

GUSHICHAN SONJIN KAI

EDITH & ROBERT ARAKI

Gushichan Sonjin Kai is proud to nominate Edith and Robert Araki as our Uchinanchu of the Year 2009. Edith and Robert are committed and dedicated to perpetuate the Okinawan culture and heritage. In a quiet and non ostentatious manner and their "can do" attitude, they volunteer at many club and HUOA functions. They attend the Club's Annual Picnic and Shinnen Enkai party. They can be seen working in the "Heiwa Doni" at the Okinawan Festival as well as the Spring and Winter Craft Fairs.

Edith is the daughter of the late Shinyei Zakahi, one of the original founders of the Gushichan Sonjin Kai. She started at a very young age to be an active and contributing member of the club. Edith has taken flower arrangement classes and koto lessons at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Robert also volunteers every Tuesday and Friday at the Hawaii Okinawa Center as part of the gardener's group. He also faithfully goes in each day to feed the koi and to maintain the pond.

Gushichan Sonjin Kai is proud and grateful to have Edith and Robert as our Uchinanchus of the Year.



HAEBARU CLUB

DAVID M. KANESHIRO

As one of the 50 Non-profit organizations, Haebaru Club participates in all the major activities of the HUOA as well as its own club activities. David is a long time member who served in leadership and supportive role in our Club for many years. David's work experience and knowledge in charge of large and small corporations has been extremely valuable as our Clubs's "moneymen". He has been our treasurer for a number of years and "gets the most bang out of a buck". He carefully monitors the limited monies of our treasury fund and makes recommendations on the expenditure of funds.

David's soft spoken, low key approach and generous support reflects the Uchinanchu spirit of "volunteerism" to promote and preserve the Okinawan culture. He has also helped our club with our annual Shinnen Enkai party, HOC cleanup, annual club picnic, HOC festival. He also participates in our student exchange program by providing housing and other help. The Board of Directors and members of the Haebaru Club are proud to select David M. Kaneshiro as our Uchinanchu of the Year.



HANEJI CLUB

GLENN SUSUMU KOGACHI

Glenn Susumu Kogachi is the Haneji Club's Uchinanchu of the Year. Glenn has been an active vigorous and tireless member of the Club. Glenn participates in many of the Club activities, i.e. the New Year parties, picnics, Okinawa Festival, etc. Yearly he has donated orchid flowers from his Kogachi Orchids Farm for the New Year parties.

On August 16, 2008 at the Nago Mayor's Dinner Reception held at the Pacific Beach Hotel, Glenn donated orchid plants for each of the ten dinner tables and the reception desk. He also provided the orchid flowers for the leis to be presented to the Nago Mayor, the President of the Nago Chamber of Commerce, the Chairman of Nago Tourist Association, members of the Haari Boat team, and the Eisa team from Meio University, a total of 32 persons. We are very fortunate to have Glenn Kogachi as a member of the Haneji Club.



HAWAII SASHIKI CHINEN DOSHI KAI

GRACE UEUNTEN

Grace Ueuntan, a second generation club member of Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Club has always taken great interest in the activities of our club and HUOA functions. In 1992, our ancestral municipality in Okinawa, Sashiki and Chinen village requested we start an "International Student Fellowship Program" which Grace and her late husband Sentei were instrumental in supporting the program in Hawaii by volunteering to home stay students and also encourage other members of our club and relatives to support this program. This program ended in 2006 after 15 continuous years due to the consolidation of towns and villages engaging in mergers throughout Okinawa. Our club in Hawaii can be proud to have participated in such a meaningful program which will be remembered for a long time.

Grace's love for the Okinawan culture and music has led her to continue studying the sanshin with the Shinsato Shosei Kai and is a member of the Paranku Club of Hawaii. Grace's dedication and enthusiasm to preserve and perpetuate our Okinawan culture has certainly earned her nomination as our club's "Uchinanchu of the Year" for 2009.

