditional practices, in fact, are preserved through these special gatherings. In every situation, whether on Ohau or the neighbor islands, club members come together in the Spirit of Laulima to organize their special events.

To highlight one in particular, I am truly grateful for the hospitality of Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai, especially the Matsuda family. Ted and Caroly provided accommodations for us at their lovely home. The Kohala group preserves its unique tradition of cooking their pig in an imu. Members gather the day before to prepare the pig and season the pig for the day-long cooking process. At their shinnen enkai on February 27, the buffet table was lined with various homemade dishes to compliment the freshly cooked kahua pork. The sound of sanbon and taiko drums resonated throughout the hall as performing arts groups presented their various arts forms to the audience members. Mahalo to “ambassadors” Conrad Hokama and Clyde Yafuso for being my weekend guide and ride from Hilo to Kohala, and to Kona.

We welcomed the students, chaperones and leaders from Okinawa who arrived in Hawaii on February 25 for Phase I of the 26th Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program. New partners to the program, Lokahi Foundation and Nippo Tourist Inc. designed a program focusing on the tourism industry. Thank you to our host families, participating organizations and volunteers for making this experience a fruitful and educational one for the students. We are looking forward to the having the same experience as our Hawaii students prepare to travel to Okinawa in June on Phase II of the program.

Celebrating 70 years since becoming an independent village, Ginoza Son put on a spectacular concert at the HOC featuring their performers along with our local artists. Led by Mayor Atsushi Toma of Ginoza Village, their contingent of local artists along with our students from the Hawaii islands put on a show that would have made the Okinawan emperor proud. The long-awaited concert that many were raving about for months finally arrived in Hawaii on February 27, the buffet table was lined with various homemade dishes to compliment the freshly cooked kahua pork. The sound of sanbon and taiko drums resonated throughout the hall as performing arts groups presented their various arts forms to the audience members.

The HUOA proudly participated in JTB’s 22nd Annual Honolulu Festival and throughout the weekend of the Honolulu Festival the Hawaii Convention Center housed stunning and informational exhibits from the various Kenjin Kai. Many thanks to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping alive and thriving.

Uchinanchu is our voice — 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 our Okinawan cultural heritage. Every dollar donated — along with the valuable income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing Uchinanchu. Mahalo to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping Uchinanchu alive and thriving.

Aloha, and Aloha,

IPPEE NIIFE DEREIBIRU... MAHALO!

Please Kokua

Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss
Address
First Name
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Enclosed is my donation of $ ____________
Home Tel: ____________

Please include this form with your donation and send to:
HUOA Newsletter Fund, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

2016 Calendar of Events

The year at a glance!

May 9 Governor Onaga & Uchinanchu Taikai Caravan, 7 pm, HOC
May 15 Benefit Premiere of Family Ingredients - Okinawa, 7 pm, HOC
May 28, 29 HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament, Pali Golf Course
May 31-June 3 Children’s Cultural Day Camp, HOC
June 3-18 High School Student Exchange in Okinawa
June 12 Pan Pacific Parade, Kalakaua Avenue
June 17 Senior Health & Wellness Fair, HOC
July 9 “Chura Shigata,” Ryusei Honrufu Ryuko Kai, 2 pm, HOC
Aug. 13 HUOA Community Outreach Project
Sept. 3, 4 Okinawan Festival, Kapolei Park
Sept. 5 Aloha Party, 6 pm, HOC
Oct. 26-30 Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai (Festival) in Okinawa
Nov. 26, 27 Winter Craft Fair, HOC
Dec. 4 Legacy Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian Village
Dec. 7 Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC

Check HUOA website — www.huoa.org for more information.
opened with a thunderous roar from the crowd as the Ryukyu No Kaze in Hawaii superstars performed on stage. Hawaii fans as well as visitors from abroad were treated to legendary vocal artists, Sadao China Sensei and the Nenes, Rimi Natsumawa, Mongol 800 and Kazufumi Miyazawa. It was a concert that suited all generations! A heartfelt moment occurred when the Ryukyu No Kaze in Hawaii Planning Committee presented a check for $43,500 for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. A sincere “Mabalu” goes out the Sadao China Sensei, Chokei Taira for organizing the event, Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai and JTB Corporation.

Executive Director Jane Serikaku, President-Elect Vince Watabu, and I had such a heartwarming and rewarding experience on our courtesy visit or “Hyoukei Houmon” to Okinawa as we were able to personally show our gratitude to the various agencies, business and individuals who strongly support our Okinawan community in Hawaii. I witnessed the amazing energy and spirit of “Itsi Madin Laulima” from Mr. Asami Ginoza, Mr. Choko Takayama, Mr. Masaji Matsuda along with many of the members of Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai and the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Construction Fundraising Promotion Committee, who traveled with us all over Okinawa everyday to campaign and advocate in support of our organization. We are greatly indebted to these individuals for the work that they do on behalf of the HUOA.

In the upcoming months we look forward to reuniting with our loved ones in Okinawa for the Sixth World Uchinanchu Festival, or Sekai Uchinanchu Taikai, which will be held October 26-30. Many villages, townships and cities in Okinawa are preparing their “welcome home” parties for their brothers and sisters from around the globe. I hope that you can join us in being among the contingent of 1,000-plus who will be representing the proud Hawaii Uchinanchu and the HUOA.

Let’s continue to share our spirit of Itsi Madin – Laulima, Forever Working Together as we look forward to the rest of our year.

Ippei Nihee Debiru!

At Honolulu Festival Friendship Gala Ryukyu Koten Afuu Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuucho Chiechi Kai Hawaii.

Mr. Asami Ginoza, Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Construction and Fundraising Committee, and Mr. Choko Takayama, Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai President.

HUOA Aisatsu delegation visits with Tomigusuku Mayor Haruki Gibo, who is wearing the aloha shirt that Tom presented to him on our trip.

At Honolulu Festival Friendship Gala Ryukyu Koten Afuu Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuucho Chiechi Kai Hawaii.

Aisatsu visit with Governor Onaga.

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Honoring tradition, building legacy of values and trust

Our culture has taught us respect, honesty and the importance of helping others with sincerity. We believe in perpetuating our culture of high values and making a difference to the community. Ippê neihe debiru for your support over the years! May your home be filled with lots of joy, laughter and love.

w w w . s e n j u k o i h a w a i i . c o m

President’s Message - continued from Page 2

Senior Health & Fitness Fair

Friday, June 17, 2016
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Hawaii Okinawa Center
94-587 Ukee St.
Waipio Business Park

Door Prizes • Giveaways • Fun

Win a FREE TRIP to LAS VEGAS

DONATED by VACATIONS HAWAII

Free Admission • Open to the public
Health, Safety, Financial, Cultural Booths
Workshops throughout the day
New Products and Services for Seniors
Valuable information for caregivers and families

E d u c a t i o n a l a n d W e l l n e s s W o r k s h o p s

For Additional Information, call 676-5400 • www.huoa.org
Sponsored by Hawaii United Okinawa Association
“Warabi Ashibi” is an Okinawan term meaning “children at play.” The spirit of this theme has governed the Hawaii United Okinawa Association’s Okinawan Cultural Summer Day Camp Program for Kids. Developed in 1996 on Oahu, the program is designed to teach children about the Okinawan culture and heritage in a fun learning atmosphere.

From the east side of the Big Island to the island of Kauai – the sounds of our Okinawan music will be heard throughout the state in the month of June. Children ages 7 to 13 will be able to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of our culture. Campers are introduced to Okinawan history, dance, language, drumming, martial arts, crafts, flower arrangement, cooking and plantation games. Projects are designed to provide a hands-on fun and educational experience for the participants and will vary from camp to camp. Camps select the curriculum that best suits their participants and community.

We would like to express our gratitude to Ruby Maekawa – Hilo’s director for many years. She instituted the six-day camp for Hilo and mentored many junior leaders and children to the beauty of Okinawa and understanding the meaning of the “Uchinanchu Spirit.” We will miss her leadership, enthusiasm and ideas. She will leave the Hilo Camp in the capable hands of Dwayne Miyashiro. Dwayne served as Ruby’s co-director last year.

“Warabi Ashibi” was first established by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for Oahu. The program is now offered statewide with the assistance from neighbor island Okinawan clubs and a financial grant from the State of Hawaii, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. According to State Director Karen Kuba-Hori, “Every year each program gets a little more creative and the program this year will be exceptional.”

For additional and updated information, please visit our website at www.huoa.org or call the HUOA office at 676-5400 or email at kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com.

### Listing of Camps and General Information:

#### OAHU
- Location: Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC)
- Date of Camp: June 9 – June 12
- (sleepover at the HOC scheduled on Thursday)
- Hours: Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
  - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – noon
- Coordinating Club: Hui O Laulima
- Directors: Connie Chun and Kate Ardona
- Registration: $100 (discount for multi-child households)
- Number of Kids: 80
- Ages: 8 years to 13 years of age
- Contact: Karen Kuba-Hori, (808) 676-5400
  - kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com

#### MAUI
- Location: Maui Okinawa Center
- Date of Camp: June 9 – June 12
- Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Coordinating Club: Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai
- Directors: Elaine Fujita and Janet Miyahira
- Registration: $95 for MOKK members; $120 for non-members, includes one year MOKK membership, (discount for multi-child households)
- Number of Kids: 30
- Ages: Entering 1st grade – 8th grade
- Contact: MOKK (808) 242-1560
  - MOKK, P.O. Box 1884, Wailuku 96793

#### HAWAII – KOHALA
- Location: Hawi Jodo Mission
- Date of Camp: June 20 – June 21
- Hours: Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
  - Sunday – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Coordinating Club: Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai
- Registration: $40 (discount for multi-child households)
- Number of Kids: 24
- Ages: 8 years to 13 years of age
- Director: TBA
- Contact: Karen Kuba-Hori, (808) 676-5400
  - kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com

#### HAWAII – KONA
- Location: Konawaena High School
- Date of Camp: June 27 – 28
- Hours: Saturday – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - Sunday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Coordinating Club: Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai
- Registration: $45
- Number of Kids: 20
- Ages: 8 years to 13 years of age
- Directors: Doris Grace and Pat Nagy
- Contact: Doris Grace, gracedoris48@gmail.com
  - Pat Nagy, (808) 325-0060
  - pnagy808@hotmail.com

#### KAUI
- Location: Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall
- Date of Camp: June 16 – June 18
- Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Coordinating Club: Hui Alu, Inc.
- Registration: $100 (discount for multi-child households)
- Number of Kids: 50
- Ages: 8 years to 13 years of age
- Director: Gloria Hiranaka
- Contact: Gloria Hiranaka, (808) 652-1223 or ghiranaka@hotmail.com
continued from page 4

Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA)
2016 Warabi Ashibi, Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Children - Oahu
May 31 to June 3, 2016 - Tuesday to Friday
Registration Form
Registration Deadline: Friday, May 20, 2016
Enrollment limited to 80 participants, Ages 8 - 13
(child must be 8 years old by December 2016)

Last Name ________________________ First Name ________________

Age ______ Sex: F_____ M_____

Returning Child: [ ] Yes [ ] No
No. of Yrs Participating: ______

T-shirt size: Youth _____ Adult _____ (check one)
Small ______ Medium ______ Large ______ (check one)

Last Name ________________________ First Name ________________

Age ______ Sex: F_____ M_____

Returning Child: [ ] Yes [ ] No
No. of Yrs Participating: ______

T-shirt size: Youth _____ Adult _____ (check one)
Small ______ Medium ______ Large ______ (check one)

Last Name ________________________ First Name ________________

Age ______ Sex: F_____ M_____

Returning Child: [ ] Yes [ ] No
No. of Yrs Participating: ______

T-shirt size: Youth _____ Adult _____ (check one)
Small ______ Medium ______ Large ______ (check one)

Parent or Legal Guardian’s Name(s) ___________________________

Address

Home Phone __________________ Work Phone __________________

Parent/Cell __________________________

E-mail Address _______________________


Registration Fees:

One child ($100) ______________________________ $ _______

*Two children ($180) ____________________________ $ _______

*Three children ($260) __________________________ $ _______

Additional t-shirts are available for purchase as follows:

(Youth) - $7 Quantity ____ Size ____ $ __________

(Adult) - $10 Quantity ____ Size ____ $ __________

Total Amount Enclosed $ __________

* To qualify for multi-child discount, children must reside in the same household.

Make checks payable to HUOA.

Mail to: HUOA
Children’s Day Camp
94-587 Ukee Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Ippee nifee deebiru! Thank you ver much!

HUOA use only – Input completed ____________ (Initial)

Rev. 6/30/11; 2/24/12; 5/11/12; 1/30/12; 2/9/14; 4/22/16 CDC-F #1

Rocking Out at Ryukyu no Kaze
By Courtney Takara

On March 14, the roughly 1,500 people who filled the Hawaii Convention Center were treated to an evening of musical delight at the “Ryukyu no Kaze” concert. This special concert was brought to Hawaii thanks to the efforts of the Ryukyu no Kaze in Hawaii Organizing Committee, JTB Corporation, Japan Airlines and the Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau. The concert was produced in Okinawa, but Sadao China Sensei thought it would be a great opportunity to stage the concert in Hawaii as a benefit for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project. JTB Corporation donated the proceeds from the concert, and President and CEO Hiroyuki Takahashi presented HUOA President Tom Yamamoto with a check for $43,500.

HUOA Vice President Lynn Miyahira co-emceed the concert with Yoshimi Kuwae. The Nenes, an all-female Okinawan folk music group, opened the concert. Formed by China Sensei, the group is now in its fourth generation. The Nenes perform weekly at a live house in Naha, Okinawa and showcase true Okinawan culture from their songs to their colorful bingata kimono. China Sensei played sanshin for them before taking the stage for a few solo numbers. He is known for playing koten or classical Okinawan music and is the founder of Nidaimine Teishin Kai.

Ryukyu kokyu Matsuri Daiko Hawaii performed between acts. The sound of taiko and bireiis resonated throughout the hall and prepared the crowd for Mongol 800. Formerly known as Monpachi, they are a famous punk rock band from Urasoe, touring all over Japan with a huge following of young fans. Many of our HUOA members were shocked to see a mass of young people rush to the front of the stage, jumping and singing along with the band.

Excitement grew as Rimi Natsukawa took the stage. Rimi is a famous contemporary singer from Ishigaki Island, best known for “Nada Soso.” This was her first trip to Hawaii, and she expressed how much she loved being here. The crowd was in awe of her beautiful voice throughout her performance. Following Rimi was another famous singer, Kazufumi Miyazawa, the founder of The Boom and best known for “Shima Uta.” Kazufumi was actually a surprise mystery performer who was not advertised on the concert flyer.

For the finale, all the entertainers took to the stage, singing a number of songs together, including “Shimanchu nu Takara.” And, like all great Okinawan gatherings, everyone stood up to dance kachashi. “Ryukyu no Kaze” was an amazing concert and HUOA members had a great time singing and dancing along to their favorite Okinawan artists.

Thank you to all our HUOA members who purchased tickets and Ippee Nifee Deebiru to Japan Airlines, JTB Corporation, Chokei Taira from Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Sadao China Sensei for making “Ryukyu no Kaze” in Hawaii possible—and a special thank you to JTB Corporation for donating the proceeds of the concert to the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project!
Honolulu Festival Events at the Hawaii Convention Center

By Karen Kuba Hori

"Japan on Parade" – that’s the feeling you experienced if you attended the 22nd Annual Honolulu Festival. Imagine the entire first floor of the Hawaii Convention Center with rows of exhibition booths from Japan organizations and prefectures; booths featuring Pacific Basin countries; a children’s corner with games and hands-on activities; a mini craft fair; huge Japanese parade sculptures; and an entertainment stage our Okinawan Festival would be envious of.

A special section in the exhibit area is a place I would title “Kenjinkai Alley.” Here, booths from several local prefectural clubs like the Hawaii United Okinawa Association did their best to inform and display the artifacts that represent their prefecture. HUOA is called “Okinawa Ken” on the floor and with the assistance of Hui O Laulima we featured an exhibit of Okinawan textiles and our prefecture “Okinawa.” The booth was very colorful and beautifully done. It featured dolls weaving katsuri fabric made by Okinawan doll making master Sueko Zamami. Two sanshin troubadours – Dexter Teruya from Nidaime Teishin Kai and Tom Yamamoto from Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai—entertained the crowd. The whole experience is an excursion that you won’t want to miss next year. It’s like visiting Japan on a whirlwind tour.

Taikai Caravan Coming to HOC on May 9

Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga will lead the Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai Caravan to share information about the Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai, which will take place in Okinawa October 26-30, 2016. The Taikai Caravan’s first stop will be at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on May 9 at 7 p.m. It will then travel on to Los Angeles, Vancouver, B.C., and Washington, D.C. Don’t miss this opportunity to greet the Caravan and learn more about the big event first hand.

This information sharing session is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the events that are taking place at the Taikai. No reservations are necessary. Seating is open and everyone welcome!

Aloha Shirts: People who have already signed up to attend the Taikai but have not already done so will have the opportunity to “try on for size” and order/pay for their aloha shirts that evening. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for those who wish to order Aloha shirts.
Ehime Maru Memorial Clean-Up

On February 6, members of HUOA’s Executive Council and friends from Okinawa come together in the Spirit of Laulima to clean the Ehime Maru Memorial and surrounding area. As an annual gesture of goodwill, the HUOA is among several community groups who volunteer to help maintain this symbol of forgiveness and friendship located at the Kakaako Waterfront Park. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the tragic accident of the Ehime Maru and the USS Greenville submarine.

Student Exchange Celebrates New Partnerships

Okinawa students and their Hawaii host students welcome new partners to the Okinawa-Hawaii Student Exchange Program, Phase I.

Students from Okinawa visit Gov. David Ige.

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Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club Celebrates 43rd Shinnen Enkai

One hundred twenty-five members, friends, and guests celebrated the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club’s 43rd Shinnen Enkai luncheon at the HOC on February 28. Members were treated to family gifts, fortune cookie favors, and balloon creations. Lucky $1 raffle winners took home a flat screen HDTV and iPad-mini. Wayne Takamine on guitar and vocals was our perennial and much-valued luncheon entertainer. HUOA President-Elect Vince Watabu installed our 2016 hana hou board members: President Christine Taylor, Vice President Greg Kuwazaki, Secretary Janice Kawachi, Treasurer Richard Kina (88). Missing: 80-year-old honorees Toshiko Ishikawa (88) honoree, and our Uchinanchu of the Year, Bobbi Kuba, Janice Kawachi, Greg Kuwazaki, Chris Taylor, and Vince Watabu.

Installation: Doris Arakaki, Louise Tamashiro, Bobbi Kuba, Janice Kawachi, Greg Kuwazaki, Chris Taylor, and Vince Watabu.

Vice President Greg Kuwazaki, Secretary Janice Kawachi, Treasurer Bobbi Kuba, and Advisors Louise Tamashiro and Doris Arakaki. The spotlight was on our special honorees. Ed and Bobbi Kuba were our Koki No Iwai (73) honorees, Rose Mizokawa was our Tokachi (88) honoree, and our Kajimaya (97) honoree was Janice Okudara. Our 2015 Uchinanchu of the Year was Cyrus Tamashiro.

Chinagu Eisa Hawaii opened our entertainment program with a call to celebration. We were treated to the electrifying and energetic Eisa drummers. The audience whistled and clapped as they performed three rousing numbers one after another. Frances Nakachi Sensei performed Hayakuduchi, an auspicious dance with wishes for a glorious new year, and five talented children performed Hana No Kajimaya with pinwheels, a joyful dance representing longevity.

The Shuri-Naha Sanshin Sunshine entourage, Mark and Hanae Higa and Cuyler Yogi, delighted us with cookies, and balloon creations. Lucky $1 raffle winners took home a flat screen HDTV and iPad-mini. Wayne Takamine on guitar and vocals was our perennial and much-valued luncheon entertainer. HUOA President-Elect Vince Watabu installed our 2016 hana hou board members: President Christine Taylor, Vice President Greg Kuwazaki, Secretary Janice Kawachi, Treasurer Richard Kina (88). Missing: 80-year-old honorees Toshiko Ishikawa (88) honoree, and our Uchinanchu of the Year, Bobbi Kuba, Janice Kawachi, Greg Kuwazaki, Chris Taylor, and Vince Watabu.

Our celebration closed with the traditional Kachashi. Chibariyo – and see you all next year! "

Okinawa City-Goeku Son Shinnen Enkai

Goeku Son celebrated its 89th Shinnen Enkai in February at the Natsumonya Teahouse. Members enjoyed the camaraderie of old friends, good food, and picture taking in kimonono. This Shinnen Enkai was especially important as it recognized eight members who were celebrating their 80th birthday and four members who were reaching “tokachi” (88 years old).

(Under-Left): Kokuji Kochi (80); (Middle-Front Row): Warren Hamada (80), Amy Fukuhara (80), Masaki Kiyabu (88), and George Shimabukuro—shared their early immigration memories. Kazuo Ishikawa was born and raised on Palau, returned to Okinawa, then immigrated to Hawaii after the war.

The visitors as well as the sonjin kai members enjoyed a mix of Hawaiian and Okinawan food prepared by Bishop Museum’s food service vendor, Highway Inn, which is owned by a Ginoza Sonjin
Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai

The Kohala group preserves its unique tradition of cooking their pig in an imu. Members gather the day before to prepare the pig and season the pig for the day-long cooking process. At their shinnen enkai on February 27, the buffet table was lined with various homemade dishes to compliment the freshly cooked kalua pork. The sound of sanshin and taiko drums resonated throughout the hall as performing arts groups presented their various art forms to the audience members.

Ginoza Shinnen Enkai continued from Page 8

Kai member family.

The spirited visitors from Okinawa participated in activities like Jan Ken Po, which came down to a child from the sonjin kai and a male visitor from Okinawa. The last match was very animated with everyone cheering loudly... especially when the child won! The 80-year-old and over members of the club were honored and had their picture taken. They included Misao Asato, Soyei Toguchi, Yukio Toguchi, Audrey Toguchi, Joyce Takara. Karen Hamada, John Ratliff, Hideo Toguchi, Doris Ajifu, Doris Wolfe, Haruko Shamabukuro, Kazuo Ishikawa, Dorothy Nakama, Nancy Yama and Lorraine Mizokami.

Club members contributed toward an appreciation gift that was presented to President Vince Watabu for his long and dedicated tenure. The gift was to ensure that his much-anticipated first trip to Okinawa would be a very memorable one. The evening culminated with an energetic eisa presentation by the visitors and ended, of course, with kachashi.

Shinnen Enkai

Salute the commitment and spirit of those clubs who gather forebears, and renew their commitment to one another.

The New Year is a time for reflecting on our many blessings and looking forward to the year ahead. The members of Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai came together to celebrate the New Year after a very busy and exciting 2015. HUOA President-Elect Vince Watabu greeted members and shared his vision for 2016. He also shared his family’s connection to Nakagusuku!

We honored former Nakagusuku President Howard Asato as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Howard loves all things Okinawan and is our very own Ambassador and Nakagusuku Eye who keeps us connected to Nakagusuku Village. He was even here to officially welcome Mayor Hamada, Gosamaru Drums and Lord Gosamaru to Hawaii for the 2015 Okinawan Festival.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell was on hand to help us honor Howard and expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome he received from Howard and Laverne on his recent visit to Okinawa.

We honored and celebrated the 85th birthday of Mr. George Nakamoto, and those celebrating 90 years or more, Mrs. Doris Higa, Mr. Shigeo Asato, Mr. Ed Higa, and Mr. Toshiaki Nakamoto. Vince Watabu and Mayor Caldwell congratulated them, and Howard presented each of them with a beautiful ceramic plate from Okinawa.

We were very fortunate to have Courtney Takara selected to participate in Nakagusuku Village’s Immigrant Abroad Training Program – Nakagusuku’s very first kenshu-sei from Hawaii! Courtney reported on her experience during the three-month cultural training program. She then shared what she learned by treating us to a koto performance and played uta sanshin on a sanshin she received from Nakagusuku Mayor Hamada when she graduated from the program.

A special drawing was held last year at our Shinnen Enkai for airfare to travel to Okinawa. Jared Vierra was the lucky recipient and shared a great video of his experience of immersing himself in the homeland – complete with awamori and fugu! This year, Iris Oshiro was the lucky winner of airfare to attend the 2016 Taikai in October!

Members enjoyed lots of shopping at our silent auction, which raised funds for HUOA. Elise Miura made luggage tags for members to use when they attend the Taikai. And, finally, we were treated to Okinawan music and dance by Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai and Afuso-ryu Onkoku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai Hawaii!

Thank you to the many hearts and hands that are Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. Celebrating family. Honoring our ancestors. Perpetuating our culture. Pride in Nakagusuku!
Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuyu Madin
A Capital Campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Our Supporters

Ikuyu Madin Kai Members Of The 200 For 2M Campaign
(Listed Members have either donated or pledged $10,000 or more to our current campaign, starting July 1, 2014.)

ALOHA TOFU INC., PAUL UYEHARA
NANCY AKAMINE ARIZUMI, CLAIRE MATSUMOTO, WILMA OGIMI
ARASHIRO OHANA
GEORGE BARTELS, JR. & DOREEN BARTELS
DR. GLENN M. & LUCILLE K. BIVEN
FORD & DANIEL CHINEN
DR. DORIS CHING
ALTON CHUNG
FURUGEN FAMILY LTD. PARTNERSHIP
GINOWAN CLUB
CHRISTINE & STANLEY HIGA
GLADYS MATSUE HIGA TRUST
LAVERNE HIGA
MARK & HANAE HIGA
MILDRED HIGA
DR. KYOKO HUJIRIDA
HUI MAKAALA
HUI O LAULIMA
JOCELYN IGE
RALPH & JEAN IGE
RICHARD IHA, JR.
YURIKO INANIME
JON IOMURA
ARTHUR KANESHIRO
RODNEY & CAROL KOBAGURA
PAUL Y. & KRISTI KOMUJI
THE FAMILY OF RICHARD AND KYOKO KUBA
LU & CHUNG, MORIKAMI, KUBA-HO
ASKORI KUWAZAKI
MIKI & BRIAN MAEBASHI
MAVES MASAKI
DWAYT T. MATSUDA
ROBERT T. MATSUDA
SALLY & HISAHI MATSUMOTO
GUY MIYASHIRO
LAWRENCE & ALICE MORISAKI
CATHERINE MORISHIGE
MARK MUGISHI
CAROL & JACKSON NAKASONE
KAREN NAKASONE
MITSUKO TOGUCHI NAKASONE
NORMAN & RENETTE NAKASONE
RUTH OSHIRO
YOSHIMORI OSHIRO
YASUO AND CHIYO SADAYAMA
THE FAMILY OF AKIRA & JANE SAKIMA
JANE SERIKAKU
CHRIS & SHIHO SHIMABUKURO
HERBERT & LILLIAN SHIMABUKURO
KAREN KEIKO TAMAE & AKIRA SUGIKAWA;
ROY, DAWN & MAKANA SUGIKAWA; JANET & NEAL YAMANOUCHI
CYRUS & ANN TAMASHIRO
GEORGE & EMELINE TAMASHIRO
CHARLES T. TOGUCHI
LINDA TORGEOE
DARRYL UZU
MAURICE & JEAN YAMASATO
KENNETH & HELEN YANAMURA
BOB YONAHARA
HAROLD & ELSIE YONAMINE

The Hawaiian United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign. Since our last report we received over $22,350 in gifts for the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow, we currently have 58 committed members. We would like to welcome the family of the late Henry Shiyei Higa and Gladys Matsue Higa.

The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations and humbly ask for your continued support.

Magukuru Kara Ippee Nifee Deebiru – from our hearts, thank you very much.

Donations listed below were received from February 1, 2016 to April 5, 2016

Aloha Tofu Inc.(2)
Dr. Kyoko Huirida
Leslie T. Morishige
Karen Tookie Nakasone (2)
Takeo & Betty Y. Shimabukuro
Cyrus K. and Ann Tamashiro
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Charles T. Toguchi
In Memory of Henry Shiyei Higa & Gladys Matsue Higa by the Gladys Matsue Higa Trust
Aloha Tofu Inc., Paul Uyehara
Nancy Akamine Arizumi, Claire Matsumoto, Wilma Ogimi

Preserving Our Legacy
2015 to 2016 – Annual Giving Program

The Hawaiian United Okinawa Association is extremely grateful to the over 777 friends that have displayed their “laulima” with a generous gift to our annual giving. Your tax-deductible donations allow us to continue to educate and share our Okinawan culture with the people of Hawaii. We look forward to hearing from many more of you in the coming months. As of March 31, 2016 we collected $106,115. Ippee Nifee Deebiru!!

GOLD ($10000 TO $4999)
Audrey Nakamura & Lynn Nakamura
SILVER ($5000 TO $999)
Members of Hui O Laulima
BRONZE ($250 TO $499)
Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. Matching Gift Fund Program on behalf of Stephanie Teruya
Ken & Amy Miy
The Ford Foundation Matching Gift Program on behalf of Irene Hirano Inouye

CONTRIBUTOR ($100 TO $249)
Wayne & Virginia Kusue Date
Eunice Kishimoto Hayashi
Harry & Sachiko Higa
Janice S. Ige
Ikenobo-Ikebana Society; Hawaii Okinawa Center Class; Nobuko Kida Sensei
Raymond & Stella M. Miyashiro
Lisa Nakama
Paul & Janice Nakama
Richard S. Oyama
Jason Taira & Ann Hasegawa Taira
Kenny Toyama
Bert & Mitsuko Yamaguchi
In Memory of Colman J. Izu by Milton & Madelline Oshiro
In Memory of Giuei, Kane, Thomas, Susan & Kay Kamiya by Tom & Jan Kamiya Dobies
In Memory of David G. & Matsu Kansheto

Continued on Page 11
In Memory of Edna Kunazaki by the Members of Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club
In Memory of Genyei & Masako Miyashiro by Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Itoh
In Memory of Mom, Dad, Uncles & Aunties by Pamela Marie Nakagawa
In Memory of Seikichi “Sei” Tokuda by Shigeru & Margaret Tomita

In Memory of Seiko & Yoshiko Yamashiro by Kenneth & Mary Matsui

FRIEND ($99 AND BELOW)
Takemitsu Akamine
Sadao & Annie Aoki
Diene Kawakami
Henry & Carol Lau
Greta Nouchi

In Memory of Seiji Bob & Seikichi Sei Tokuda by
John & Janet Oshiro
In Memory of Sei Tokuda by Abby & David Watson
In Memory of Sei Tokuda by John & Janer Oshiro
In Memory of Seiji Bob & Seikichi Sei Tokuda by
Walter Taira

HUOA DONATIONS
February 1 to March 31, 2016

HUOA sends a sincere ippee nifee deebiru to the following donors:

Mildred Chibana
Natsumi Hodson
Kuukini Auxiliary
Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
Glen Manuda & Gladya Higa
Steven Nishigata
In Memory of Tarusuke & Ushi Shimabukuro by Laura T. Chun
In Memory of Sei Tokuda by Abby & David Watson
In Memory of Sei Tokuda by John & Janer Oshiro
In Memory of Seiji Bob & Seikichi Sei Tokuda by Walter Taira

GINOZA SON, OKINAWA

Mayor Atsushi Touma
Chiaki Ajifu
Hirono Chinen
Midorii Hatanaura
Rikiya & Ayumi Higa
Tsubasa Higa
Yoshifumi Hirata
Tsuyoshi Iha
Teresa Ikahara
Yuji Ishikawa
Sugiko Ishikawa
Atsushi Kinjo
Maki Kinjo
Michiyi Kinjo
Kenji Kashimoto
Manabu Kishimoto
Masaki Matsuda
Seiyo Matsuda, Kuchio
Chikako Miyahira
Atsuko Miyahira
Toru Miyahira
Jin Nakamoto
Masanari Nakama
Nana Nakama
Shoko Nakama
Tsuyoshi Nakama
Sumiko Nakamura

KOKUA IN KIND

Have a vehicle, boat or motorcycle stuck in your garage or, worse, on your lawn? Turn that unusable asset into tax-deductible dollars and help the Hawaii United Okinawa Association at the same time. Since 2009, the HUOA has partnered with “Kokua in Kind,” a vehicle donation exchange company. When you have a car, truck, van, motorcycle or boat ready to donate contact Kokua in Kind and let them know you wish to donate the sale of your “vehicle” to the HUOA. HUOA will receive proceeds of the sale (less a small administrative fee) and you will receive a tax deduction on the sale. By the way, most vehicles will be accepted running or not. Kokua in Kind can be reached at (808) 834-6603 or at www.kokuainkind.com. You can either deliver the vehicle to them at 1006 Mikole Street or they will tow the vehicle for free.

We would like to thank Steven Nishigata for his donation on the sale of his cargo van. Ippee Nifee Deebiru.
Please Kokua!

Our Hawaii Okinawa Center’s beautiful lawn has been overtaken with weeds! Besides the weeds, hedges and the surrounding area of the center are in need of some tender loving care. The area that surrounds our center along Ukee Street and Ka Uka Boulevard are no longer lush with greenery.

We used to have a faithful corps of hardworking volunteers that took great care of HOC, but due to their ages or health conditions, the number of volunteers has dwindled dramatically.

Note: We are so fortunate that Kin Chojin Kai members have “adopted” the Issei Garden at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, for they diligently weed, water and prune, along with everything else that’s needed to make the Issei Garden look great.

Please help us to bring “life” back to our Takakura Garden area. If you know of anyone that can dedicate even one day a week, we would appreciate it. Bring your friends too! Call Karen Takushi Shishido at 551-7868 or Jane Tamanaha Lee at 988-1471.

Sara Akemi Nakatsu Receives OPG Scholarship

The HUOA is pleased to announce that Sara Akemi Nakatsu has been selected as this year’s Okinawa Prefectural Government’s scholarship recipient. The Prefectural Government Foundation began collecting applications from the various overseas kenjin kai and coordinated the entire application process beginning in October 2015. Documentation include statements by the employer, university, transcripts, health forms, essays and required documents depending on the applicants major or course of study.

Ms. Nakatsu applied to the Arts University with a focus on Okinawan koto. She will be the first person from Hawaii to enhance her koto studies through this scholarship. She has studied o-koto in Hawaii since 1996 under the direction of Bonnie N. Miyashiro of the Miyashiro Soho Kai.

We wish Sara well and look forward to what she will add to our community’s performing arts legacy when she returns to Hawaii next year.

Hui Makaala Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show, July 24

Please jot down Sunday, July 24, 2016, on your calendars for the 47th Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom. It’s hard to believe that it is the 47th annual show—what a long, long tenure for this great community service activity!

This year, Hui Makaala will feature the designs of:

- DOLKII (Sisters) Yasmin Dar Fasi and Shaiyanne Dar
- BOUTIQUE SHARON – Six boutiques around and in Waikiki
- KAYPEE SOH – Up-and-coming Malaysian designer

We will also have the usual boutique-related happenings starting at 9 a.m., including silent auction, raffle, lunch, entertainment, scholarship awards, and, of course, the fashion show itself ending around 2:15 p.m. The Committee is working hard to put together an enjoyable and fun-filled day. For more information, please call Karen Takushi Shishido at 551-7868 or Jane Tamanaha Lee at 988-1471.

Oroku Azajin Club Cleans Up HOC

Mahalo to 16 energetic members of Oroku Azajin Club who dedicated two hours at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. They cleaned restrooms, windows, backstage, trash bins and surrounding area of Teruya Building on a recent Sunday morning.

Hawaii Taiko Kai Installs New Officers

Newly installed officers for Hawaii Taiko Kai: President Audrey Gibo, Vice President Mae Asato, Secretary Jean Idenoto, Asst. Secretary Annette Platt, Treasurer Nona Miyashiro (missing: Asst. Treasurer Kaaren Takara).

Please call 676-5400! We are open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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HUOA Welcomes the Society for Okinawan Language Revitalization

Members of the Society for Okinawan Language Revitalization shared information of their efforts to revitalize the Okinawan Language to some of our Hawaii supporters.


Gushikawa Commercial High School

A group of 36 students from Gushikawa Commercial High School in Okinawa enjoyed their visit to the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Along with a history of immigration, they were introduced to the birth of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and all that we do to collectively promote, perpetuate and preserve our precious Uchinanchu culture.

Preparing for Ryukyu no Kaze Concert in Hawaii

The Ryukyu no Kaze in Hawaii’s advance team arrived at HOC to finalize plans for the benefit concert held on behalf of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. The group, led by Mongol 800’s popular singer Kiyosaku Uezu (wearing his signature hat), included Uezu’s team, JTB Hawaii, and JTB Japan organizers.

Let’s show our Uchinanchu Spirit!

Join the HUOA in the Pan-Pacific Festival Parade!

Parade Information:
Date: Sunday, June 12, 2016
Assembly time/place: 3:30 pm, Fort DeRussy
Parade start time: 5:00 pm (near Saratoga)
Parade Route: Kalakaua Ave. (ends at Kapiolani Park)

What to Wear:
Long black pants or black Bermuda shorts (knee length) and any HUOA logo or club t-shirt. Vests (uchikake) and purple sashes will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Don’t forget to wear comfortable shoes and apply sunscreen!

Free Bus Service:
Bus to and from the parade. Please reserve your spot.
- Leaves Hawaii Okinawa Center 2:30 pm
- Leaves Pearl City Rec Center 2:45 pm
- Leaves Jikoen Temple 2:45 pm
- Leaves Waikiki 6:00 pm

To participate and to ride the bus, please contact the HUOA Office at 676-5400 or email: bonnie@huoa.org by June 5.
ELIGIBILITY:
Open to all members and guests of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and affiliated Okinawan clubs.

FLIGHTS:
- CHAMPIONSHIP: 0-9 36 holes One low gross, all others net
- “A”: 10-19 36 holes Low Net
- “B”: 20-30 36 holes Low Net
- Women: 0-38 36 holes Low Net
- Seniors (60 & over): 0-30 36 holes Low Net
- Super Seniors (75+): 0-30 18 Holes Sunday Low Net Sunday

NOTE:
Championship Flight golfer with the lowest 36-hole gross total will be declared the Tournament Champion. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by sudden death play off. For net scores, ties will be decided by matching cards or by other methods as determined by the Tournament Committee.

AWARDS & BANQUET:
Prizes and awards to be presented on May 29, 2016 at Jikoen Temple, 1731 North School Street with cocktails starting at 5:30pm and dinner at 6pm.

ENTRY FEE:
$135.00 includes green fees, cart fees, City and County of Honolulu user fees and awards banquet.
Additional banquet tickets are available at $15.00 each.
Super Seniors: $60.00 green fees & cart fees, Sunday User fees & awards banquet.

STARTING TIMES:
Starting times for all flights will be from 6:30am to 9:00am.
Tee times will be posted at the Starter’s Booth at Pali Municipal Golf Course. All participants will be grouped according to flights: Seniors, Women, “A” Flight, “B” Flight and Championship.

ENTRY DEADLINE:
First 120 players or May 13, 2016, whichever comes first.
(Entry Forms will be available at most Municipal Golf Courses)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
- NEAL TAKARA 291-9672 or
- HUOA 676-5400
‘Family Ingredients’ – a Tasty Way to Benefit HUOA!

Do not miss out on a rare opportunity to preview “Family Ingredients – Okinawa” on Sunday, May 15, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The producers of this new national PBS primetime series have allowed the Hawaii United Okinawa Association to be the first to present two (half-hour) episodes of this highly anticipated series.

Each episode is hosted by Honolulu chef and food sustainability advocate Ed Kenney. The Okinawa premier features Hisae Uki of Honolulu’s Sun Noodle company. Follow Ed and Hisae as they set out on a delectable journey of discovery to find out what makes Okinawa’s quintessential dish, Sogi Soba, so unique. This simple bowl of noodles tells a rich story of the strength and resilience of the Okinawa people and how they share an enduring bond with Hawaii. Included in preparation for their culinary adventure to Okinawa is a special visit to personally experience Okinawa shishimai with the Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts group led by Jon Iomura and Eric Nitta.

The second episode is “Family Ingredients – Tokyo.” The TV pilot of this episode won a regional Emmy award in 2014. It features Chef Alan Wong, who explains how he was raised in Japan by a single mother. She came to Hawaii with her two young children not knowing a word of English to build a better life for her kids. That journey starts in Chef Wong’s hometown of Wahiawa as he traces the origin of his childhood dish to Tokyo and Saitama, Japan.

Executive Producer Heather Giugni stated in a Honolulu Star Advertiser interview with Joleen Oshiro, “I love this show because it’s not just about the ingredients to a recipe, but the ingredients to someone’s life.”

Tickets for this benefit fundraiser for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association will be available for pre-sale. Benefit ticket prices will be $20 for adults and $7 for children 7 and under. Call us at 676-5400, email: edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com, or check out our website: www.huoa.org.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

March

kii-fuujoo, n. A fisherman’s wooden pillow, doubling as a waterproof container for tobacco and matches, etc.

April

chicha•san, adj. [chikai] 1 (In time) close; early; soon. 2 (In distance) near; short; not far off. 3 (In relationship) close; near; akin to. 4 Almost; be close; nearly.

(Okinawan Proverb of the Month
Chosen by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members
A Proverb of the month:

Hanashi han gaku
はなし はん がく

Meaning: Listening and digesting the words of the speakers is also part of learning.

人の話をきくことは，はんぶんは かくしゅうしたことになる。)

This is Your Newsletter

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at info@huoa.org

Mahalo!
Choose from an assortment of menus that can be customized to fit your needs and budget.

Popular Hawaiian & Local Style menus • Prime Rib Buffets

Create your own menu for any occasion! • Party Platters for pick-up • Onsite deliveries

Discounts available for HUOA Club Members.

Call 677-7744 or visit www.acateredexperience.com for menus and more information.