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APRIL 2023

Tayui



2023 Shinnenkai New Year Celebration Recap

There must have been about 300 members, their family and friends attending this year's annual event celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. The Opening Ceremony Welcome and announcements were made by President **Tetsuo Ishisoko**. After the Officers, Board members and Area Representatives were given their much deserved recognition, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **Mieko Perry-Blang**, **Jack Journeay**, **Toshiko Rabine**, **Kai Tomita**, and **Toyoko Yungling**. In attendance was our VIP lawyer **Lynn Haug**, who is currently helping us on the road to 501c3 nonprofit organization status. Leading the traditional *kanpai ondo* was **Harumi Ducharme**, President of Sacramento Okinawa Kenjinkai.

Opening the afternoon entertainment was by **Okinawa Eisaa Shimadaiko** performing *Tachi Utushi*. Next **Mai Miyagi** of Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai Mototake Kinuko Ryubu Kenkyujo USA performed *Kashikake*. Another one of our talented dance groups, **Dushigwa Group**, performed the popular *Medetaibushi*. They were followed by **Mieko Merrill** of Miyagi Honryu Otori Kinsen Kai Arakaki Noriyoshi Ryubu Dojo dancing *Naakunii* and *Timatu*. Next on the program was **Okinawa Eisaa Shimadaiko's** rousing *Ashibinaa* and *Shichigwachi Eisaa Machikanti*. Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai Master **Kinuko Mototake's** solo performance of *Nakazatobushi* was a bit hit.

Nubui Kuduchi (Mai Miyagi), *Isaheiyō* (Dushiwa Group) and *Mirukumunari* (Okinawa Eisaa Shimadaiko) rounded out the first-half program. After intermission was: *Shishimai* and *Kurushima Kuduchi* with the Azama Honryu Saifu Ichisenkai USA dancers, karate demonstration by Oshiro Karate Dojo Sensei **Daiki Takekawa**, *Uta Sanshin* by **Wesley Ueunten** and **Berkeley Gen-yukai**, *Aki no Odori* performed by **Mieko Merrill** of Miyagi Honryu Otori Kinsen Kai Arakaki Noriyoshi Ryubu Dojo, and *Uta Sanshin* by **Ryuji Ganaha**.

Guest singing performances by **Al Perez** and **Akiko Nagayama** were a crowd favorite. The afternoon's program concluded with a resounding *eisaa* medley for the enjoyment of everyone dancing the *kachāshi!* It seemed that due to the pandemic years, the crowd of young and old dancers gathering on the floor seemed larger than before! It certainly was a fun-filled ending to a very entertaining Sunday!

We appreciate the many members who not only purchased tickets for both the Raffle and Silent Auction but also donated items! You also contributed to the Used Book Sale and Crafts tables and bought Uchinanchu Taikai T-shirts. The monies we made will be used for our high school scholarships, the annual events rental costs, and other kenjinkai activities.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hai-Sai, *Gusu-yo, Chu-uganabira!*

Spring is finally here, and the cherry blossoms are starting to bloom everywhere. The cherry blossom festival season has come too. How are you all doing? The long rains that started in early 2023 caused flood damage in many places. I hope that all our members are safe.

I am relieved and grateful that this year's New Year party was so successful since it was held with keeping COVID-19 transmission risks in mind. I was pleased that many members were able to attend despite the challenges we faced this winter. It was enjoyable to hear the sound of *sanshin* again, karate performance, *karaoke*, Okinawan dance, *eisaa-taiko*, and *kachashi*. Since there have not been many opportunities to gather due to the pandemic, I hope that everyone had a good *yuntaku* with friends. I also would like to thank the many volunteers and members who donated money and goods. There were noticeably more donations than normal in large part due to the silent auction.

Unfortunately there were no applicants from our kenjinkai for this year's "Okinawan Emigrants' Descendant Scholarship Program" and "Uchina Junior Study Program" sponsored by Okinawa Prefectural Government. I believe that such programs provide a good opportunity to understand the Ryukyu/Okinawan culture that we love. Please take advantage of these opportunities. We are still accepting applications for our own scholarship for this year's high school graduates until June 30th. Please visit our website (ncokk.org) for more information.

I believe that passing on Okinawa's traditional performing arts to future generations is an important role and mission entrusted to the kenjinkai. I would encourage members to consider and explore learning the traditional performing arts. We need to make strides to nurture successors. Incidentally, during this year's New Year's party, several of our members expressed interest in *eisaa* classes if they could be held in the Fairfield or Sacramento area. I would encourage the kenjinkai to consider the possibility of offering classes including Okinawa dance, song, and *sanshin* in multiple locations too. I believe that increasing the number of Okinawa performing arts learners is extremely important for the development of our Kenjinkai and preservation of our cultural treasures as we continue to perform traditional Okinawa performing arts at various events.

Our Kenjinkai members are spread across a wide area of Northern California. Of course, there are many members who have moved to Southern California or further but continue to support our kenjinkai. Our annual events have been held in the San Francisco and Fairfield areas so far, and many distant members may not have opportunities to participate in the annual events. In particular, a large number of members live in the Fresno and Monterey areas, so if we hold mini-events in those areas in the future, I think we will not only contribute to the local area by introducing and spreading Okinawa culture, but we will also deepen interactions among our kenjinkai members. I would like us to consider this idea since I believe that this will lead to the development and expansion of our kenjinkai.

Although COVID-19 has not completely gone away, we have adjusted our lifestyles to the "new normal." Please take preventive measures whenever possible. Stay safe! "*Nuchi du Takara*"

ハイサイ、グスーヨー、チューウガナビラ!

暖かい日々が続き桜の花々がいたるところで咲き始め、各地で桜祭りの季節となりましたが、会員の皆様はいかがお過ごしでしょうか? 新年早々降り続いた長雨の影響により各地で洪水の被害をもたらしましたが、会員の皆様におかれましてはご無事だったことを望みます。又、毎年恒例の新年会も無事終わり安堵しております。

今年の新年会は、未だ、コロナウイルス感染症が完全に収まって無い状況下で、感染リスクに注意を払いながら行われました。多くの皆様にご出席いただきました。ありがとうございます。久々の唄・サンシンの音色、空手演舞、カラオケ、琉舞、エイサー、カチャーシーなど、楽しい宴だったと思います。コロナ渦で、友人たちとお会いする機会が少なかったと思いますが、久々のユンタクで盛り上がったことでしょう。多くのボランティアの方々にもご活躍して頂き、又、例年より多くのご寄付、ご寄贈を賜り、有難うございました。

沖縄県が主催する今年の「ウチナーンチュ子弟等留学生」と「ウチナージュニアスタディー事業」への応募者がいませんでした。このようなプログラムは皆様の愛する琉球・沖縄文化を理解するのによい機会だと思いますので適齢期の若者のいらっしゃるご家庭は是非、ご協力お願いいたします。今年の高卒卒業生を対象の当県人会の奨学資金応募は受け付け中です。締切日は6月30日です。ご家族に該当者がいらっしゃいましたら、当県人会のウェブサイト(ncokk.org)で詳細を調べてくださるようお願いいたします。

沖縄の伝統芸能を後世に伝えることも当県人会に託された大事な役目・使命だと思います。そのためには、先ず、多くの会員の皆様に伝統芸能の習得にご興味を持っていただきたいと思ひます。そして、後継者を育てなければなりません。今回の新年会の折に、数名の会員から、フェアフィールドやサクラメント方面でエイサーのクラスがあれば習いたいとのご要望がありました。これを機会に、サンノゼ近郊も含めて県人会でどこまで出来るか検討したいと思ひます。もちろん、舞踊と唄・サンシンも含めてです。当県人会が色々なイベントで沖縄の伝統芸能を持続的に披露する上に於いて沖縄芸能習得者を増やすことは非常に大事だと思います。

当県人会の会員の皆様は北カリフォルニアの広範囲に住んでいらっしゃいます。もちろん、南カリフォルニアや他州にお引越され、引き続き当県人会をサポートされている会員の皆様も多数いらっしゃいます。恒例のイベントは、これまでサンフランシスコ近郊やフェアフィールドで行われていたので遠距離に住んでいらっしゃる会員の皆様はご参加できる機会が少なかったと思ひます。特にフレズノやモンレー近郊にまとまった数の会員の皆様がお住まいですので、沖縄文化の普及・披露の意味も含めて、それらの地域で将来的にはミニイベントを開くことが出来れば、地域住民への貢献も出来ますし、また、当県人会員同志の交流も深まると思ひます。ひいては、当県人会の発展・拡大につながると思ひます。この案件も検討したいと思ひます。

コロナウイルス感染症が完全に収まってはいませんが、私たちはコロナ渦でも生きていく術を習いました。今ではそれが新しいノーマルとなって来ています。このような環境下で健康管理には十分注意を払い、健康でいらっしゃるようお願いいたします。「ヌチドゥ宝」

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS イベントカレンダー:



- April 15, 2023** 56th Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival, San Francisco Japantown
北カリフォルニア桜まつり
Performance at Peace Plaza 12:00 pm noon – 12:30pm
- & April 16, 2023** Grand Parade (4/16), San Francisco, 1:00pm from Civic Center Plaza
グランドパレード(4/16) 午後1時開始
(If you're interested in walking in the Grand Parade on Sunday, April 16, contact either Kinuko Mototake 510-708-6672 or Fumiyo Tomita 510-426-2833)
- April 30, 2023** Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, 10:00am-5pm, Memorial Park
クパチーノ桜祭り, 場所: メモリアルパーク, 時間: 10:00am – 5:00pm
Outdoor Amphitheater 1:35pm: Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisenkai USA, Master Kinuko Mototake & Tamagusuku Ryu Kansen Kai Yonamine Keiko Ryubu Dojo – Joseph Nishijo & Eisaa Shima Daiko at 2:05pm
Quinlan Center Stage (indoors) from 4:00pm
- June 30, 2023** Deadline for 2022 NCOCK High School Scholarship Application
NCOCK 高校奨学金制度への申込み期限最終日

OKINAWAN MIGRATION RECORD DATABASE

The Okinawan Prefectural Library and the Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH) created an emigration data website which allows you to select one of four languages (Japanese Kanji, English, Spanish and Portuguese) to conduct a search of your family's Okinawan roots. People fluent in kanji will probably find this helpful. Check out: opl.okinawan-migration.com.

沖縄県系移民渡航記録データベース
Okinawan Migration Record Database

検索 Search Buscar Pesquisar

Okinawan Migration Record Database 1900-1937

This database was developed in a joint collaboration with the [Okinawa Prefectural Library \(OPL\)](#) in Naha, [Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii \(OGSH\)](#), and [Center for Okinawa Migration Studies \(COMS\)](#) to enable Okinawan people around the world to discover their roots and promote, preserve and perpetuate the Okinawan culture.

You can search the 50,000 emigration records from 1900 to 1937 of Okinawans who ventured from Okinawa to all over the world.

The travel record data is based on the books "Okinawa Prefectural Historical Materials: Modern 5 (Immigratio List I)", which is an excerpt from the "Overseas Passport Subscript" held by Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

OPL provides an additional research by using other resources. Visit [1st Generation Immigration Genealogical Reference Service](#) for more details.

About this Database Resources

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R A N

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COMMENTS FROM OUR MEMBERS:

Great memories for Shinnenkai photo group picture. Sorry we missed it but will try to keep in touch next time. Thanks for your great leadership! Best Regards!! *Corina Matayoshi*

Aloha, thank you so much for the 2023 Shinnenkai DVD. It's very thoughtful of you. My mother misses San Francisco so much and sends her love to everyone who still remembers her. *Yukie Shiroma for her mother, Bea (both in Aiea, Hawaii)*

I was disappointed that I wasn't able to make the Shinnenkai after all, so I look forward to watching the DVD. *Amiki Ziomek*

I appreciate it so much and enjoyed viewing the Shinnenkai DVD. My wife Setsu and I always enjoyed the Shinnenkai every year in Fairfield. It was great to see friends and familiar faces on the DVD. The performances were great as usual and I enjoyed watching them.

I hope to make it to another Shinnenkai one of these days. The friendships and great times had are fondly remembered. In remembrance of these times, I will continue to support and maintain my membership in the kenjinkai. *Jerry Glenn (now living in Simi Valley, 40 miles from downtown Los Angeles)*



Hajichi – Finding the Way Back Home

by Mia Arakaki

I am Uchinanchu by way of my father, Ryoji (Sushi California owner), who was born and raised in Naha, Okinawa. After he graduated from high school, he left Okinawa for the United States, where I was born.

In 2022 I went to Okinawa with my parents, brother, and sister-in-law for my third *Uchinanchu Taikai*. We were fortunate to be asked to participate in the popular Japanese TV Show, “Why did you come to Japan?” (YOUは何しに日本へ?) The TV crew followed us around for a few days, culminating in the tattooing of my *hajichi* tattoos. Below I share the background story and significance of my *hajichi* journey.



The last time I saw *Obachan* was in 2016. I was in Okinawa with my parents and brother for my second *Uchinanchu Taikai*. *Obachan* was tiny, kind, and very *genki* – just as I always knew her to be. I recall the joy and contentment on her kind face as her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren gathered in her cozy apartment, eating, drinking, and laughing. We asked *Obachan* which of her four children was the most difficult to raise and she said straightaway, with both seriousness and love, “Your father, Ryoji.” We all laughed.

A few years later my youngest child was born. My hope was to bring my two children, Daisuke and Aya, to the 2021 *Uchinanchu Taikai* so they could meet their great-grandmother, and experience the connection to their *Uchinanchu* origins.

The universe had other plans. When COVID took over in early 2020, *Obachan*’s health began to decline and she passed away peacefully in her sleep in October 2020, at the young age of 99. I remember collapsing in tears after I heard that *Obachan* was no longer with us in this world. While the physical distance between us meant that we only saw each other in-person once every 5 years or so, I felt my connection to her and to my *Uchinanchu* spirit only strengthened as time passed.

As a child of the 80s, I played with Barbies and begged my mom for American dolls. I watched TV shows like *She-Ra* and *Gem & the Holograms*, and naturally I wanted to look like what I perceived to be popular and pretty girls I saw around me - blond haired, blue-eyed white girls. I didn’t want to be “different;” I didn’t want to have black, thick hair, tan skin, and dark eyes with no eyelids. I didn’t want to speak a different language. I wanted to fit in. I wanted to be “American.”

But as I grew older, my desire to fit in with what was mainstream culture at the time evolved into pride about my uniqueness and a curiosity about what it meant to be “Okinawan.” By the time I enrolled in college, I was determined to learn Japanese so that I could communicate with my family in Japan and find out more about my Okinawan background. As a double major in Political Science and East Asian Studies I was fortunate to study abroad in Japan my junior year. I got to visit *Obachan*, uncles, aunties and cousins in Naha, and I was able to have actual conversations in Japanese! Studying abroad was one of the best experiences in my life. Being surrounded by people who looked like me was novel, and I felt an affinity towards the Okinawan culture – the social connections and community, the laid-back attitude, the feeling of spiritual oneness.

Not long after I graduated from college, my parents, brother and I traveled to Mexico City for Christmas to visit *Obachan*’s siblings. My great-grandparents, *Obachan*’s parents, emigrated to Mexico City when *Obachan* was a baby, leaving her in the care of family members in Okinawa. In Mexico, my great-grandparents had three more children, *Obachan*’s siblings. So we were going to visit the Okinawan-Mexican side of our family we had never met before! The Ryukyuan proverb *ichariba choodee* “once we meet and talk, we are brothers and sisters,” captures the essence of meeting our Okinawan-Mexican family. Even though they had never met us before, and we had to communicate in a mix of English, Japanese, and Spanish, we were welcomed with open arms and open hearts. I was reminded of this feeling at my first *Uchinanchu Taikai* in 2011. Witnessing the celebration of Okinawans from all over the world, coming home to the friendly, heartfelt spirit of their ancestral islands is an experience I’ll never forget.



With the loss of *Obachan*, I thought about ways to honor her life and how important she was in developing my sense of self and my identity as an American-born *Uchinanchu*. In this process I came across something called “*hajichi*.” *Hajichi* were traditional tattoos of the hand and wrists,

hand-poked with bamboo needles by girls and women in the early Ryukyu Kingdom. According to the small amount of research that exists, *hajichi* were given as rites of passage throughout a woman’s life. The symbols vary in style depending on the island of origin, and possess different meanings. For example, it is believed the finger spears allow you to find your ancestors in the afterlife. The *ichichibushi*, or five-star, signifies that you will go to heaven when you leave this earth. When the Meiji government officially annexed the Ryukyus in 1879, the practice of *hajichi* was banned soon after. Tattoos were frowned upon and became heavily associated with criminal behavior in mainland Japan. As a result, the cultural practice and indigenous wisdom of *hajichi* began to die out. My father recalls seeing older women with *hajichi* as a child, but today there are very few women who possess the original indigenous *hajichi* native to the Ryukyu Kingdom.

In the past decade there has been a revival of sorts, to bring back the practice of *hajichi*. By raising awareness and interest in this indigenous tradition, Okinawans around the world are connecting back to their roots, and reclaiming a part of their identity. For me, my *hajichi* serve to celebrate the legacy of *Obachan*, my love for her and my *Uchinanchu* family all over the world, and remind me that I belong to a beautiful, resilient, expansive people, history and culture. I am an American-born *Uchinanchu*, and I couldn’t be more proud. And now, with my *hajichi* finger spears, I know one day I’ll be reunited with *Obachan*.

Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai U.S.A.
Kinuko Mototake Classical Okinawan Dance Academy
Est. 1996
SF Okinawa Kenjin Kai Performing Arts Director
SF Okinawa Kenjin Kai Eisa Shima Daiko
Instructor and Director

Master Kinuko Mototake
Ambassador to Okinawa
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A Tip of the Hat, To Our Many Volunteers!

We have so many members AND their families to thank for this year's successful Shinnenkai! Let's start off with Mieko Perry-Blang, who has been serving refreshments for many years with this year's team of dedicated ladies, daughter Mina Curry, Yoko Balanon and Toshiko Rabine; a "much needed" Volunteers' Coordinator Mia Arakaki (daughter of Ryoji and Yayoi Arakaki of long-time advertiser Sushi California and recent Japanese TV celebrity personality of *Why Did YOU Come to Japan?* Youは何しに日本へ?) who came early and took charge of every aspect of the event on the fly; Christine Oyakawa, husband Christopher Kim, cousin and also member Joyce Tamanaha-Ho and family selling Uchinanchu Taikai T-shirts and fans; Kazuki Kinjo & Harold Chaput expertly handled the Silent Auction; Yasuko Heffner, daughter Holly and son-in-law Jeff Arnold passed out membership rosters; the entire raffle assembling process was managed by Evelyn & Bill Frank and family, Grace Sicat, Annette Adams while Akiko Nagayama, Eiko Studier, Seiya Uezu, Sol Calhoun, Hana Cohen sold raffle tickets; Andy Frank & Stephanie Cuellar helped pass out bentos; Rachel Greathouse (President Ishisoko's niece) was our roving photographer; the Shinnenkai program was compiled and designed by Keiko Nakamura and Akane Matsuo; Co-MC's Megan Calhoun and Minami Cohen were the "new stars of the show" with their ad-libbing; Chris Ishisoko manned the AV equipment; time management coordinators for the program were San Francisco State University students of Professor Wesley Ueunten, Yoko April Tamada, Patrick Mendoza and Miyu Hayashi; Ben Kobashigawa & Issa Cohen sold books and CDs; Greg Kawabata did the lighting and videotaping; Fred & Juli Kodani with Minami Cohen managed the reception area; and filling in where they were needed were Tsutomu & Fumiyo Tomita, Tsuneko Silva and last but not least, President Tetsuo Ishisoko! A special shout out goes to Kinuko Mototake, the creative director of the entertainment program. *Nifedebiru* everyone!



Thanks from New Board Member by Yasuko Heffner

3年ぶりと言っていた新年会を無事終えてホッとしている事と思います。お疲れ様でした！メンバーの皆さま方と一緒に、ユイマール精神で助け合、うまくオーガナイズしてまとめた新年会ですね。

私には初めて NCOKK の新年会は、石底徹夫会長さんと Juli さんをはじめ、メンバーの皆様方がとても親切にして下さり、快く接してもらい嬉しかったです！さすが「イチャリバチョーデー」のウチナンチュだと感じながら、一人一人出会った方々とお話し出来ただけでも良かった事と思います。お陰で、何もかもがよい体験をした楽しい1日でした。皆さんの上手な踊りあり、歌、三味線ありまた若い世代の琉球祭り太鼓ありでとても良かったです！伝統芸能を継続している素晴らしさが見えていました。皆さん晴れの舞台のために一生懸命に頑張ったのを感じます！そして歌手のように上手に歌を歌える方達もいてタレントが多い県人会だと感じしているところです。

私まで役員として舞台に立たせて貰ったのは初めての体験で''ちむどんどん''していました。3年前までの25年間、舞台に立ったのは、Fayetteville (North Carolina) 県人会メンバーとして、また25年間の宮城流能松会 NC 支部舞踊研究所のメンバーとしても踊ったり、歌ったりしてきたのですが。役員として舞台に立ったのは初めてで緊張感もありながらも嬉しくていい気分でした！お弁当もおいしゅうございました！ありがとうございます！

こちらこそ色々私達家族のためにも気を配って下さってありがとうございました。ハッピー着物や私のネームタグや私達のテーブルのアレンジなどもありありがとう！娘 Holly が Juli さんの働きぶりには感心していましたよ！見習いたいほどです Tayui newsletters に載せて貰える事を光栄に思います。



SHINNEKAI DONATIONS RECAP

The 2023 Shinnenkai New Year Celebration was a HUGE success in many ways. Monetary donations totaled \$760 and we want to acknowledge the following members for their generous contributions and continued support: Steven & Patty **Arakaki**, Toyoko **Araki**, Francine **Austin**, Miyoko **Clark**, Minami & Issa **Cohen**, Fujiko **Dandoy**, Harumi & Tom **Ducharme**, Maria **Frye**, Michiko **Fujii**, Dennis & Julia **Haley**, Yoshiko **Jensen**, Kazuki **Kinjo** & Harold **Chaput**, Akiko **Kohler**, Kazuko **Lerseth**, Ryoko **Oda**, Christine **Oyakawa**, Haruko **Profumo**, Seiya **Uezu**, Amiki **Webster** and Toyoko **Yungling**.

Another BIG shout-out goes to everyone who donated Raffle items: Keiko **Hitchcock**, Eiko **Studier**, Fumiyo **Tomita**, Sam & Norma **Uchihara**, and Ritsuko **Yip**. Unfortunately, we didn't get all your names, but thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise \$763 in Raffle sales! And all the happy raffle winners received wonderful surprises in their *fukubukuro* mystery grab bag! The Silent Auction netted \$872 thanks to donors like Annette **Adams**, Yoshiko **Canevari**, Evelyn **Frank**, Yoshiko **Jensen**, Nanako **Komeyoshi**, Juli **Kodani**, Joyce **Tamahara-Ho**, Fumiko **Tweedy**, Tamiko **Uyehara** of Uyehara Travel, Tomi **Van Eeghen** and Yoriko **Nakaishi** of Airport Home Appliances, Ritsuko **Yip** and other anonymous donors. Notable donations that drew the most interest were the round-trip ticket for one to Las Vegas from Tamiko **Uyehara** of Uyehara Travel, the Okinawan dolls in a glass case from Fumiko **Tweedy**, and the Okinawan lacquer ware display plate.

The always generous **Yoshiko Canevari** donated 15 handmade washable purses, potholders and small pouches for our kenjinkai to sell. At the Arts & Crafts table, Courtney **Nakaishi Reyes**, the artist daughter of new member Yoriko **Nakaishi** successfully sold her Okinawan stickers. We hope that more members will take advantage of this opportunity to show off their hand-made crafts next year and make some money too!

Last year's World Uchinanchu Festival bright gold T-shirts netted \$761 in sales thanks to the efforts of Christine **Oyakawa** and Joyce **Tamanaha-Ho** and their families. We were pleasantly surprised that the used Book Sales brought in \$148 thanks to Ben **Kobashigawa** and Issa **Cohen**.

We would not be able to do the things we do without the generosity of our membership and sponsors. Thank you for ALL your contributions and your continued support!

THANK YOU to our generous members:

Donations to NCOKK:

Yoshiko & Tom Canevari

Kay Kozue Chung

Clemons Family, in memory of Marvin "Clem" Clemons

Jane Miyashiro

Chizuko & Ross Rutherford

Bea Shiroma





Our Okinawan LOVE Story

by Anthony Citero

I joined the Coast Guard in October 1959 and was transferred to the Okinawan island of *Ikei Shima* where I met Masako. She was a local school girl I used to see her around the village carrying buckets of water home and very mature for her age. There was a local Mama-san/Papa-san store which catered to the military as well as the locals, and it was there where we first met and would meet to teach her English from time to time. I was already a friend of her father who operated a fishing boat on the island. We fell in love and after several months of dating, I informed her father that I wanted to marry her and asked for his acceptance. Since the Coast Guard gave me orders to transfer back to the US, I promised him that I would come back. After being transferred to Hawaii in 1962, I made good on my promise and went back to Okinawa where we were married in 1965. I was 26 and Masako was 18. Today we have two sons, Alan who was born in Hawaii and Michael who was born on Okinawa. Thanks to my Coast Guard duty, we lived in Hawaii, Chicago, Okinawa, New York, Guam, and San Francisco. After 57 years of marriage, 2 sons and 6 grandchildren, we have truly been blessed!

Posters by Alan Citero,

(Son of NCOKK member Albert & Masako Citero)

Alan was born on Oahu, Hawaii in 1967 and being a “military brat,” has lived in many places such as Okinawa, where his mother is from, moved to New York, then to Guam and finally ended in the San Francisco Bay Area where he has lived since 1980. He became interested in computers and all things related to computer tech about 20 years ago. He taught himself about software, coding, and hardware through the internet and became a CompTIA A+ certified technician in security, desktop support, computer repair and networks. As a hobby he likes to do artwork through drawing and especially computer graphics. He also made slideshow movies for special occasions and designs logos for businesses and schools. With his laptop on hand, Alan created the posters during the May 2022 Shinnenkai Keirokai Joint Celebration!



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TAYUI ADVERTISING RATES (for 4 issues):	
Business Card	\$100
¼ Page	\$200
½ Page	\$300
Full Page	\$500



Northern California



Okinawa Kenjin-Kai



IN MEMORIAM: Nobuko "Nobi" Vandre
1938 – 2023 by Pamela Vandre

Former NCOCK member Nobuko "Nobi" Vandre, 84, of Sacramento, CA, passed away peacefully on February 23, 2023. She was born into the Kikumoto family on Tinian Island, Japan, graduated from Koza High School, began an elementary school teaching career and later married Lawrence "Van" Vandre. As a military family, they lived in many duty stations before relocating to Sacramento.

Nobi was an amazing cook and loved to knit, crochet, sew, and tat clothing. She volunteered on the playground and later worked permanently for over 20 years in the cafeteria at schools her children attended. She had a special joy in performing Okinawan dance and playing the *koto* and *sanshin* for others. Her other passion was to develop the Sacramento Okinawa Kenjinkai first as a tireless member and ultimately as President while also being a member of the Northern California Okinawa Kenjin-Kai.

While there will not be a public memorial for her, Nobi's family sincerely thanks SOKK and NCOCK for the friendship and support provided to their mother for many years. Each and every member contributed to the joy, good memories, and happiness that helped sustain Nobi until her passing. Nobi is survived by her children: Pamela Vandre (Doyle Benham), Kenneth Vandre (Patricia), and Thomas Vandre (Diana) and grandsons Anthony and Hunter, brothers Chokichi, Chotoku, and sisters Sumiko, Masako, and Misako, and a host of nieces and nephews on Okinawa. Nobi was predeceased by her loving husband in 2014.

VENMO & PAYPAL ONLINE PAYMENT

Some members asked about online payment for some time, so it happened. As of March 8, we are accepting online payments via **Venmo** and **PayPal**. We hope that this will make it easier for everyone to pay their 2023 Membership Dues, etc.

For those who prefer to pay online:

Venmo:
@NCOCK
or ncokk2020@gmail.com

PayPal:
ncokk2020@gmail.com

However, if you prefer the old-fashioned way, checks are still acceptable!



Ready.gov is an official website of the U.S. government and provides information on how to plan for disasters and emergencies. Severe weather can

happen at any time. Be ready this year by practicing your emergency plan with your family using these preparation tips, including how to start a supply checklist and get life-saving emergency alerts.



IN MEMORIAM: Marvin "Clem" Clemons
1938 – 2022 by Debi Bechere

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend Marvin "Clem" Clemons. Clem was a good and kind man who enjoyed sharing "quotes of the day" with family and friends so I'd like to share two I think he would enjoy:

'Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.' ~ Ronald Reagan

'A life that touches others goes on forever.' ~ Unknown

Not a day goes by when he is not loved and missed but we have wonderful memories to keep him close in our hearts. Clem is survived by his wife Kyoko, and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services were held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA.

めんそーれー

New Members / Address Changes as of 3/31/2023:
新会員加入 2023 年 3 月 31 日付

Kay Kozue Chung
Saki Matayoshi
Yoriko Nakaishi (niece of member Tomi Van Eeghen)
Ryan Nakano (grandson of member Fumi Birchler)
Anna Uema Perez
Patrick Scheele

Address Change:
Mia Arakaki



REVISED TAYUI DISCLAIMER (2022)

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR TAYUI NEWSLETTER:

You are invited to submit requests for any community announcements or other events that you feel are important to promote for our NCOCK members in the quarterly *Tayui* Newsletter. This includes Okinawan dance performances, concerts, Japanese festivals, local fundraisers, school events, etc.

Please consider if what you want to promote will benefit the NCOCK member community. The *Tayui* Editing Team reserves the right to make editorial and formatting changes to your story if space is limited.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. It must be in **English** and **Japanese (if available)**
2. It must be emailed to the Editing Team at sfokkjuli@yahoo.com, at least **two (2) weeks** PRIOR to printing.

NCOCK Personal Contact Information Policy (as of July 2021)

Due to privacy concerns, the NCOCK Board approved **NOT** to include personal data information (i.e. new member's address and member's change of address) in the *Tayui* newsletter going forward. Any personal contact information in the NCOCK Membership Roster can also be withdrawn. Please email treasurer@ncokk.org if you **DO NOT** want to be listed beginning with the 2022 Membership Roster.

個人情報の記載: ニュースレターやメンバー登録名簿等に記載を希望しない方は treasurer@ncokk.org にお知らせください。

 **Happy New Year! The Year of the Rabbit!** 

**We are in our 36th year thanks to your support.
Join us on our fully escorted Cruises/Tours in 2023.**

Mediterranean Cruise – May 3rd – 13th

(Spain, Corsica, France, Italy)

Tours to Honolulu, U.S. Rockies, and Okinawa

Details/dates will be available later this year!

We can also arrange Individual and Group Tours to Japan and Okinawa.

For information, availability, and fares, please contact:

Uyehara Travel

319 E. 2nd St. Suite 203, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-680-2499

Email: tamiko_uyehara@yahoo.co.jp

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