



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

October/November 2002

Issue #89

Circulation 10,200

WAYNE MIYAHIRA SELECTED HUOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Karleen C. Chinen
Bito Doshi Kai

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association Board of Directors unanimously approved the selection of Wayne Miyahira as the organization's new Executive Director at its October 22 meeting. Miyahira comes to the position with a long history of involvement in the HUOA and service to the Okinawan, Japanese and larger Hawaii community. He succeeds Gary Honda, who resigned the post earlier this year.

A nine-member selection committee headed by Immediate Past President Jimmy Iha selected Miyahira from a field of 12 applicants. His selection was approved in September by the HUOA Executive Council, which appointed him Interim Executive Director effective October 1, 2002, pending final approval by the Board.

Miyahira was thrilled to have been selected, calling it avocation and vocation rolled into one. "It's a great job because I'm being paid for something I want to do."

Wayne Miyahira's involvement in the HUOA dates back to the 1980s, when he was actively involved in Gaza Yonagusuku Doshikai and served as its president. He was on his second go-around as president of the Gaza club when he was appointed Executive Director. He has since resigned as president to avoid a conflict of interest.

After serving as UOA treasurer in 1986-87, he was elected its 1990-91 president and presided over the opening of the Hawaii Okinawa Center in June 1990. He also chaired the UOA's 1990 Okinawan Celebration Committee, which commemorated the 90th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i. Miyahira served as Chair of the Hawaii Okinawa Center Board of Trustees in 1991-92, and

has volunteered as an HOC monitor for many years. Earlier this year, the Okinawa Prefectural Government selected him one of three Goodwill Ambassadors from Hawai'i.

He continues to chair the HUOA's sports committee and has served many years as chair of the annual Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament. He is a familiar voice as a narrator for the video subcommittee's production of "Hawaii Okinawa Today."



Miyahira has also been involved with the cultural community. Both his daughters previously danced with Hoge Kai, Yoshiko Nakasone Dance Academy, and played taiko with Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko - Hawaii Shibu. Miyahira was active in the Hoge Kai parent-teacher association and continues to serve as an advisor to the taiko group.

He also serves as First Vice President of the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, participating in its annual golf tournament and supporting UJS' efforts during the Honolulu Marathon.

Miyahira, the third of four children born to Taro and Yoshiko Gima Miyahira — whose Issei parents emigrated from Gaza village in Nishihara Cho and Tamagusuku, respectively — was born and raised in Pu'unēnē, Maui, and graduated from Baldwin High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he majored in accounting.

After graduating from UH, he served as a Russian linguist, assigned to the U.S. Army Security Service in Hokkaido, Japan.

Wayne Miyahira was married to the late Pat Miyahira, a public school teacher who supported her husband's involvement in the Okinawan community. They had two daughters, Ann and Lynn, and a grandson, Mason Akira Yoshida.

Careerwise, Miyahira has an extensive background in sales and promotion in the wholesale paper industry. He served as promotions manager for xpedx Hawaii, a division of International Paper

Company for nearly nine years, and prior to that was general sales manager for Unisource Hawaii, where he worked for 21 years. In those positions, he managed sales teams, assisted management in setting strategic goals, developed and maintained close relationships with people involved in the industry, planned and administered marketing and sales promotion events, and conducted training. He also represented the companies at industry association events and coordinated their volunteer participation in community service projects.

Fiscal management of the HUOA will be one of his top priorities, he noted in a paper presented to the selection committee. "By the end of this year, 2002, I hope the HUOA can complete its program of switching to a completely computerized accounting system, giving us the tools which would make monthly financial reporting routine, the annual budget preparation less time-consuming, and an annual audit possible."


It would also require a review of the organization's maintenance contracts and a program to ensure a cost-effective means of preserving the Center. He also wants to encumber funds for major HOC maintenance projects that will need to be dealt with in the near future, among them resealing the Center's parking lot and maintenance on the air conditioning system.

"We're going to be solvent," he told *Uchinanchu*. "This is even more in focus now with what's going on with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii."

"Fund development and fund raising should get broader support from the Executive Director and the Communications and Information Committee," wrote Miyahira. He also hopes to expand the organization's website, www.huoa.org, "creating a source of information that is more easily accessible to our member clubs, individual members and the general public."

On the subject of leadership, Miyahira wrote: "Training is the absolute core of our system of sustaining our viability as an organization. New leaders need not be "young," just new. Many of our best new leaders are near or at retirement age."

He said he is also committed to cultivating relationships with the Okinawan performing arts community and other groups and agencies to carry out HUOA's mission.

He also plans to work closely with HUOA's many volunteers. "I am totally convinced that our volunteers make things happen." Miyahira said in the short time he has been on the job, he's seen firsthand the important role played by the gardeners. "Besides gardening, they also help us fix things. The list of things to fix would get longer and longer if they weren't there. That's a good thing to see — that our volunteers are so good." 

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UCHINANCHU
Ippe nihei deebiru . . mahalo . . .

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.

In April, HUOA received \$365.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* — donations we inadvertently overlooked. We apologize for the oversight, but thank these loyal readers for their support. Two of the donations came from supporters in California and Illinois. We also received \$490.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* in August, including one each from Kaua’i and Maui, and one from California. In September, HUOA received \$1,200.00 in donations for *Uchinanchu*, including two from Kaua’i, three from Maui, and one each from California and Illinois. We also received a donation made on behalf of a good samaritan whose kind act is also detailed.

Every dollar donated — along with the valuable income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a sincere ippe nihei deebiru to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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COST –	Single issue	Half-\$600	• 1/4 -\$300	• 1/5 -\$150	• 1/6-\$75	• 1/8-\$50
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Prices reflect camera ready ads. There will be a \$25.00 minimum fee for production work.

Please contact Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400 or 676-7811 (fax) for more information.

Uchinanchu

Uchinanchu is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published monthly during this centennial year of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to *Uchinanchu* Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797.

E-mail articles to Kchinen@lava.net

Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

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THE OKINAWAN SPIRIT

by Roy K. Kino

Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai, Itoman Shijin Kai and Yomitan Club

This contribution to *Uchinanchu* is being made on behalf of Jo Ann Uehara.

It was 8:30 on a Saturday morning in August, and I was driving on Kauka Boulevard to the Hawaii Okinawa Center to attend our monthly genealogy meeting when I stopped at a traffic light. While waiting for the light to change, I noticed that steam was coming out of the engine of the pick-up I was driving. I pulled over to the right shoulder, lifted the hood, and found that the steam was coming out of the radiator. I immediately turned on my emergency flasher and waited, hoping that someone would come to my assistance.

In just a few minutes, a young lady came and asked me whether I needed her cellular to call for help. I told her I needed some water and a gallon of anti-freeze. She graciously offered to pick them up, so I handed her a \$20 bill to pay for the water and anti-freeze. But she smiled and drove off without taking the \$20. She said she’d be back in 10 minutes, and she was.

By the time she returned, the radiator had cooled and I was able to pour the water and the anti-freeze into the radiator. When I completed it, I gave her the \$20, and again she refused. I could not believe it. I said to her, "Lady, I don’t know you, and you don’t know me, yet you went out of your way to help me — a total stranger." She smiled and said when she was a child, her mother taught her that she should help others when they are in need. I thanked her and asked for her name. She said “Jo Ann Uehara,” and drove away.

What a very special person — helping me in my time of need and yet refusing to accept a reimbursement for the expenses incurred. Early English and Portuguese sailors in the 13th and 14th centuries spoke highly of the kindness and generosity of the Okinawans in their journeys to Southeast Asia. Yes, the Okinawan spirit existed then, but continues today. The actions of Jo Ann Uehara proves that the Okinawan spirit is alive and well today.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their generous donations received in August and September. The contributions totaled \$639.86. Ippe nihei deebiru for supporting HUOA!

- | | |
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HUOA MEMBERS: PLEASE CALL KEIKO URA “KEIKO-SAN” OR “MS. KEIKO”

To Whom It May Concern:

Those *Uchinanchu*s who appear on Ms. Keiko (Ura’s) interview on Radio KZOO — regardless of how intimate your relationship may be, have some respect to address her as “Ms. Keiko or “Keiko-san,” instead of “Keiko.” It just sounds terrible.

Embarrassed Uchinanchu

“PRESERVING OUR LEGACY”

Ippe Nihwe Debiru and Mahalo!

by Jon Itomura

Chair, Fund Development Subcommittee

Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai

Another busy year has passed and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's Fund Development Committee is once again seeking donations through the HUOA's annual "Preserving Our Legacy" fund-raising letter drive. Ippe Nihwe Debiru for all your generous contributions during the 2001-02 campaign. Thanks to your generous contributions, the "Preserving Our Legacy" fund drive raised in excess of \$90,000. Unfortunately, we fell \$26,862 short of our goal of \$120,000.

Each year, the Fund Development Committee strives to continue its mission to preserve, perpetuate and promote our Okinawan culture by raising needed funds to maintain our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, for future generations of Hawaii Uchinanchu. While the majority of the numerous cultural programs offered through the HUOA are supported by funds raised during the seasonal craft fairs and annual Okinawan Festival, your donations to the "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign are set aside as the primary source of funds to maintain our Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio. Administrative and facility maintenance costs increase every year, but thanks to the efforts of many special individuals and companies who share in our vision of continuing to build a legacy for future generations, HUOA has managed to find ways to make ends meet.

The Fund Development Committee will continue its focus on educating the Uchinanchu community and Uchinanchu-at-heart on the importance of our "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign and how the annual contributions are utilized.

The Committee also wishes to express its sincere Ippe Nihwe Debiru . . . Mahalo to all who have given generously of both their time and personal funds. Mahalo nui loa for your continued support. On behalf of the HUOA, its officers, Board of Directors, members and valuable volunteers, the Fund Development Committee respectfully requests that, in the spirit of Ukazi Debiru — Because of You, you continue to take an active role in making our third annual "Preserving Our Legacy" fund drive a successful campaign. We look forward to your participation in the upcoming 2002-03 fund drive.

The following donations to the Hawaii Okinawa Center "Preserving Our Legacy" annual fund drive were received between July 1 and September 31, 2002. Thank you very much for preserving our legacy by supporting the Hawaii Okinawa Center and Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

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In Memory of Walter Tamashiro from George & Nora Shiroma

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Gladys Tokunaga-Asao
Tamagusuku Club

Ippe Niffee Deebiru to all of you who generously donated or participated in the special benefit golf tournament on July 19th. After bidding Aloha to our friends from the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai for whom this tournament benefited, everyone rolled up their sleeves and donned their hachimaki for three major festivals that followed in August.

For three successive weekends in August, Okinawan Festivals were held in Hilo, Pā'ia and Honolulu . . . we were in andagi heaven!

Congratulations to Hui Okinawa for a successful Haari Boat Festival and Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai for their well-received second Okinawan Festival! The sabani, or Okinawan dugout canoe, presented to Hilo by its sister-city, Nago, more than 10 years ago, were the focus of the Hilo festivities. Maui's home-grown talents and Baban's taste-tested kwatchi delighted audiences throughout their ambitious two-day Festival.

So many friends and shimanchu from all islands gathered at these festivals for lots of fun, good food and great fellowship. Best wishes for many, many more successful festivals to come.

Then on August 31st, to the tune of "Tun-tun ten-tun tun-tun tun-ten-tun . . .," the shiisaa lion made its entry on the grounds of Kapiolani Park to open the 20th Okinawan Festival . . . soon afterwards, dancers called out their high pitched, "Iya sa sa! Haiya!" as they did their paranku drum renditions to enter the clearing. Then, a procession of our colorful HUOA banners followed. Each and every banner unfurled in the wind billowed brightly with the pride of their namesake and the legacy of the shimanchu they represented. Here, they gathered not only for a moment, but also as a reflection of 51 years since the birth of HUOA and 102 years since the first courageous Uchinanchu arrived in Hawai'i. The Okinawan Festival represents our pride in our ethnic heritage and a renewed vow that the cultural legacy of our ancestors will continue for future generations of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart.

On behalf of the HUOA, I would like to thank the thousands of you who unselfishly volunteered to make this a very special 20th Okinawan Festival. We would also like to say Ippe Niffee Deebiru to all of the vendors, exhibitors and performing groups who came together from far and near to share your talents with us.

An unfortunate accident occurred at our Festival that

injured two of our faithful volunteers. I am pleased to report that Mrs. Betsy Miyahira has already returned to her busy schedule. I have also been in contact with Mrs. Eleanor Yonashiro who is progressing in her recovery. We truly value the countless years that they have volunteered for the Okinawan Festival and other HUOA activities and our entire membership sends them our heartfelt wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

On September 21st, the fourth Autumn Okinawa Dance Matsuri drew a sizable crowd despite many competing events. It was primary election night and various high school and collegiate football games were being played, too. The Young Okinawans of Hawaii had

warm Mahalo Nui Loa to Yuiko Sensei, her students and entourage from Okinawa.

We appreciate their generosity in staging such a wonderful concert together with the full support and cooperation of Grand Masters of the Majikina Honryu, Yoshino Majikina Sensei and Yoshinae Majikina Sensei and their Majikina Honryu students in Hawaii. Thank you to all of the Hawaii musicians who served as jikata for a major portion of the program. I would also like to thank the army of HUOA volunteers and members of the HUOA clubs, Club Motobu, Haneji Club and the Nago Club, for very generously sharing their time and efforts for the success of this event. Domo arigato gozaimashita to all of you.

Since May, Immediate Past President Jimmy Iha, assisted by Dr. Albert Miyasato, worked together with me to oversee that the operations ran smoothly while the search for a new Executive Director began. The HUOA Board of Directors joins me in thanking these two gentlemen for generously volunteering their time and administrative skills in working with our staff and volunteers. Thanks to Jimmy and Dr. Al, we are already seeing positive changes in the five months that have passed since they began overseeing the operation at our HUOA office. Ippe niffee deebiru to both of you.

Jimmy Iha also chaired the Executive Director Search Committee and together with the leadership of Cheryl Okuma-Sepe, Administration Committee vice chair, administered the selection process to find a new

Executive Director. A total of nine people serve on this committee. They were Jimmy, Cheryl, Jimmy Toyama (Administration Committee chair), George Tamashiro (HUOA President-elect), Keith Kaneshiro (HUOA Vice President), Maurice Yamasato (HUOA advisor and former president), Stan Koki (businessman), Roy Asato (owner of Wisteria), and myself.

I would like to thank all of the members of the committee for the extra hours they sacrificed and the serious considerations they made to review all of the materials in the search process. Ippe niffee deebiru to all of you.

The position of the Executive Director was advertised widely and we received 12 applications. The resumes of these applicants were screened and six were selected for the final interview. One person declined and five finalists were interviewed and our final evaluation was made for our selection of Wayne Miyahira as the new HUOA Executive Director. The Search Committee's recommendation was made to and accepted by the HUOA Executive Council. Wayne is considered the Interim Executive Director until a formal vote is taken

at the next Board of Directors meeting on October 21st.

The duties and responsibilities of the HUOA Executive Director are wide and far-reaching. We look forward to the continued positive changes already in motion and ask for everyone's kokua to support Wayne as we move forward in this transition period. On behalf of the HUOA, I would like to welcome Wayne on board as our new Interim Executive Director.



Immediate Past President Jimmy Iha, President-elect George Tamashiro and myself with Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai golfers at our July tournament, which benefited the Kyokai.

their fare of treats, including shave ice — best way to cool down after an hour of dancing around the hata-gashira. The Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko's onolicious grilled meat sticks, piping hot saimin and mini bento filled the opu for the next hour of dancing. Of course, what Okinawan event would be without andagi? Not this one. This year, Hawaii Taiko Kai introduced their cinnamon sugar-coated andagi . . . sooooo maasan . . . if you missed it this year, it's the first one you must have at the next Dance Matsuri in September 2003 . . . keep an eye and ear out for announcements. The traditional andagi was great, too . . . somebody was privileged to learn Baban's secret recipe.

On October 6th, master dancer, Yuiko Majikina Sensei, her students and musicians from Okinawa staged, "Churashima Hawaii Ni Mau," a charity performance for the benefit of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. A capacity crowd at HOC was treated to a performance of the traditional Okinawan dances together with treasured pieces of the Majikina School as well as Yuiko Sensei's cherished choreographies. A very big and

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OUR CLUBS, OUR FUTURE

KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI . . . by Ed Kino

Kanegusuku Golf Club's "Imitation" Tournament was held on Tuesday, July 23, at Ewa Village Golf Course. The 16 golfers had "good fun" later at Hal and Mae Tome's place, where the awards were handed out and food and drinks were provided. A-Flite winner was Ed Watase with net 64, and B-Flite winner with net "56" was Hal Tome (scores deducted with 1 less hole). The two-man Blind Partner winners were Hal Tome and 12-year-old Mark Arakaki with net 137. Michelle Nakagawa's A Team beat dad Ed Kino's B Team (eight players each), 598 to 589. Golf balls for the winners and winning teams were again donated by Hal Tome, who also donated his home-grown togan and hyotan to lucky number winners Ed Kino and Richard Shimabukuro.

A big Ippe Nihei Deebiru goes to the 42 Kanegusuku volunteers for working in the Pigs Feet Soup booth at the Okinawan Festival on Saturday, Aug. 31, during the 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. shift. Grant Murata and Linda Nakasone again sold the most scrips. For the 12th year, the most dedicated volunteer, Stan Tamayose of Maui, flew over to work with us, staying in a Waikiki hotel.

Ed and Doris Kino reciprocated by working at the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's second annual Okinawan Festival on Aug. 24 at the Rinzai Zen Mission in Pā'ia.

Kanegusuku members: don't forget that our 77th shinnen enkaï will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2003, at Victoria Inn's 2nd floor banquet room.

And finally, Grant Murata is planning to lead a tour to Okinawa for our club in May or October of next year. Call Ed Kino at 262-2608 if you are interested in joining the tour.

HUI OKINAWA . . . by Amy Shiroma

Hui Okinawa's 2002 bonenkai (end of the year party) will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Hilo Hongwanji Sangha Hall from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. According to event chair Patti Taira-Tokuuke, the business meeting will include the election of the 2003 officers and board of directors.

The highlight of the day will be the annual awards program. The following awards will be presented: The "Distinguished Service Award" will honor the member who has demonstrated sustained and superior service to Hui Okinawa. The "Chibayaa Award" will be presented to the member who set a fine example through their dedication and diligent service to Hui Okinawa. The "Hatarachaa Award" honors the member who gave extraordinary time and effort in furthering club projects and goals during the year. The "Warabincha Award" will be presented to youths who have volunteered and participated in many of the club's activities.

The highest award, "Member of the Year," honors one special club member for his or her loyalty, dependability, dedicated service and deep commitment to Hui Okinawa. The "Member of the Year" will be Hui

Okinawa's representative as "Uchinanchu of the Year" at the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's annual installation banquet in January.

Sputnik's is catering the bonenkai lunch, which will cost \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Children under 5 are free. Tickets can be reserved by calling Nancy Nakaishi at 961-4677.

The Hui Okinawa Taiko Group has been practicing twice a month at Nani Mau Gardens since January of this year. Their three-hour practice sessions are led by student instructors Troy Takihara, Preston Chibana and Marlene Yafuso.

The group has participated in the Hui Okinawa shinnen enkaï, Merrie Monarch Parade float and Haari Boat opening procession. They also performed at the University of Hawaii at Hilo Dance Recital and at Lorraine Inouye's Ohana Fun Day and taught classes at the Hui Okinawa Children's Day Camp.

The student group of 16 rotates to practice on three drums donated by the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko - Hawaii Shibu. Cardboard boxes are also used as practice drums. The group welcomes your assistance to purchase or build three more odaiko. Please call Milton Yafuso at 935-1492 for more information.

OROKU AZA JIN CLUB . . . by Val Teruya

After a year of planning, the annual Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park came and went. What a wonderful way to spend a weekend. Many heartfelt thanks to the nearly 100 volunteers from Oroku Aza and family and friends who came out to help mix andagi batter on Saturday and drop batter for andagi on Sunday. You were an outstanding crew. Would you believe you mixed 275 batches, using more than a ton of flour, a half-ton of sugar and more than 6,000 eggs?! Of course, the most fantastic part was that you all finished the mixing in record time — before lunch. The Sunday crews had it rather rough this year since we were a little short-handed, but many stayed back until 5 p.m. to finish cooking the andagi — and then there was the cleanup. Ippe Nihwe Deebiru to all you hard workers. Hope you all had fun meeting old friends and making new ones. If you didn't have a chance to volunteer this year, we hope you'll be able to participate next year and see what miracles come to pass.

Oroku Aza will be mixing andagi batter for the Winter Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 6 a.m. Come and help and you'll still have time to shop at the craft fair. For more information, call Val at 988-5808.

ITOMAN SHIJIN KAI . . . by Jane Takayesu

Itoman Shijin Kai members have been busy the past few months and continue to be involved in numerous activities.

Our annual picnic with Club Motobu was a huge success. It was held at Ala Moana Park and was attended by about 170 from the two clubs. The games organized



Ai Saito, Blaine Hironaga and Jodi Toyama set up the games for Itoman and Motobu picnic.

by Blaine Hironaga, Jodi Toyama, Ai Saito and Tom Yamashiro were fun. Prizes were awarded by Rayne Shimabuku. The "Yasai Scramble" was planned by Kazu and Jane Uyehara. The family-style BBQ and potluck lunch was coordinated by Hideo and Fusako Kaneshiro. Winners of the dessert contest were Sally Higa, Jane S. Uyehara and Carolyne Tortora.

The Children's Games and Crafts Booth ran smoothly at the Okinawan Festival, thanks to the many hard workers, especially those in charge of some of the activities: Paul Toyama, Nancy Uyehara, Virginia and Carl Oshiro, Tom and Sue Yamashiro, Raymond Nakasone, Blaine and Hope Hironaga, Masa and Peggy Uehara and Bart Muranaka. Kochinda Son Jin Kai also took care of some activities.

Itoman Shijin Kai and three other clubs are busy planning this Thanksgiving weekend's Winter Craft Fair. Itoman member Paul Toyama is in charge of setting up on Friday, Nov. 29, and Tom Yamashiro is chairing the clean-up committee, which works throughout the two-day fair, with the most work coming on Sunday afternoon. Jane Takayesu is handling registration and assignment of the vendors. We need help in these and other areas, so club members, please volunteer to help.

Another activity that we are actively involved in is the upcoming HUOA Installation Banquet set for Jan. 18, 2003. May Oshiro heads the banquet committee, and Tom Yamashiro is chairing the "Uchinanchu of the Year" committee. Call President Jane Takayesu at 839-2151 if you would like to attend the dinner or help with the planning. The deadline for tickets is in mid-December.

Don't forget Itoman Shijin Kai's general membership meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Takayesu residence in Moanalua Valley. Call 839-2151 for information.

continued on page 6

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YUIKO MAJIKINA SENSEI WOWS HAWAI'I AUDIENCE

by Joyce Akamine
Majikina Honryu Buyo Dojo

The beautiful art of Okinawan dance graced the stage of the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Oct. 6 as Master Sensei Yuiko Majikina and members of the Majikina Honryu — Majikina Yuiko Ryuubu Dojo and Yui no Kai performed in "Churashima Hawaii Ni Mau (We Will Dance in Beautiful Hawaii)."

More than 600 people enjoyed the Sunday afternoon performance, which Yuiko Sensei and her students staged as a benefit for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of her dojo and the 15th anniversary of Yui no Kai of the Motobu-cho Ryuubu Kenyuu Circle. The performance included 11 dance numbers, four of which Yuiko Sensei choreographed herself. One number, an eisa-style group dance called "Yunta Bayashi," consisted of two popular folk songs, "Asatoya Yunta" and "Paradaisu Uramajima."

Yuiko Sensei astounded the crowd with her exciting rendition of "Otoko Kanayo," by performing "Kanayo" as a solo male dance rather than a couple or pair's dance as it is usually seen. She also performed a solo rendition of "Takadera Manzai," in which she portrayed one of two brothers who disguises himself as a traveling puppeteer in order to seek out the enemy and avenge his father's murder.



Yoshino Majikina Sensei (left) with dancer Kellie Takamiya, who danced a solo performance of "Kashikake."

The crowd was also treated to a performance of "Kashikake," a classical Okinawan woman's dance, by Kellie Teru Takamiya, the only Hawai'i dancer to perform in "Churashima Hawaii Ni Mau." Takamiya earned her shinjinsho (first level certificate) under the tutelage of Yuiko Sensei while teaching English to high school students in Okinawa.

Takamiya's earnest dedication to the art of Okinawan dance was evidenced by her mere presence at the recital. Presently a graduate student at UCLA, she flew in from Los Angeles on the Thursday before to the performance and then caught the "red-eye" flight back to school on Sunday night, immediately after the performance and Aloha party.

The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the dance play, "Watanjaa," which was performed by Yuiko Sensei's top students. "Watanjaa" was choreographed by the late dance Grand Master Yuukou Majikina (father of Hawai'i's Yoshino Majikina Sensei) and tells the story of the merchants and customers who traveled on the ferry boat between the

Watanji and Kachinuhana areas during the late 19th century. A cast of eight dancers portrayed unique characters, such as a tofu vendor, a pig merchant and a courtesan during the crowd-pleasing finale.

The festivities continued late into the afternoon as more than 200 people stayed to mingle and celebrate at the post-performance Aloha Party. The party was planned by Nago Club, with HUOA presenting certificates and gifts to the performers and guests from Okinawa.

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Majikina Honryu Buyo Dojo member and chairperson of the "Churashima Hawaii Ni Mau" planning committee, credits the success of the performance to the overwhelming support of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and its member clubs, the cultural organizations and the many individuals and clubs (Haneji, Motobu and Nago) who assisted with the organization and production of the charity performance.

The performance raised approximately \$4,000 from ticket sales and donations, including a generous donation from Yoshino Majikina Sensei of Hawai'i's Majikina Honryu Buyo Dojo. Yuiko Sensei and the dancers, musicians and supporters from Okinawa paid all of their own expenses, including hotel and airfare, to perform in Hawaii at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and at the Lanakila Senior Center.



HUOA President Gladys Tokunaga-Asao (left) accepts a donation to HUOA from Yuiko Majikina Sensei.

OUR CLUBS, OUR FUTURE (continued from page 5)

HUI O LAULIMA . . . by Thelma Arakawa

In late July and early August, we had our annual andagi sale at the Farm Fair. A big thank you to Betty Higa for doing such a good job of preparing the batter at Jikoen under some adverse conditions. Thank you also to Betsy Miyahira and Hideko Masaki for taking care of the booth. And, thank you to Sally Kageyama for making those calls to schedule all of the booth workers. Most of all, Ippe Nihei Deebiru to all of our Hui O Laulima members who willingly helped in the kitchen and in the booth. You all helped to make this project, which funds our cultural grants, a very successful one.

On Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, Hui O Laulima participated in the Okinawan Festival. A special thank you to Lillian Takata who did a superb job of preparing our Culture Tent for the festival. Everything went so smoothly. We had a lot of positive comments about our tent. Thank you to Jean Yamasato for taking charge of the ever-popular kimono-dressing picture-taking, and also to Young Okinawans of Hawaii President Jodie (Tomas) Ching who put up the display of artifacts. She did a beautiful job! Thank you also to Bobbi Kuba and Gerri Maeda for continuing to market our cookbooks; both

of you have done a wonderful job of selling the books. A very big thank you to all of you who helped in the Culture Tent. You truly live up to the meaning of our club name: "lending a helping hand."

Hui O Laulima and three other clubs are in charge of the Winter Craft Fair. We will be calling you again for help. Val Teruya, Hideko Masaki and Bobbi Kuba are co-chairing this event for Hui O Laulima. Please contact them if you can help on Saturday and/or Sunday.


OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII . . . by Nancy Tome

The year 2002 is coming to a close and we will be celebrating our bonenkai at our Nov. 16 meeting. We usually do cultural things at this gathering, like learning how to kachashi, and just have fun socializing as there is so much to talk about regarding genealogy and our "coffee breaks" are longer than we want them to be. To further our club's mission, we have developed a number of committees so members can contribute where their talents lie. We're able to get many ideas and have seen exciting results.

This year, we started our database of Issei immigrants. Two members have diligently translated three sources into English, and we are in the process of inputting

information on a second group of immigrants. We were also fortunate to receive a generous donation so we could upgrade our computer capabilities and set up a website so others can access our information.

We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary next year with a trip to Kyushu and Okinawa; plans are progressing well. For now, the tour is open to members only and their friends relatives. However, we may open it up later. As part of our planning, member Nobu Takeno has been giving us detailed "lessons" on the various places we plan to visit. We plan to have lectures during the tour and hope to meet with some kenjinkai in Kyushu. If we determine later that we have additional openings, we'll let you know.



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HAWAII TAIKO KAI

Announces its Beginners' class,
starting January 2003.

10 openings in Mitsufumi Ryu Koten
(classical) taiko and
contemporary taiko.

Classes held Sunday mornings, 8:30-9:30 a.m.,
at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.
Students must be 12 years of age or older.

For more information, call Terry Higa Sensei
@ 487-6772

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Volunteers and blood donors are being sought for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's annual Winter Craft Fair, set for Saturday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

This popular craft fair attracts thousands of enthusiastic shoppers over the two-day weekend, so the kokua of many volunteers is needed. Please contact your respective club president or the Hawaii Okinawa Center office to volunteer your services.

The Hawaii Bloodbank Bloodmobile will be on-site from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, accepting donations of blood. Please contact Bobbi Kuba at 523-5858 to schedule an appointment to donate the "gift of life."

For more information on the craft fair and blood drive, call 676-5400.



CHICK TAKARA ART AVAILABLE AT HOC GIFT SHOP


by Jane Takayesu
Itoman Shijin Kai

A 2003 calendar depicting local versions of the 12 signs of the zodiac will soon be available for sale in the Hawaii Okinawa Center Gift Shop. The comical caricatures of the various animals, one per page, were drawn by local artist Seikichi "Chick" Takara and printed by Quality Graphics. The \$5 purchase price includes

the 5-1/2-inch by 4-1/4-inch calendar and an envelope for mailing. The calendar makes for a wonderful Christmas or New Year's gift. It will also be on sale in the HUOA booth at the Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 Winter Craft Fair.

Takara, a self-taught artist who is a member of Oroku Azajin Club, is noted for his beautiful full-moon seascapes and floral paintings. The late George Fukunaga, former chairman and chief executive officer of Servco Pacific, purchased many of Takara's paintings for Servco's corporate art collection.

Other Chick Takara works can also be purchased at the Craft Fair and in the Gift Shop, including an eight-card set of floral design note cards for \$4, and lithograph prints of two beautiful Takara paintings, "Lilies of the Valley" and "Water Lilies." The limited edition lithographs prints, which Takara signed and numbered, are printed on acid-free stock. They will be sold at the Winter Craft Fair for \$32, which includes a packing tube.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these items will benefit the Hawaii Okinawa Center Volunteers Program Fund. 

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR GEIDAI, RYUDAI SCHOLARSHIPS

The Okinawa Prefectural Government is once again accepting applications for scholarships to the University of the Ryukyus (Ryudai) and the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai). Although the Prefectural Government hopes to award a scholarship to both universities, funding cutbacks may prevent them from doing so. Applicants for the Geidai scholarship must have basic academic knowledge and skills in their field of major.

Urasoe Shijin Kai member Kris Miyashiro was awarded the 2002 Geidai scholarship and is presently in Okinawa, expanding her knowledge of the performing arts.

Hawaii Uchinanchu wishing to apply for the Okinawa Prefecture Emigrant Descent Student Program should leave a message for HUOA's scholarship chair, Chikako Nago, at the HUOA office — 676-5400 — for applications and/or information on the application process. The Hawai'i application deadline is Nov. 8.

HUOA JOINS IN HONORING AJA KOREAN WAR KIA/MIA

HUOA members participated in a Sept. 24 memorial service at the Korean War Memorial at the State Capitol. The service honored military personnel from Hawai'i who fought in the Korean War.

The memorial service was organized by the Los Angeles-based Japanese American Korean War Veterans organization. According to JAKWV, 247 Japanese Americans nationwide were either killed in action or are still missing in action — 197 of them from Hawai'i. Of that number, about one-third were of Okinawan ancestry. Because of that substantial figure, the HUOA was the only cultural and community group asked to participate as an "endorsing organization."



Pictured here with the wreath offered by HUOA are (from left) Korean War vet from Los Angeles, Ken Tomei, who is originally from Hawaii; Amy Higa; James Matsuda, whose brother was killed in action in Korea; Hatsumi Higa; Jimmy Iha; Wayne Miyahira and Masaru Higa. The Higa family attended the service to honor Masaru Higa's youngest brother (Hatsumi Higa's brother-in-law and Amy's uncle), Yutaka "Riza" Higa, who was killed in action in Korea.

HUOA EVENING CRAFT FAIR

"An Evening
in Waipio"

December 11, 2002
Wednesday
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Enjoy the holidays at
HUOA's premier craft fair

Crafts, Food, Music and Shopping galore.

Mahalo to member clubs Kanegusuku, Kita Nakagusuku
and Kin Chojin Kai for coordinating this fair.
Chairpersons for the event are
Ed Kino and Dwight Ikehara.

Special events planned for the evening include
Door prizes, a Silent Auction, Santa and
Live Entertainment.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Nov. 3: Hui Okinawa Bonenkai. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
@ Hilo Hongwanji Sangha Hall.
- Nov. 4: Programs Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Nov. 8: Application deadline for Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarships. Call HUOA @ 676-5400 for information.
- Nov. 10: HUOA Study Tour departs for Okinawa.
- Nov. 11: HOC closed for Veterans Day holiday.
- Nov. 12: Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Nov. 18: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Nov. 25: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m.
@ HOC (Higa Building).
- Nov. 26: Communication & Information Committee meeting.
6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Nov. 26: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- Nov. 28: HOC closed for Thanksgiving Day holiday.
- Nov. 29: Set-up for Winter Craft Fair.
- Nov. 30: Winter Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. @ HOC.
- Dec. 1: Winter Craft Fair, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. @ HOC.
The Hawaii Bloodbank Bloodmobile will be accepting blood donations from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2: Programs Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Dec. 7: Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Bonen Kai
@ the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center.
- Dec. 9: Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Dec. 11: "An Evening in Waipio" craft fair. 5:30 – 9 p.m. @ HOC.
- Dec. 16: Board of Directors meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- Dec. 16: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Dec. 18: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Dec. 24 & 25: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 31: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for New Year's Eve.
- Jan. 18, 2003: Installation banquet for HUOA's 2003 officers and recognition of 2002 "Uchinanchu of the Year" in the Teruya Pavilion, Hawaii Okinawa Center.

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" (HOT) SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative program schedule for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" for November and December. "Hawaii Okinawa Today" is a production of the HUOA's video team. Programs air Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. on 'Olelo: The Corporation for Community Television (Oceanic Cable Channel 52).

The latest schedule information on "Hawaii Okinawa Today" is also available on the HUOA's website — www.huoa.org — or by tuning in to Keiko Ura's radio program on KZOO on Sundays from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

For more information on the HUOA video team, or "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs, call Henry Isara at 595-2773 or e-mail him at henryisara@hotmail.com.

Nov. 4: Premiere showing of "Hokori," Part 1. This special dance performance by Hoge Kai, Yoshiko Nakasone Dance Academy, was held June 15, 2001, at the Okinawa Prefectural Dance Theater in Naha, Okinawa.

Nov. 11: Premiere showing of "Hokori," Part 2. "Hokori" was a dance performance staged by Hoge Kai, Yoshiko Nakasone Dance Academy, at the Okinawa Prefectural Dance Theater in Naha, Okinawa, on June 15, 2001.

Nov. 18: Premiere showing of Part 1 of highlights from the Third Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival — "Taikai" — which brought thousands of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart from throughout the world back to their ancestral — or spiritual — homeland, Okinawa, in November 2001.

Nov. 25: Repeat showing of Kauai Okinawan Festival, which was held April 18 and 19, 2000, in Puhi, Kauai.

Dec. 2: Premiere showing of "Shinasaki," Part 1, a koto recital by the Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai, which was held at Leeward Community College Theatre on April 19, 1998.

Dec. 9: Repeat showing of the 2001 Okinawan Festival, held Sept. 1 and 2 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand. This program features the opening procession and program and performances by the Hoge Kai, Yoshiko Nakasone Dance Academy; Hawaii Taiko Kai and Kapahulu Okinawan Dancing Group.

Dec. 16: Premiere showing of "Shinasaki," Part 2, a koto recital by the Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai, which was held at Leeward Community College Theatre on April 19, 1998.

Dec. 23: Premiere showing of Part 2 featuring highlights from the Third Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival — "Taikai" — which brought thousands of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart from throughout the world back to their ancestral — or spiritual — homeland, Okinawa, in November 2001.

Dec. 30: Premiere showing of the 2002 year-end show featuring highlights of HUOA events and activities held during the year.

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