

MAUI OKINAWA KENJIN KAI

NANCY YOSHIKO KIYABU

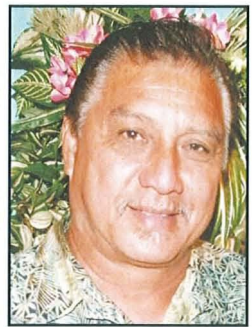
Our 2008 Uchinanchu of the Year is Nancy Yoshiko Kiyabu. A Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai member for over 30 years. As the club's Japanese secretary, her job has been to translate correspondence from Okinawa so board members could understand and respond. Nancy also assists many club members with their personal correspondence. She translates letters to and from Okinawa so that Maui people continue to have a connection with their families and friends. Nancy's other interests have been to teach the Okinawa language every Tuesday night and participate in senior club and fujinkai activities. She is also active with the Kahului Jodo mission and Japanese Cultural Society. Nancy came to Hawaii from Shuri Naha in 1959 as a new bride and spent those early years being a homemaker and mother of three. When her children were grown, she worked as the Maui correspondent for the Hawaii Hochi and later as a produce clerk for the old Noda Market.



NAGO CLUB

CLIFFORD ANTOQUE

A Sansei, Clifford Antoque is of the late Ishun Kishimoto family of Nago Club. As a youngster, Cliff tagged along with his mother, Jannette Kishimoto Antoque to our Nago activities. Nago has been fortunate to have Cliff, his wife Sandra and two sons become members of the club. Cliff is self-employed in the construction business and is an active member of New Hope and helps feed the homeless every week. At our club functions, he lends a helping hand wherever and whenever it is needed. Recently Clifford was on the Haari Boat team sharing his expertise on paddling and leading the team to victory. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the Cliff Antoque family is a plus for Nago Club. Congratulations, Cliff. Ippei Nihe Deebiru!



NAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

CORINNE Y. TAKARA

Corinne Takara is the youngest daughter of Hanae and Edward Yasuda. She has perpetuated the Uchinanchu spirit through years of dedicated volunteer work with Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. Her oldest memory of volunteering was at the Okinawa Festival when it was first held at the McCoy Pavilion. She remembers working with her mother serving Oki Dog at the Chili Booth. Since then, she has continued to volunteer at the festival washing rice at Jefferson Elementary School. She has served as Treasurer for Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai for the past five years. Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai is proud to present our Uchinanchu of the Year, Corinne Takara.



NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI

JANET TAMASHIRO

Janet Kikue Tamashiro has discovered the secret of the "fountain of youth." Her passion for travel and the performing arts has given Janet the opportunity to visit various destinations to perform Okinawan dance, paranku, and hula. As a student of the Nakasone Dance Academy, the Paranku Club of Hawaii, and Na Leo Nahenahe 'O Na Kupuna, Janet has performed in New York City, Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, and North Carolina as well as in Okinawa and Canada. Janet also "volunteers" to perform at the annual Nishihara Shinen Kai and for residents at adult day care centers and elderly nursing homes. In recent years she has become an avid UH sports fan. All these activities have kept Janet vibrant, active, and young-at-heart. Janet was married to the late Tsuneo "Tama" Tamashiro for 57 years... Janet is happiest spending time with her family and friends. We are proud to select Janet Kikue Tamashiro as its 2008 Uchinanchu of the Year. Mahalo and Congratulations!

