

# 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees

THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED UNSELFISHLY TO THE SUCCESSES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND PLEASURE THAT WE HONOR THIS WONDERFUL GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.

~ IPPEE NIFEE DEEBIRU ~

## AZA GUSHIKAWA DOSHI KAI

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### CLYDE AND TERRI NAKANO

Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai is proud to honor Clyde & Terri Nakano as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Terri is the granddaughter of Kana and Matsu Tokuda, and the daughter of Jean and the late Kenneth Tokuda. As a sansei member, Terri has previously served as club secretary for several years. She and Clyde have inspired daughter, Stari, to serve as our current assistant secretary to ensure that Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai continues to thrive and perpetuate the dreams of our issei and nisei members. Clyde & Terri have been dedicated members of our club for many years. They are always willing to volunteer their time to

help at our annual shinnen enkai and picnics, and in the shave ice and children's games booths at the Okinawan Festival. Clyde & Terri, along with their daughters, Stari & Brandi, are members of our volleyball team, while Clyde also plays on our softball team. Aza Gushikawa celebrates and is proud to honor Clyde & Terri Nakano as our Uchinanchu of the Year!

## AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI

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### GARETH NAPU'UNOA

Gareth has been selected as the 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year for Aza Yogi Doshi Kai because of his many years of commitment and support of our club that started as far back as his grandparents Matsusei and Tatsuko Miyasato who introduced Gareth to the club at an early age. Growing up in the club, Gareth along with his wife Lianna and 3 children, Keani, Garyn and Layson continue the family commitment of supporting Aza Yogi. This past volleyball season Gareth, Liana and their kids represented Aza Yogi. Gareth and his family (parents Gary and Janice Napu'unoa as well as Gareth's sister Jamie Napu'unoa-Beppu and her late husband Glen Beppu) come out in force and are very generous with their time and financial support as they attend and assist at

the many club events like our annual Shinen Enkai dinners, Okinawan Festival's Country Store and the occasional event where Aza Yogi is called in to service. They all serve the club in true uchinanchu spirit with great joy and pride.

Aza Yogi Doshi Kai would like to take this opportunity to thank Gareth and his whole family for all of the love and support they have for our club. This type of uchinanchu spirit is what will keep our culture and club alive and well for many years to come. Ippee nihei debiru!

## CHATAN-KADENA CHOJIN KAI

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FRANKLIN AND ROBIN YOGI

The members of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai are proud to recognize Franklin and Robin Yogi as their Uchinanchu of the Year. Franklin and Robin have graciously offered their assistance to the club whoever requested. Franklin is well known at the Hawaii Okinawa Center as a sound system person during concerts and other performances. He has always been at the helm of the sound system for our Shinnen Enkai.. He has even loaned us his equipment for our picnics! Franklin and Robin are regular contributors to our dessert table at our Shinnen Enkai. Franklin is known for his mini-pecan tarts, and Robin for her yummy cornbread. Robin is employed by the State of Hawaii and is the

secretary to the Complex Area Superintendent of the Central District (DOE). Franklin, although trained as an accountant, retired for his own firm Hawaiian Petroleum where he engaged in the collection of fuel incoming to Hawaii to be tested before being distributed to Hawaii's gas companies. They have two children, Andrea and Christopher.

## CLUB MOTOBU

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SEAN AND LISA SADAOKA

This year, Club Motobu recognizes life long member Sean Sadaoka and his wife, Lisa Sadaoka. This super talented duo took on the responsibility for planning & providing live Okinawan entertainment at the club's Shinnen Enkai parties that proved to be a big hit with club members. Sean is an accomplished sanshin player and a member and instructor with the Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai. He has achieved saikoshu (third level certification) in classical Okinawan music.

Lisa is a master koto instructor with Ryukyu Sokyoku Kai Miyashiro Soho Kai. In addition, she is also a gifted sanshin player and member of the Afuso Ryu group. They have performed at countless HUOA events and have dedicated themselves to the perpetuation of Okinawan music and culture in Hawaii. They both possess extraordinary musical talent and are a great credit to Club Motobu and to the HUOA. We could not be prouder of them.

## GAZA YONAGUSUKU DOSHI KAI

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THOMAS AND MIYOKO SHIROMA ONAGA

Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai proudly honors the late Thomas "Tom" Onaga and his wife, Miyoko Shiroma Onaga as its 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year couple. Miyoko has been attending the Gaza Picnic and Shinnen Enkai with her family from the time she was a young girl and still enjoys attending these events. In the past everyone would pack a picnic lunch and socialize with their friends and family. Now everyone looks forward to the games and prizes for all ages to participate. Presently the fifth generation is enjoying these traditions. Although Tom belonged to the Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai, he was an active member of the Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai, attending all the

events with his wife, Miyoko. He also supported the Okinawan Center and its events. He helped with the maintenance and cleaning of the Hawaii Okinawan Center. As a skilled carpenter Tom helped build the stage, yagura and booths for the annual Okinawan Festival at Thomas Square and Kapiolani Park. Miyoko volunteered with the Andadog booth at the Festival. Together they have supported the Gaza Club for over sixty years. Unfortunately, Tom passed away this past year and our club is glad to have the opportunity to honor him and his wife, Miyoko with this award.

## GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI

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GARRETT IHA

Garrett has been an active member of Ginowan Shijin Kai for over 50 years, having attended the annual picnic and Shinnen Enkai with his parents and grandparents. He has held leadership positions with the Club for over 20 years, primarily as Treasurer. During the Okinawan Festival, Garrett and his wife, Susan, don their aprons to volunteer in the andagi cooking booth.

Over his 30 year career at Kaiser Permanente, Garrett has held various positions. He is currently the Executive Director of Finance. Garrett also serves in the Hawaii Army National Guard. In his 37+year career with the Guard, he completed a combat deployment in Iraq, as well as deployed for various hurricane, flood and recently a volcano related emergency.

Garrett gives back to the community by volunteering with Adult Friends for Youth (AFY Hawaii), a local charity that serves at-risk youth. He has volunteered for over 15 years, serving on the Board of Directors as Treasurer and Vice Chair.

In his spare time, Garrett enjoys running. He just completed his 39th Honolulu Marathon.

## GINOZA SONJIN KAI

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DOROTHY NAKAMA

Ginoza Sonjin kai's Uchinanchu of the Year is Dorothy Nakama. Dorothy lived in California for most of her adult life. She returned as a part-time resident of Hawaii since the early 2000's and became a fulltime resident in 2012. Her interest in her ancestral roots began during her initial visits to Okinawa. While working in California she was geographically far from the Okinawan cultural activities so she did not participate or attend many activities related to Okinawan culture. When she returned to Hawaii, she began attending the many events and activities of the Okinawan community. She started by attending the club's events, then began actively volunteering at the many activities of the club and HUOA. As she volunteered, she began to take on more leadership and planning roles in the club. She is the current treasurer of the club while actively serving on other committees. She is committed to making the club members aware of their historical connection to the formation of the club, connections to the Ginoza Son and to see that the club continue on for many more years.

She is also an active member of the Okinawan Genealogical Society and serves as the assistant treasurer.

## GUSHICHAN SONJIN KAI

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ROBERT AND GAIL JAKAHI

Gushichan Sonjin Kai is proud to honor Robert and Gail Jakahi as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Robert retired from the Department of the Navy in 2001 and Gail retired as a clerical staff from the State of Hawaii in 2009. Robert's passion is golfing and going to Las Vegas. Gail keeps herself busy with hula and paranku classes. They have a son, Wade, who lives in New York. He and his wife have 3 children. As a child, Robert remembers his parents taking him and his siblings to the annual summer picnics and Shinnen Enkai parties. When his father passed away, he felt a responsibility to become active in the club. Over the years, he and wife Gail have supported the club in many ways through volunteer work, donations, etc. Gail has been a part of our club's entertainment at past Shinnen Enkai parties by performing her graceful hula. Robert has served as Gushichan Club's President for several years. Robert and Gail have been a vital part of Gushichan Sonjin Kai for almost 40 years.

## GUSHIKAWA SHIJIN KAI

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ARLENE SHIMABUKURO FOUNTAIN

It is with great pride that Gushikawa Shijin Kai announces Arlene Shimabukuro Fountain as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Arlene has been a moving force for Gushikawa's success because of her ability to multi-task by taking on the responsibilities of Treasurer, volleyball coach, festival coordinator and any other challenges that comes her way.

Arlene joined Gushikawa in 1991 after moving back home to Hawaii and has been a great asset to our club ever since. Her loyalty and dedication to Gushikawa is evident because of her willingness to participate in all activities, including our annual picnic and Shinnen Kai.

Aside from her Gushikawa responsibilities, Arlene likes to go out to karaoke with her friends and also do line-dancing at various locations. In addition, Arlene is busy traveling to the mainland to visit her 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Gushikawa Shijin Kai honors Arlene Shimabukuro Fountain and extends our appreciation and heartfelt congratulations for a job well done!

## HANEJI CLUB

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JEANETTE (ARASHIRO) AKAMINE

In 1924, in Wahiawa Camp 7, Kauai, Jeanette Setsuko (Arashiro) Akamine was born to Yonega and Toshiko (Matsuda) Arashiro, Issei who immigrated from Haneji, Okinawa. Although she never realized her childhood dream of becoming a nurse, she has spent her lifetime taking care of others. As the eldest of 10 children, Jeanette is the Arashiro family's matriarch, teaching them Okinawan cooking, sharing family history and stories with her children, her siblings and their extended families, and supporting them in their various endeavors. She's the influential grandmother of Grant Sato, the KCC Culinary Instructor who wrote "An Okinawan Kitchen", devoting two pages w/ photos to grandma. A retired hairdresser, Jeanette volunteers at Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, cutting hair, giving

mini-manicures, and sharing her knowledge of beauty culture. She also is enrolled in several classes, for she believes in always learning something new. In the evenings, she watches YouTube videos on a variety of topics, including cooking, hairstyling and Okinawan dancing. Congratulations, Jeanette Akamine, you exemplify the values of yaninju (family), tageni tasuke aimashoo (helping others), and Okinawa no bunka o mamotte ikimashoo (preserving Okinawan culture). Haneji Club is proud to honor you as our Uchinanchu of the Year.

## HAWAII SASHIKI CHINEN DOSHI KAI

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EDWARD UNTEN

Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai is proud to honor as our Uchinanchu of the Year, Edward Unten. Ed is a third generation who grew up in Palolo to parents Robert and Elsie Unten.

Ed has always shown his loyalty, leadership, workmanship and generosity to our club and at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. His jack-of-all-trade skill and eagerness to help at our club picnic, Shinnen Enkai, our club installation banquet and festival or even just changing a light bulb at the Okinawan Center is truly an Uchinanchu at heart.

Ed served our country in the U.S. Army which he is now retired and enjoying life with family and friends. Ed and his wife Charlotte has two sons, Ryan and his wife Raeann and Todd who he instilled in them the Uchinanchu spirit and aloha.

## HAWAII SHURI-NAHA CLUB

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SHERYL MIYAMA

Sheryl Yasue Miyama is the daughter of Frank and Ellen Watanabe, and the granddaughter of Seichin and Kiyoko (Kuba) Nagayama from Shuri, Okinawa.

Sheryl has been active in the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club for over 30 years, volunteering back when the Okinawan Festival was held at Thomas Square and the club manned the pig's feet soup booth. She is coordinator extraordinaire as she, along with the Watanabe ohana, assists with club functions ranging from managing the pupu table for the Shinnen Enkai, to coordinating and overseeing various picnic activities including the shave ice operation, the picnic game and lucky number prizes, and water balloon "filler upper" with her son and daughter, Kelle and Kacie, and a myriad of pre and post event activities.

Sheryl is a busy, working mom who stepped into her mother's role to carry on the Watanabe clan family traditions. She coordinates the ono-est family potluck at the picnic, the envy of other attendees who eat commercial bentos. She perpetuates the Okinawan spirit for her ohana, our club and HUOA activities with her enthusiasm and Chibariyo spirit.

## HUI ALU, INC.

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### NELSON AND SONCY TAMASHIRO

Hui Alu's selections for Uchinanchu of the Year 2018 is Nelson and Soncy Tamashiro. Both our honorees have always made themselves available to support all of Hui Alu's events.

Nelson & Soncy are Hui Alu's go to couple when andagi is expected to be served. They acquired the talent for andagi production from Nelson's mom, Fusako Tamashiro, and have continued to offer the high quality product since taking over. For years this amazing couple have organized a team to provide andagi for all of Hui Alu's functions including festivals, Shinnen Enkai & Warabi Ashibi. They have even surprised our children's day camp participants with anda dogs.

Soncy is employed by the County of Kauai as she is the Private Secretary to Fire Chief Westerman. Nelson is an auto technician employed by Hertz Car Rental.

Both Nelson and Soncy feel perpetuating the Okinawan culture is always a priority in their life as their family enjoy being active with Hui Alu. Their goals are to keep the Okinawan culture alive and vibrant here on Kauai.

## HUI MAKAAALA

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### RUBY UEHARA

Hui Makaala proudly honors longtime member Ruby Uehara as their Uchinanchu of the Year. A lifelong educator of 32 years, Ruby received the Presidential Award for Science and Math while teaching at Farrington High School and retired in 1988. While serving as the Chairperson for the Hui Makaala Scholarship Committee, she implemented a scoring system which is still being used today. Ruby and family are actively involved with the Hui Makaala Fashion Show making sure that the volunteers and models are well taken care of. She is the proud parent of three, all dentists of the Uehara Family Cosmetic Dentistry, and a loving grandmother of seven. Ruby is also a lifetime member of Oroku Azajin Club, and enjoys attending Tai Chi classes and spending time with family. Hui Makaala extends their heartfelt appreciation to Ruby Uehara for her contributions, dedication and continued support!

## HUI O LAULIMA

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### KAREN CHIBANA FUSE

Hui O Laulima proudly presents Karen Fuse as its 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year. Inspired by her mother Nora Chibana, a long-time HOL member, Karen has accepted numerous HOL leadership responsibilities over the past years, including Corresponding Secretary, Vice-President, Assistant Teacher at the Okinawan Children's Day Camp, and Chair of the Cultural Grants Committee where she has efficiently coordinated the grant application process for seven years.

A retired teacher, Karen continues her deep involvement in Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization of women educators. She enjoys volunteering for JASH's Japan-in-a-Suitcase and Reading Is Fundamental, contributes to Yomitan Sonjinkai and loves her various exercise classes.

Married to retired Dr. Alvin Fuse and proud mother to Brandt (Joni) and Erin (Roger), Karen is the happiest grandmother to Nora, who is the namesake of Karen's mother. Despite her travels and visits to see her children and Nora, Karen remains an active, dependable member of Hui O Laulima.

Caring, thoughtful, and ever positive, Karen brightens Hui O Laulima. "I am humbled, grateful and honored to represent this AMAZING group of women!"

## ITOMAN CLUB

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SHARI TAMASHIRO

Itoman Club is honored to select Shari Tamashiro as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Shari is a vibrant, talented, organized, and effective promoter of everything Uchinanchu. At Itoman's Shinnen Enkai, she organizes the entertainment and strives to get members to be participants rather than observers. Shari strongly believes that education and history should be passed on to the next generation, so she focuses on projects that help us learn OUR stories (exhibits, storytelling, music). Through the years, when her father, George Tamashiro, was fundraising for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza, she organized a myriad of fundraisers for HOP. Notably, Shari collaborated with storyteller Alton Chung to produce a DVD called Nuchi Du Takara (Life is the Treasure), which raised over \$20k for HOP. She is the founder, promoter and producer/director of the five Eisa Drum Festivals that were held at KCC and HOC. Shari was named a World Eisa Ambassador, the first foreign female ambassador designated. She also runs the Yuimaaru Learning Room and social media for the Okinawan Festival. Whatever she promotes, droves of people follow her lead.

## KIN CHOJIN KAI

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RICHARD MAEDA

Richard Maeda's Kin roots run deep. He was born in Yaka Village to a mother who was born in Paiea, Maui but schooled in Okinawa. Both of his parents were teachers. His mother wanted to rejoin her brothers in Hawaii so when Richard was eight, they brought him and his three brothers to Hawaii. He entered Kauluwela Elementary School not speaking a word of English. His mom, Eiko, found a job as a hotel housekeeper and dad, Yasumori, became a gardener. Life was not easy for the family but everyone worked hard for better times.

He grew up in Kalihi, graduated from UH, and eventually began a 32 year career at Pearl Harbor. He and his wife Gwen raised two children, Kara (James) and Kelsey in Mililani. Upon retirement, Richard began volunteering at the Issei Garden. On Mondays, rain or shine, holiday or work day, the gardeners are at the Okinawan Center bright and early to perform maintenance work mowing lawns, trimming hedges, pruning trees, pulling weeds, fertilizing, weed whacking, raking leaves, and doing whatever needs to be done. Richard enjoys traveling back to Okinawa. He attended the 2016 Taikai participating in the activities and soaking in the culture. In March, 2018, he was part of the HOGS (Hawaii Okinawa Goodwill Softball) team. They played teams in Chatan, Yomitan, and Nakagusuku and shared their aloha with the Okinawan players.

## KITANAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

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BEATRICE YOSHIKO SHIROMA

Beatrice Yoshiko Shiroma was born in Keahua, a plantation camp in Maui, on January 17, 1922. She was the first-born child of Moshō and Kameko Morita who left their families in Kita-Nakagusuku and Shuri to start new life in Hawai'i.

Beatrice remembers well the hardships of poverty and plantation life and the responsibilities of being the eldest daughter of 5 siblings. Though her parents were proud Uchinanchu, at the time she was warned not to readily reveal her heritage.

After graduating from Maui High School in 1939, she came to Honolulu to work as a live-in maid while putting herself through business college. In 1957 she and husband, Tom, and daughter, Yukie, moved to San Francisco where they lived for 43 years. Responding to the many Uchinanchu in the area longing for their homeland, she and Tom started the Northern California Okinawa Kenjin Kai where Tom served as president for 12 years.

Since returning to Hawai'i in 2000, she has been a proud supporter of the Kita-Nakagusuku and Naha-Shuri clubs and especially enjoyed working at Heiwa Dori at the Festivals.

## KONA OKINAWA KENJINKAI

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SARAH AND GEORGES HASHIMOTO

Kona Okinawa Kenjinkai is proud to honor Sarah and George Hashimoto as our 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year! Both have been charter members of our club and continue to encourage other Okinawans in Kona to join even at the dentist, doctor or social event. Sarah continues as our treasurer and is an excellent cook, always willing to share new recipes at our monthly meetings, picnic and Shinnen Enkai events. George is a craftsman who has created our wok stand for our andagi making along with other projects for our CDC. George is natural comedian who brings laughter to every meeting, and is a self taught sanshin player after stopping lessons in Waikoloa. Sarah and

George exemplify the true spirit of perpetuating the Uchinanchu culture and art, and we are fortunate for their continued commitment and dedication.

## MAUI OKINAWA KENJIN KAI

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PATSY REIKO ISAGAWA

Patsy Reiko Isagawa has been a member of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai for many years, was a Fujinkai member, and has participated actively in Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's many activities. She is an untiring volunteer, helping to clean our kaikan, so all may participate in the classes being conducted, so all may study the many artifacts in our museum, so all may enjoy special programs such as our Shinnen Enkai. Patsy quietly and generously donates her time and energy for whatever community and club events MOKK has throughout the year. Patsy's special talent lies in her expertise in offering her desserts at our various fundraisers, her specialty is making nantu the old traditional way, without the use of the microwave oven. She also is so skillful in creating andagi of uniform size! Her cheerfulness and fresh demeanor makes it a joy to work along side her.

Patsy immigrated to Hawaii in 1958. She has raised four sons, and was employed by the State of Hawaii at the Kula Hospital until her retirement. Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai honors its 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year, Patsy Reiko Isagawa, for her passionate and tireless support of our club's many activities throughout the years.

## NAGO CLUB

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LORETTA TOKUDA

Nago Club proudly acknowledges Loretta Tokuda as Uchinanchu of the Year! Loretta grew up in Pepeekeo, Big Island. Her parents, Yeii Higa and Usa Miyagi, hailed from Nago, Okinawa, and spoke often of the O'ahu-based Nago Club. Owners of a pig, poultry, and vegetable farm, the family took special pride in hearing of the business success of Nago Club members. Yeii and Usa passed a strong work ethic down to their 8 children. Loretta moved to Honolulu to attend school and later joined Nago Club. Over the years, Loretta has been a strong presence in the Club, giving generously of her time, energy, and business savvy with a warm smile and happy heart. Loretta has served as President, Treasurer, and advisor, enthusiastically helping to organize the Club's Haari teams, Shinnen Enkai, picnics, receptions for visiting students and officials, and much more. Loretta also serves as Heiwa Dori co-chair at the Okinawan Festival. Back in 2010, during her first year as Nago President, the Heiwa Dori was awarded first prize for the most beautifully decorated booth, thanks to her creative lantern theme! This past year, she spent a lot more time and effort in planning the Heiwa Dori set up at the new venue. Loretta, you are a Nago Club powerhouse! Ippei Niffee Deebiru!

## NAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

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ED AND DOROTHY HIGA

Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai proudly honors Ed and Dorothy Higa as its Uchinanchu of the year. Ed and Dorothy have been long-time club members of both Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai and Kuba Rosei Kai, as well as constant supporters of HUOA. Their greatest contribution has been instilling the importance of Uchinanchu pride in their family members.

Ed and Dorothy's three children, Gary, Lester and Lynn are all proud members of Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai and have continued the traditions of attending club events with their own children and grandchildren. Lester constantly supports HUOA when there is a need for manpower, including volunteering for extra shifts at the Okinawan Festival in various areas. Every year, sons Gary and Lester and granddaughters Kristine and Katrina golf for Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai at the HUOA Goodwill Golf Tournament. Granddaughter Megan dances for Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo and obtained her Shinjinsho certification in 2017.

Ippee Niffee Deebiru, Ed and Dorothy! Because of you, the Higa family continues to represent Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai and perpetuate Okinawan culture for our future generations.

## NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI

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**PATSY SEKIGAWA**

Patsy Sekigawa's pride and joy is her family. She and her late husband Harry were married for over 41 years and blessed with 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Patsy maintains a busy schedule by being actively involved in multiple groups. Her two favorite groups are the Nishihara Chojin Kai and her church congregation. She has been a long-time, dedicated member of the Nishihara Chojin Kai and is proud and takes delight in her Okinawan heritage.

Her membership with the Nishihara Chojin Kai started when her parents, former Club President Robert and Dorothy Tamashiro encouraged her and her siblings to become members. Patsy followed her parent's examples and encouraged her children, nieces, and nephews to become members. Like her parents, she wanted her family to experience the unity and the common bonds amongst everyone in the Club. Today, the Tamashiro legacy continues with all of them members.

Patsy enjoys traveling, reading, and doing crossword puzzle. She is looking forward to and is extremely excited for her upcoming trip to Washington State in 2019 where she will be visiting her youngest son and his family. We are truly honored to recognize Patsy Sekigawa as our Uchinanchu of the Year and congratulate Patsy for her dedication to the Nishihara Chojin Kai, the Okinawan community and her true Uchinanchu spirit.

## OKINAWA CITY-GOEKU SON

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**KATHY KATSUKO HIGA**

It is a pleasure to honor Kathy Katsuko Higa as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Kathy has been with our club for 15 years volunteering and participating in many of our activities such as the picnics, festivals and Shinnen Enkai. She is the daughter of Milton and the late Lynn Higa. She has a daughter, Aja Lynn. Kathy is famous for her father/daughter duo performance at our annual Shinnen Enkai parties. Not only is she hilarious, but talented, smart and beautiful. She is also very proud of her Okinawan culture and teaches her daughter the importance of their culture. Kathy is employed at Hawaii State Federal Credit Union as their Corporate Development Officer. Awards she received in the past were Top Producer: Customer Service and Sales Representatives and the Pinnacle Award: Top Performing Business Banking. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Waikiki and the Kahala Business Association.

## OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII

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**MASAYUKI "MAC" YONAMINE**

Educator, philanthropist, humanitarian; humble, generous; devoted husband; respected, are just few of the words used to describe "Mac" by those he touched. An active, contributing member since joining OGS in its early years, many stories of his Issei upbringing are shared in the Short Story Books. Deeply humble, he gave of himself in many ways, never taking credit for any of his many gifts.

Delighting festival goes at HUOA's annual festivals, he explained the history behind their Okinawan surnames. A strong passion for Okinawa, he conducted tours to Okinawa for many groups, ending his tours speaking in English, pigeon and Uchinaaguchi, second nature to Mac.

Financial assistance was generous not only for special projects, but also to students, affording them the opportunity to participate in community activities. A project he was instrumental in initiating would serve as a commemorative to Okinawans, deceased and resting outside their homeland. He provided the funds to build an elevator lift for the Higa Building, a safety need for the mobility challenged. A devoted husband, Mac was caregiver to wife, Patsy. His final gift is now in motion for a resource center and library, to serve as a lasting legacy to Mac and Patsy. Ippee Nifei Deebiru, Mac!

## OROKU AZAJIN CLUB

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**SCOTT C. ARAKAKI**

Oroku Azajin Club proudly honors Scott C. Arakaki, yago Uenakajo, as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Scott is a yonsei with his mother's grandparents having origins from Aza Oroku, Okinawa. Over the last several years, Scott has spent many hours as an officer of our club and helping the HUOA. His activities included being a Board Member, Vice president and President in 2016 and 2017. Scott has led the club in its annual picnics at Ala Moana Park in July and its annual Shinnen Enkai at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in March. Scott actively led the club's participation in the annual HUOA Okinawa Festival at Kapiolani Park involving mixing all the andagi batter on Saturdays and cooking andagi on Sundays. Scott has also served as a legal advisor for the development of the HUOA Plaza Project and participated in various HUOA supported parades through Waikiki. Scott is currently one of the club-advisors for the 2018 President of HUOA.

## OSATO DOSHI KAI

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ROY OSHIRO

Osato Doshi Kai proudly presents Roy Seikichi Oshiro as their honoree for the 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year. Roy is a third generation member and the son of the late Masakichi and Kimie Oshiro. He graduated from Farrington High School and the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Organic Architecture. As Osato's president, Roy has dedicated his time and effort to continue a family tradition to support club activities. He is a director of the International Ryukyu Pilatelic Society and conducts informational meetings on the Ryukyu Stamp system history to various organizations. He is also a member of Chinagu Eisa Hawaii and has performed at the Okinawan Festival, Honolulu Festival and other functions. Osato extends their appreciation and gratitude to Roy Oshiro for his dedication, time and active participation to perpetuate Osato club traditions and values for future generations.

## SHINKA

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KURT NAGAMINE

A yonsei Uchinanchu, Kurt took the deep dive into Shinka after being recruited by Founder and former President, Lisa Tamashiro at the 2015 Yuntaku Social Mixer. He quickly stepped into leadership positions to help foster the club's development and served as President in 2018. A "Mr. Uchinanchu Aloha", Kurt played an instrumental role in expanding the club to over 100 members. He is a great motivator, welcoming new members with open arms, helping them quickly interact with others who are also discovering their Uchinanchu roots, encouraging members to participate in events and to eventually coordinate them! His enthusiasm for team building, unique experiences while having fun, is infectious, helping Shinka's events such as Yuntaku, Shinka Moai, tailgates, volunteer opportunities, and Awamori Tasting, reach new levels. Kurt's leadership skills have created organization, structure and efficiency to officer and planning meetings. In high demand, he served as Vice President of Management Development for the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce from 2017-2018 and is a member of Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai. By day, Kurt is a Civil Engineer at NAVFAC Pacific, Capital Improvements.

## WAHIAWA OKINAWA KYOYU KAI

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LORRIE HASHIMOTO

Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai proudly recognizes Lorrie Hashimoto Kawamoto as our 2018 Uchinanchu of the Year. Lorrie is the daughter of longtime Wahiawa residents Alan and Charlotte Hashimoto. Although she is extremely busy taking care of her parents along with her two sons Radley and Rayse, she finds time to help our club with our annual picnic and Shinnen Enkai. Lorrie and her family is and has been a great asset to our club for most of their lives. She remembers attending picnics held at Puuiki Park and other locations. She went out and secured all the prizes for our last picnic which included a grand prize donation of a car detailing gift certificate.

Lorrie also assists with the Shinnen Enkai and organized last year's presentation of past photos of members and friends. She puts a 1000% into any project she gets involved in and worked hard all day from decorating the tables to taking the trash bags to dispose of. Congratulations to Lorrie Kawamoto! Ippei Nifee Deebiru!

## YOMITAN CLUB

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MICHAEL AND WENDY TAO

This year Yomitani Club has selected Michael and Wendy Tao as our Uchinanchu of the Year. They have been involved for many years helping in our club activities when asked. Michael and Wendy has taken upon to establish many activities like a Photo Booth, and Bowling. Their Photo Booth has been used by other clubs and provides their time for free. Michael has started a quarterly bowling event, open to all members and friends. He established a committee to keep scores, handicaps, prizes, and time for this activity. Michael has volunteered to become our Asst. Treasurer and Wendy supports his decision. We are very proud to have them as our Uchinanchu of the Year because we know they will continue to help motivate our members. Their efforts have brought out our younger members to participate in our club.

## YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI



### KARLI AND AARON LUM

A typical week in the lives of Karli and Aaron Lum revolves around work, school, homework, school activities, judo, soccer, swimming and volleyball. Add a healthy dose of sanshin lesson, Okinawan dance practice and numerous dance performances for their two daughters--Ashli and Ailee, both students of Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai. And, in a typical year the entire family proudly and actively participates in club and HUOA activities--annual shinnen enkai, summer picnic, Okinawan Festival, craft fairs, parades and many other events.

Karli is a fourth-generation Uchinanchu whose Ikei ancestors immigrated from Aza Henza, Uruma City and Aaron is a fourth-generation with a BIG Uchinanchu-at-Heart. This duo combination contributes in all aspects of club activities while inspiring in their daughters the Uchinanchu and Yonashiro spirit of commitment, dedication and involvement. Karli serves as an advisor on the Yonashiro board. Family travel goal: attend the 2021 Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai!

The Yonashiro Chojin Kai is so proud to honor Karli and Aaron Lum as our Uchinanchu of the Year—CONGRATULATIONS!

## YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII



### COLLIN HOO

Young Okinawans of Hawaii proudly presents Collin Hoo as our Uchinanchu of the Year for 2018. A 4th-generation Ichimanchu (roots in present-day Itoman city), Collin has been a member of YOH since 2006. After graduating high school in 2008, he went to New York for college, and after that lived in L.A. for three years. He also spent one year studying abroad in Okinawa. Despite his time away, his ties to the club stayed strong and after moving back to Hawai'i, he got right back into it. Collin says that he has remained a dedicated member because he believes that YOH is actively achieving its mission yet is always looking for the best ways to adapt to the changing needs of our community. Collin has taken on many leadership roles in the club, including helping run bon dance practices; strengthening the club's relationships with other groups, both on Oahu and on outer islands; helping to organize our annual senior luncheon; on top of club treasurer duties. We are grateful and honored to have Collin in our club.



## meet huoa's new executive director.... Gwen Fujie



Gwen Fujie is a *Sansei* (third generation) with roots in Oroku and Yomitan, Okinawa. She is a member of Yomitan Club, Hui O Laulima and the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH), all member clubs of HUOA. An active participant in our Okinawan community, she has served as president for Hui O Laulima, chaired HUOA's *Irei no Hi* (the Battle of Okinawa Memorial Day) remembrance events and provided leadership training for HUOA. Gwen also received the HUOA Legacy Award in 2015 for her dedication to community service and non-profit leadership.

After 20 years as a professional speaker and seminar presenter of *Gwen Fujie Keynotes and Seminars*, Gwen recently retired. Her extensive list of clients in Hawaii included Hawaii Pacific Health, the Hawaii State Department of Labor, the U.S. Pacific Command, the County of Maui, and the University of Hawaii, to name a few. She also presented to audiences across the mainland United States and Tokyo, Japan. Gwen provided numerous seminars pro bono, including customer service seminars ("Project Aloha") for the Hawaii State Department of Education.

Gwen has extensive experience working with volunteers and with non-profit organizations. She served as guest relations and volunteer services director at St. Francis Healthcare Systems and director of volunteer services at The Queen's Medical Center. In her first year at Queen's, she doubled the volunteer staff and created many new volunteer programs. Gwen served on the boards of Executive Women International, Network of Volunteer Leaders, Hawaii Society of Directors of Volunteer Services, Japanese American Citizens League - Japan Chapter, Japanese Women's Society Foundation and Sakura Alumnae. She is a former member of the National Speakers Association.

Gwen Fujie was born and raised in Hawaii. She attended the University of Hawaii and the Japanese Language Institute in Tokyo, Japan. She has been active in the Japanese American community and is a member of the Nisei Veterans Legacy, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Japanese American National Museum, the Go for Broke National Education Center, and as a member of the Sons & Daughters of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, she served as co-chair of the 70<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. She also authored the book, "101 Ways To Say Thank You - A Guidebook on Appreciation, Motivation, and Validation". Gwen is married to Clayton Fujie, former Hawaii State Department of Education Deputy Superintendent.