



Hui Okinawa Newsletter



JANUARY 2012

President's Message



“Happy New Year to you all.” I hope this year will be a successful year. Thank you to all who did a fantastic job last year. This year will be a busy year with the Haari Boat Festival coming up in August 16, 17 and 18, 2012. So many members have been volunteering their time and hard work for all of the activities going on throughout the year.

Don't forget the Shinnen Enkai that will be on January 22, 2012 and chaired by Sam Horiuchi. So please attend and have a great time at our annual Shinnen Enkai.

There's a lot of activities going on this year. So if someone asks you to help, please say “yes.”

As always, I am open for any suggestions or comments to make our organization a strong and better one. Please feel free to call me at 987-6484. We need new and younger members to participate in all of our activities. Your participation in our club activities is greatly appreciated.

*Thank you
Ippe Nihei Debiru*

Roy Hokama

COMMUNITY PROJECT: BLOOD BANK OF HAWAI'I

Hui Okinawa is sponsoring the Blood Bank of Hawaii Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 27 at Auntie Sally's Luau Hale. We help by encouraging members and friends to donate blood so the supply will be there for someone who needs it - may be you or a loved one! Set up an appointment with the Blood Bank of Hawaii at 1-800-372-9966.

Members and friends are asked to help with providing and serving refreshments to the blood donors. You may call any of the committee persons to volunteer food and/or time to serve the refreshments. The committee will be calling members soon if you'd like to donate food or time to man the canteen.

Committee persons with contact numbers are Elaine Yamaguchi – 959-8598, Elsie Oka – 964-5103, Sharon Nishida and Richard Nishimoto – 557-1165

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IMPRESSIONS OF THE TAIKAI

Mensooree!

From the moment we stepped off our JAL flight and throughout our ten-day visit in Okinawa, we were greeted with heart-felt welcomes.

My husband Gary and I were a little overwhelmed by the “celebrity” welcome we all received upon our arrival at the Naha International Airport. We had just gone through customs and we were all so very tired and had no idea what was ahead of us. As we entered the lobby area, there was a crush of people waiting to greet us. Like I said, we were overwhelmed but that lasted a split second. No longer tired, we were happy and honored to be there.

Our Nana, Shizuko Akamine, has been to every Taikai and we were stopped by most of the media at the airport so that Nana could be interviewed. I’m sure Nana was a sight to see being wheeled into the lobby, adorned in her bright yellow jacket and wearing her red-feathered lei lauhala hat.

We marched in the Taikai parade, wheeling Nana along with us. She was very happy to have been able to participate in the parade because she was unable to walk it on her last visit. There was a crowd of people lining Kokusai Doori to watch the parade. They were all so happy to see Uchinanchus from all over the world back home together in Okinawa. We were stopped frequently by the local people who wanted to show their respect by welcoming Nana back home and to shake her hand.

Tusui ya tatashina. Tusui ya takara –The old should be treated with due respect. The old people are treasures to us. (The Okinawan Mind Proverbs)

We had so many great experiences in Okinawa but this is what I remember most: the heart-felt welcomes. What we found in Okinawa was a society rich in their love for their culture and people with great respect for each other and their elders.

Many of those great experiences were during our tours with the Kanoho family. The food was so good everywhere we went, especially at the Deigo Hotel. We were grateful to have been able to meet and visit with the Oshiro, Higa, and Akamine families. We’ll be heading back to Okinawa with our children in five years for the next Taikai touring again with the Kanoho family.

In order for the Uchinanchu heritage and language not to just exist, but to thrive, we have to teach each other and pass it on to the next generation.

Uya yushi kwa yushi – Parents and children teach one another.

Nifee deebiru,
Kristie Oshiro



Kristie-Lee and Gary with their grandmother, Mrs. Shizu Akamine, at Kabira Bay on Ishigaki Island.



On the parade route at Kokusai Doori.



The Okinawan dancers in their colorful costumes create an impressive image.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Submitted by Margaret Torigoe, Mitchell Okuma,
and Elaine Yamaguchi

WELCOME to Hui Okinawa's newest members: Etta & Gabe Palea, Lori Kashiwa, Donna & Jared Eckersley and Miles Takayesu.

We would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the late Masa Chinen, Yoneko Kanna and Shintaro Higa.

Thank you to the members and friends, listed below, who donated monetary gifts between October and December to Hui Okinawa. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Alice Tamayoshi, Sayoko Higa, George & Ethel Gushiken, Tsuyako Hokama, JN Fujimoto, Aileen Kaneshiro in memory of Hatsuko Kaneshiro, Shinichi Kaneshiro, Jimmy & Hatsue Mento, Doris Nagamine, Mitsue Namihira, Richard & Irene Oshiro, Tomi Tokeshi, Elaine Yamaguchi in memory of Ronald Yamaguchi, Elaine Yamaguchi, Raymond & Myrtle Zukeran, Tomiko Maier, Joyce Shimabukuro in memory of Jack Shimabukuro, Satsuki Muneno, Joe Ono, Rosa Maja, Yoshiko Shimada, Ruby Maekawa, Kiyoshi Fujimoto, Tashiro & Kathy Okunami, Dean Miyashiro, Tim Miyasato, Kei Tamanaha, Carrie Leyson, Ken & Amy Moyer, Ronald Miyasato and David Kaneshiro.. We are sorry if your name is not listed above and you made a donation between July and October, please let Margaret know at 895-0994 and we will list you in the next Newsletter.

THANK YOU all members and friends who provide donations of various kinds such as food, merchandise, services and volunteering to help make our functions as great as they are. We appreciate all your help. Ippei Nihei Debiru!

NOTICE: SEARCH FOR 2012 GRADUATE:
We would like to have names of children of Hui Okinawa members who will be graduating in 2012 from high school or university. Please call Margaret at 895-0994 or email: matori58@msn.com or let any Board of Director know.

DUES STATUS: You can see the current status of your Hui Okinawa membership in the upper left corner of the address label on this Newsletter. If you see "KOREISHA", "SPECIAL", "LIFE" or "NEWSLETTER", you do not need to pay

membership dues. If you see a year (e.g., "2011", "2012"), that indicates the year your membership is current to. If the year is incorrect please call Margaret.

Membership dues are \$20 per family or individual member. Dues for the year 2010 and earlier are \$15 and dues for students are still \$5 a year.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please call Margaret Torigoe at 895-0994.

HUI OKINAWA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Family/Individual Annual Membership for 2012 (and 2011):
\$20 (includes children under 21)

Family/Individual Annual Membership fee for 2010 and earlier:
\$15 (includes children under 21)

Student Membership: \$5 annual dues (university, vocational school or community college)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please mail this form with a check made payable to Hui Okinawa to:

Membership Chair
Hui Okinawa
P.O. Box 1793 Hilo HI 96721-1793

Bonenkai 2011

This year's Bonenkai was held on November 13, 2011 at Aunty Sally's Luau Hale. There were 183 members and friends who attended this year's event. Thank you to those of you who brought a pupu or dessert to share, and as usual, there was a great variety to choose from! This year's event was catered by KTA Super Stores. Congratulations to the members who received awards for their dedication to Hui Okinawa. Entertainment was provided by Karaoke singers and the Kin Ryosho Dance Academy. A great time was had by all. Ippei Nihei Debiru.

Apply for Miyashiro Scholarship

The Jack and Otome Miyshiro Scholarship of \$2,000 is available to a high school graduate planning to attend a 2-year or a 4-year post-high school institution of higher learning as an incoming freshman in the Fall of 2012. This scholarship is sponsored by the family of Otome and the late Jack Miyashiro and administered by Hui Okinawa. Mr. and Mrs. Miyashiro were long-time members of Hui Okinawa and successful business people in Hilo. They founded Jack's Tours.

The applicant must be a graduate of an accredited State of Hawaii Department of Education high school. The applicant or his parent or legal guardian must be a current resident of the County of Hawaii.

Application forms are available through the counselor's office of only public high schools. Forms will be available at Hui Okinawa's Shinnen Enkai on January 22, 2012 and from Nancy Nakaishi (961-4677), Alben Namihira (961-3443) or Margaret Torigoe (895-0994). Call one of the three if more information is needed.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2012.

Hui Okinawa Andagi Sale

The andagi sale was held on November 19, 2011, at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin's Sangha Hall. I would like to thank my committee and board members who helped me through this event. Special thanks to the club members who came out and supported me and also to those who made monetary and dry goods donations. Most of all, thank you very much to the club members who purchased tickets. Without everyone's support, this event would not have been a success.

*Thank you very much.
Nancy Nagamine
Committee Chairperson*

Hui Okinawa Scholarships Available

Hui Okinawa is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to students who plan to continue their post-high school education in the Fall of 2012. One scholarship is for a high school graduate who plans to attend a 2-year or a 4-year educational institution for the first time in 2012. The second scholarship is for a college student continuing his/her education or a university graduate enrolling in graduate school in 2012.

Applicants for the first scholarship, Hui Okinawa Scholarship for High School Students, must be a graduate of an accredited high school or GED program in the State of Hawaii. The applicant or his parent/legal guardian must be a current resident of the County of Hawaii. He should also have an awareness and appreciation of the Okinawan culture.

Applicants for the second scholarship, Hui Okinawa Scholarship for College Student, must be a graduate of an accredited high school or GED program in the State of Hawaii. He or his parents must be a current resident of the County of Hawaii. A student who received the high school scholarship previously may apply for this college student scholarship.

Application forms for the high school scholarship are available at the counselor's office of public, private and chartered high schools and adult community schools on the Big Island. Forms for both scholarships may be picked up at Hui Okinawa's Shinnen Enkai on January 22, 2012. Applications are also available through Nancy Nakaishi (961-4677), Alben Namihira (961-3443) or Margaret Torigoe (895-0994). Call one of the three if more information is needed.

Deadline for both scholarships is March 31, 2012.





INTERNATIONAL
Haari Boat Festival
 HILO, HAWAII ♥ AUGUST 16 - 18, 2012

Planning for the 2012 Haari Boat Festival has begun! A new start to the weekend will be a Taiko Concert to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko. The concert will be at the Palace Theater on Thursday, August 16th. Friday will be the day to set-up the park and race course. Practice times for the teams will be available in the afternoon. Saturday morning will be FESTIVAL DAY starting at 7:30 a.m. with a Pre-race parade and an opening ceremony after which the RACES will begin.

At the same time of the RACES, the Open Market will open for sale of Okinawan foods and a cultural display. After the Races, the Awards ceremony will be held to present the winners their trophies. An After-Race Party will end the day.

The Steering Committee is already meeting and is lead by Lloyd Sanborn, General Chairperson of the Festival. Members of the Steering Committee are Secretary, Margaret Torigoe; Finance Chairperson, Alben Namihira; Conrad Hokama, Patti Taira-Tokuuke, Bernard Sagawa and Collins Tomei. Hui Okinawa Executive Committee members included are Roy Hokama, President; Troy Sakihara, Vice

President; Lynn Namihira, Secretary. Division Chairpersons: Taryn Yogi, Program; Lynn Murota, Logistics; Collins Tomei, Race; Roy Hokama, Fundraising.

We have been awarded a grant from the County Product Enrichment Program to promote Cultural Tourism. This is from funds given to the County from the State Tourism Authority. Funds will be used for publicity to encourage people to attend the Festival and logistics.

Committees are looking for help from the membership so please plan to help. There will be many opportunities to help prepare for the event and during the event.

Watch for the Haari Boat float in the Merrie Monarch Parade on April 14th. **Updated information on the festival and races will be posted as they become available on our website: www.haariboatfestival.com**

Feel free to let any of the Steering Committee members of your offer to help.



Team Hui Okinawa from last Haari Boat Festival.



Washing the boats by Lloyd Sanborn, Lynn Murota and Bernard Sagawa.

T-SHIRT MAIL ORDER FORM

HILO, HAWAII --- AUGUST 17-18, 2012

The t-shirts are forest green and tank tops are black - The back has the haari boat design with the Wailoa River Arches and Mauna Kea Mountain in the background and the commemorative date and place. The front left will have Haari Boat in kanji with an outline of the Big Island .

| | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL | 4XL | Total Quantity | Price | Total Price | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|------------|-----------------------|----|
| Adult T-Shirt Men | | | | | N/A | N/A | N/A | x | 15.00 | | |
| Adult T-Shirt Women | | | | | N/A | N/A | N/A | x | 15.00 | | |
| Adult Tank Tops | | | | | N/A | N/A | N/A | x | 12.00 | | |
| Adult Tank Tops | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | | N/A | x | 15.00 | | |
| Youth T-Shirt | | | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | x | 10.00 | | |
| | | | | | | | | Total Quantity | | Total Enclosed | \$ |
| Make checks payable to: Hui Okinawa | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The committee will call or email you when Hilo pick-up date will be. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ONLY IF YOU WANT THE ORDER SHIPPED, ADD : | | | | | | | | Shipping & Handling charges: (U.S. Only) | 1-3 Shirts | 5.00 | |
| | | | | | | | | | 4-6 Shirts | 8.00 | |
| | | | | | | | | SHIPPED TOTAL COST | | \$ | |

Your Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail check & order form to:
Haari Boat T-Shirt
c/o 171 Hoonanea Street
Hilo, HI 96720

For further information & international orders, please email us at: elaineyamaguchi@hotmail.com
 OR call Elaine (808) 959-8598 or cell (808) 345-1922.



3C FRT PANEL
 4"W X 7 1/4"H
 WHITE BASE
 SCARLET RED
 WHITE

7C BACK
 13"W X 12 3/4"H
 WHITE BASE
 LEMON YELLOW
 VILLAGE FLESH
 LT ROYAL
 SCARLET RED
 WHITE
 BLACK

OKINAWA CHILDREN'S DAY CAMP SET

With "CHIMUGUKURU" or "LOVING SPIRIT" we announce that the 11th annual Hui Okinawa sponsored Children's Day Camp registration forms will be available from April 1, 2012. The Cultural Day Camp for children ages 8-13, will run from Sunday, June 4, through Friday, June 8, 2012. The fee for 6 days of FUN and LEARNING is \$90 per child with a discount for two or more siblings. Limited fee waivers will be available. Maximum student enrollment is 48. Student enrollment is open to all ethnic groups.

Exciting sessions in the Okinawan Language, or Uchinaguchi, are planned, in addition to hands on Okinawan Cooking, Singing, Dancing, Karate, and Taiko. This year we will be re-introducing the "Paranku", a small hand-held drum which the students will make and use. This is the second year that Sanshin lessons will be taught. Okinawan History and Storytelling, Arts and Crafts of Okinawa and Japan and Plantation Days Activities will add to the FUN. The week will wind up with a special fun night featuring Plantation days and Okinawan games, an outing to Liliuokalani Park for Bamboo-

pole Fishing and Bamboo Squirt Gun competition and a Friday presentation for family and friends along with a fabulous potluck buffet featuring Okinawan cuisine.

The Children's Day Camp is sponsored by Hui Okinawa, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, and supported by the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts. For registration forms or more information, call Camp Coodinators, Ruby Maekawa at 959-4855 or 895-6801 or Margaret Torigoe at 895-0994.



Students will learn how to play the Sanshin.



HUI OKINAWA KOBUDO TAIKO

by Glenn Shiigi

September - December 2011



The last quarter of 2011 began with the **29th Okinawan Festival** sponsored by the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association (HUOA) held on Labor Day weekend, September 3rd and 4th, at Kapiolani Park, Oahu. This year's festival theme of "Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha" was expressed with HOKT setting a new record of sending **fourteen** drummers to Oahu including: Group Leader Troy Sakihara, Junior Leaders Kristen Murota and Krystle Koshiyama, Jane Yanabu, Lee Watanabe, Kylie Ishikawa, Kodie Ishikawa, Kevin Jay Ishikawa, Glenn Shiigi, Zane Kunimura, Kapoliokealoha Miller, Kobudo practitioners Jack Musick and Cody Yamaguchi, and last but certainly not least, our newest and youngest performing drummer, Courtney "Kanani" Yamaguchi, who made this her debut performance.

Congratulations go out to Kanani and also to Kylie and Krystle who had a debut performance of their own as HOKT's own *shishimai* (Lion Dog), nicknamed Tadashi, who captivated and charmed the audience with his antics. At the conclusion of Tadashi's energetic performance, an audible gasp of surprise and delight was heard as our two young ladies took off their *shishimai* garb to reveal themselves and take their concluding bow to the enthusiastic applause of the appreciative audience. Troy and Jack added variety to HOKT's performance by performing on the three-stringed *sanshin* providing the musical accompaniment to Cody Yamaguchi's confident performance of a *nunchaku kata*. HOKT concluded its performance with its signature piece *Nami* providing

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KOBUDO TAIKO - continued

the musical background to Jack Musick's *eku kata* performed with a *Haari* boat oar. A special *Ippe Nihei Debiru* goes out to our manager/coordinator Milton Yafuso for once again coordinating the shipment of our taiko to and from Oahu via Aloha Air Cargo.



Krystie and Kylie perform shishimai at the Okinawan Festival.



Courtney Yamaguchi at the Okinawan Festival - her debut performance.

Kapoliokealoha Miller perform at the Okinawan Festival.



HOKT's next performance was at the 61st Annual Hilo Jaycees Hawai'i County Fair, held on September 17th, which is always one of HOKT's longest performances at 45 minutes. Kylie & Krystle once again opened with their rendition of the *shishimai* which improves with each performance. And, once again, Cody displayed his prowess with the *nunchaku*. HOKT's performance was well received by an early Saturday evening crowd of fair goers.

The Hui Okinawa Grandparents Day Picnic was held the following day, September 18th, at Wailoa State Park. HOKT provided assistance in setting up before and cleaning up after the event. Entertainment at this event featured HOKT Junior Leader Krystle Koshiyama leading members of her Culture Day Camp *teko* group and Jack Musick doing likewise with his *karakana sanshin* group accompanied by Amy Moyer and Shoko Nagamine.



Jack performing the kankara sashin at the Grandparents Day Picnic along with Amy and Shoko.

October 1st was a "double-header" with HOKT's opening performance for the Hawai'i County World Peace Festival held in the morning at Moku Ola, more commonly known as Coconut Island. Junior Leaders Krystle Koshiyama and Shaniah Yogi led the group playing the *odaiko* and Jack Musick once again performed his impressive and intimidating *eku kata*. HOKT quickly packed up and head south to the Volcano Art Center in Volcano Village to perform at the Faces of Hawai'i Exhibition. A photo of HOKT's Group Leader Troy Sakihara was displayed at the exhibition

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KOBUDO TAIKO - continued



Jane Yanabu at the World Peace Festival.

On November 18-26, Junior Leader Krystle Koshiyama traveled to New York City to play her tenor saxophone with the Hawai'i All State Marching Band in the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**. While in NYC Krystle met rapper Cee Lo Green who is currently featured in a commercial for 7-Up and visited the Statue of Liberty and Rockefeller Center. Krystle was accompanied on her trip by the rest of her family, dad Dan, mom Leina`ala, and younger brother Trey.

Once again, Hilo's persistent showers threatened to rain on HOKT's **Veterans Day Parade** held on November 5th; but this time HOKT was ready with their taiko wrapped in sheet plastic. After enduring a brief shower at the beginning and hot and muggy conditions through the remainder of the parade, our drummers displayed the *Chibariyo* spirit and completed another impressive performance. Special thanks to Taryn Yogi who chaired this event and once again came up with an attractive and creative float design honoring our veterans including HOKT manager and Vietnam vet Milton Yafuso. *Ippe Nihei Debiru* Milton for your service to our country.

HOKT left Hilo's rain behind them and took a road trip south to perform for the **Ka'u Community Floating Lantern Ceremony** held at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach Park on November 26th. HOKT's drummers enjoyed observing turtles basking on the black sand beach and performed against a beautiful ocean backdrop. Following their performance our drummers were invited to a delicious post-Thanksgiving lunch.,



Brandon Aguiar on the Veterans Day Float.

HOKT's final performance of the year will be at **Akiko's Mochi Pounding** in Wailea on New Years Eve, December 31st. HOKT will say goodbye to 2011 the year of the rabbit and usher in 2012 the year of the dragon.

This coming year will be especially exciting and special for us as HOKT will be celebrating its 10th year of existence in 2012 with a recital on Thursday, August 16, 2012, at the Palace Theater in historic downtown Hilo. This recital will kick off the Haari Boat Races on Friday, August 17th and Saturday, August 18th at Wailoa State Park.

The new year will also mark the start of fundraising for HOKT whose members will be selling Big Island Candies Crunch Bars for \$3.00 at Hui Okinawa and HOKT events. Please kokua and assist our drummers in their fundraising efforts whenever you see our drummers at a table selling crunch bars.

As we close out another successful year, HOKT wishes to sincerely thank its parent organization, Hui Okinawa, without whose support HOKT would not be able to fulfill its mandate of promoting and perpetuating Okinawan music, dance, art, and culture.



Troy, Glenn, Shaniah, Jane and Lee at the Floating Lantern Ceremony



2012 Shinnen Enkai & Keirokai

Hui Okinawa



Sunday, January 22, 2012

Aunty Sally's Luau Hale
10:30 AM Cocktails
11:00 AM Keirokai

Lunch will be served after the Keirokai,
followed by the Installation of the
2012 Officers and Directors and Entertainment

TICKETS: \$16 Adults (10 years & older),
\$8 Children (6-9 years old)

FREE to Koreisha members
and children 5 years old and under.

DEADLINE: Postmark/Payment by
Monday, January 9, 2012.

Add \$10 per person if purchased after deadline.

For information, contact Nancy Nakaishi at
961-4677 (work) or 935-2138 (home)

Celebration to Honor 4 Kajimaya:

Hiroshi Akamine, Mieko Kobayashi,
Sadamitsu Maedo, Masako Uehara



Gratitude in Action

(Community Service Project)

Please bring canned goods or cash donations
for the Hawaii Island Food Basket



**Donations of Pupu or Dessert
Appreciated!**



~~~~Membership dues will be collected  
at this event~~~~

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
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HILO, HI 96721  
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