



Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival

by Jose Ricardo G. Bondoc (SFNewsfeed.us) with quotes from our NCOKK members:

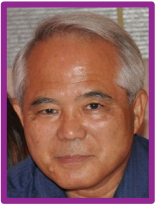
According to their website, The Northern California Okinawa Kenjinkai 北カリフォルニア沖縄県人会 is a social group for Okinawans, descendants of Okinawans, and those interested in Okinawan culture. To begin answering that, we need to begin with Okinawa. Okinawa, once known as the Ryukyu Kingdom, is located within sailing range of Taiwan, Japan, China, Korea, the Southeast Asia, and islands in the South Pacific. As a consequence, Ryukyuan culture absorbed influences from a wide range of places. You can see it in our dance, music, martial arts, food, language, and customs. Tragically, however, Okinawa's location at the crossroads of Asia made it a militarily strategic site. In the Battle of Okinawa during World War II, Okinawa was virtually flattened by a "typhoon of steel" and an estimated one fourth to one third of Okinawa's population was killed. Miraculously, Okinawans picked up and moved forward from that catastrophe.

Ryukyuan have been traveling to other places as traders, explorers, travelers, diplomats, fishermen, students, and migrants since prehistoric times. Large-scale overseas Okinawan emigration began in 1899, 20 years after the Ryukyuan Kingdom was annexed by Japan in 1879. Since then, Okinawans have emigrated to all corners of the world, taking with them their strong sense of identity and unique culture.

San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose, Fairfield, Fresno, and other parts of Northern California have been a destination of Okinawan emigrants for well over 100 years and the first Okinawan kenjinkai (prefectural association) began in San Francisco in the early 1900s. Our Okinawan community in Northern California got a boost after World War II when hundreds of Okinawan women married to American GIs stationed in Okinawa, relocated here. Other Okinawans, such as myself came to this vibrant place to study and work. Just as Okinawa is located at the crossroads of Asia, Northern California is located at the forefront of cultural, technological, political, social, economic, and academic movements."

Emma Tome thanked Sensei **Kinuko Mototake**, *Minkan Taishi* Cultural Ambassador to Okinawa, Kinuko Mototake Classical Okinawan Dance Academy and music by Genyukai Sanshin **Wesley Ueunten**, noted "This festival and parade serves as a bridge for Okinawans in the San Francisco Bay Area. For me, walking in the parade and accompanied by the drumming and music, was reaching across the ocean, across the globe to our ancestors." **Blake Hihara** added, "The parade and festival provided another fantastic opportunity to spread word about Okinawan culture and heritage. It is often up to us to carry on this legacy to future generations."
<NOTE: Here is his complete article with photos>

<https://www.facebook.com/SFNewsfeedus/posts/pfbid02wCkqkLaUqBz1UMWUAvGMUMGsgSbfD5fV287rAszL41RyHVrsYjyxwY5x8BxvdWw2l>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

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

It is August, and summer is in full swing. How are you all doing? In particular, if you live in an area where the heat wave continues every day, please drink enough water and stay cool and safe. There are many regions around the world where the temperature is unusually high and intense heat continues. Due to the effects of climate change nowadays, we often face extreme weather.

Our "Geino-bu" performing arts group was busy for the Cherry Blossom Festivals in San Francisco and Cupertino in April, and San Francisco's "Japan Day" event in July. We appreciate the "Geino-bu" members for their hard work. At the "Irei-no-Hi" event in June, in addition to war-experienced speakers, we had young speakers for the first time. I really felt that the tragedy of war had been conveyed to the younger generation. Last year's welcome picnic for the young visitors from Okinawa and Texas was very popular, so we incorporated a summer picnic into our annual event. It was held on July 30th as potluck. Over 70 people participated and it was successful.

Vice-Governor Ikeda and other members from the Okinawa prefectural government are planning to visit San Francisco from 9/4 ~ 9/6 and would like a lunch or dinner meeting with our members. You will be informed of the details as soon as the plan is finalized. Meantime, please let Juli Kodani know if you are interested in meeting them. "Keirokei," which is regularly held in September, will be held the latter part of October as a joint event with "Uchinanchu No Hi."

Five Ryukyu dance masters, Frances Nakachi (Hawaii), Kinuko Motokake (San Francisco), Ben Higa (Los Angeles), Joseph Jones (San Diego), and Momo Onna (Washington, D.C.) are planning to have a collaboration of Ryukyu dance in Washington, D.C. this fall. Georgetown University has offered the use of their theater for the performances. I've been thinking about the importance of Ryukyu/Okinawa performing arts in the expansion and development of Okinawa "Kenjinkai." Similarly, I also think how difficult it would be to expand and preserve Ryukyu/Okinawa performing arts in the United States without the presence of an Okinawa "Kenjinkai" since there is a very close mutually supportive relationship between the two. I believe the proliferation of Ryukyu/Okinawa performing arts in the United States can lead to the expansion and development of the Okinawa "Kenjinkai." Therefore, I think it is imperative for the Okinawa "Kenjinkai" to support the Ryukyu/Okinawa performing arts. By doing so, we can nurture the next generation of leaders to invest in the performing arts. With these five masters of Ryukyu dance, this event in Washington, D.C. will serve as a cornerstone for the future development of Ryukyu/Okinawa performing arts activities in the United States.

The number of coronavirus patients is on the rise so please take preventive measures as much as possible. Also, as a countermeasure against the heat wave, be sure to drink plenty of water and avoid direct sunlight. Please take good care of yourself. I am also looking forward to seeing you at the "Keirokei." "Nuchi du Takara"

ハイサイ、グスーヨー、チューウガナビラ!

独立記念日も過ぎてすっかり夏本番の季節となりましたが、皆様はいかがお過ごしでしょうか?特に、毎日猛暑が続いている地域に住んでいらっしゃる方々は十分な水分の補給をして体にお気を付けください。世界中でも比較的気温が上がって猛暑が続いている地域が増えています。気候変動の影響で洪水が起こったり、猛暑が続いたり予測困難です。

芸能部におかれましては4月のサンフランシスコとクパティノーでの桜祭りや、7月のサンフランシスコの"Japan Day"での活躍、ご苦労様でした。6月の"慰霊の日"行事では若い世代のお話もありまして、戦争の悲惨さが、若い世代へ伝わっていると実感しました。昨年の沖縄とテキサス州から訪れた若者の歓迎ピクニックが人気ありましたので、今年から年間行事に夏のピクニックを取り入れました。今年のピクニックは7月30日にポットラック式で行いました。70人以上の方々がご参加くださいました。

沖縄県の池田副知事の一行が9月4日から9月6日の日程でサンフランシスコを訪問される予定です。その際、県人会会員との懇親会を希望しています。9月5日のランチかディナーミーティング考えていますが、詳細は決まり次第お知らせします。関心のある方はジュリ・小谷までご連絡をお願いします。毎年9月に行っている敬老会は10月下旬に延期して、"ウチナンチュの日"と合同イベントとして行います。

米国在住の5人の琉球舞踊の師範の先生方による琉球・沖縄舞踊公演が今秋ワシントンD.C.に於いて予定されています。これは師範の先生方が琉球舞踊の流派を超えて共演する公演で、ジョージタウン大学のゴーゴミュージックグループとのコラボレーションや、師範の先生方の協演、琉球古典舞踊などが含まれています。四つの県人会(ハワイ沖縄連合、北米沖縄県人会、ワシントンD.C.沖縄会、北カリフォルニア沖縄県人会)の先生方が県人会の枠を超えて他の県人会と協力して公演するのは初めてだと思います。

私は常日頃、琉球・沖縄芸能の役割が沖縄県人会の拡張に如何に大事かと考えています。又、琉球・沖縄芸能の米国内での発展も沖縄県人会無しでは難しいと考えます。沖縄県人会と琉球・沖縄芸能は密接な相互補助的關係に在り、アメリカ合衆国内で琉球・沖縄芸能が広がれば、沖縄県人会の拡張・発展に繋がると確信しています。沖縄県人会が琉球・沖縄芸能活動をサポートするのは非常に大事だと考えます。更に芸能習得者を増やし、次世代の継承者を育てることができと思う。今回の琉球舞踊の5人の師範によるワシントンD.C.での公演は将来の琉球・沖縄芸能活動をアメリカ合衆国内で発展させる礎となるでしょう。我が県人会の芸能部長、本竹絹子琉舞師範が五人の中の一人です。皆様の応援をお願いいたします。

コロナウイルス感染症患者が微増傾向にあります。出来る限りの予防対策をしましょう。又、猛暑対策として、十分な水分の補給、そして直射日光を避けるようにしましょう。どうぞ十分にご自愛くださいませ。又、多くの方と敬老会でお会いできることを楽しみにしています。「ヌチドウ宝」

2023 - 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS イベントカレンダー:

- September 5, 2023** Okinawa Vice-Governor Ikeda Delegation Lunch, Harborview Restaurant, 4 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco at 11:30 am, RSVP by 8/20/23, 415-479-4214 or 510-703-5192
- October 1, 2023** Millbrae Japanese Cultural Festival ミルブレイ日本文化フェスティバル
Civic Center Plaza, 1 Library Avenue, Millbrae 10:30 am – 4:30 pm
- October 22, 2023** Keiro-kai (Senior Citizen's Day) 敬老会, San Mateo Buddhist Temple, サンマテオ仏教教会
2 South Claremont Street, San Mateo 時間 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm
- November 19, 2023** "Heart of Ryukyu Dance," Troupe of Five Ryukyu Dance Masters Collaboration
Performance at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.:
Frances Nakachi (Hawaii), Kinuko Motokake (NCOKK), Ben Higa (OAA),
Joseph Jones (San Diego) and Momo Onno (Washington, D.C.)
- February 18, 2024** Shinnen-kai (New Year Celebration), 2024 年新年会
12-4pm, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 Kentucky Street, Fairfield, CA



ANNOUNCEMENT: Carpool Bank

Our membership is aging, and many want to attend our events, but can no longer drive or don't have family or friends to bring them. We have been looking into the possibility of setting up a Carpool Bank. If you are interested in helping us out just a few times a year or as the need arise, please contact a Board member. Thank you in advance.

現在、県人会メンバーとのカープルー(乗合い)システムを構想中です。県人会のメンバーの中には高齢で各イベントに参加したくても移動手段が無く、頼れるファミリーや友人も無い為に、参加できない方が多くいらっしゃいます。もし年に数回でも要望があった際に乗合いボランティアをして頂ける方は、ぜひ県人会役員へお知らせ下さい。皆様のご協力宜しくお願い致します

Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai U.S.A.
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SF Okinawa Kenjin Kai Performing Arts Director
SF Okinawa Kenjin Kai Eisa Shima Daiko
Instructor and Director

Master Kinuko Mototake
Ambassador to Okinawa
510.708.6672
kinuko4@gmail.com



A TIP OF THE HAT TO OUR PARADE VOLUNTEERS!

Not surprisingly some members had already gathered early at the San Francisco Civic Center Plaza on April 23 to participate in the 56th annual Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Grand Parade!

Among the outstanding Board members was President **Tetsuo Ishisoko** who not only procured the truck to haul our float (donated by the San Francisco Japantown Merchants Association) but also coordinated the volunteers. Geino-bu Director **Kinuko Mototake** and **Fumiyo Tomita** oversaw the parade by performing *eisaa taiko* and *te-odori* entertainment. **Wesley Ueunten** was on the float with some Genyukai members singing and playing their *sanshin*.

Tasked with getting lunch and water for our performers in time were **Yoshiko** and **Tom Canevari** who provided delicious sandwiches, farmer's market fruits and vegetables. We heard comments like delicious and healthy from everyone!

We want to give a **BIG SHOUT-OUT** to ALL the other volunteers (we didn't get all your names) for giving their time and energy to make this annual event a success! We couldn't have done it without everyone's help!



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Picnic Recap and Shout-out to the Volunteers by Juli Kodani

Group Photo from Tsuneko Silva

On Sunday, July 30, more than 70 people gathered for the Summer Family Potluck Picnic at Alameda's Crown Memorial State Beach. Even though the temperature ranged from 63 to 73, it didn't dampen their spirits! Families like the **Adams, Adel / Ziomek, Frank, Gibbons / von Studnitz, Jacobsen / Profumo, Kaneshiro, Kohler / Kohama / Porter, Maeda, Nakama, Northrup, Tomita** and **Weber** were well represented! NCOKK provided the grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages while everyone shared salads, appetizers, fruit plates, rice dishes and other mouth-watering delicacies! We even sampled *shikuwasa* citrus drink thanks to **Natsumi Motomura's** business venture.

We welcomed new members like **Iris Toyoko Kaneshiro** who recently moved from Hawaii to live with her son Jackie & his wife Jennifer and **Laney Northrup** who with her family lived on Okinawa for 4 years and wants to further explore its culture and language.

Entertainment included *eisaa taiko* and Okinawan *uta sanshin* by newlywed **Ryuji Ganaha** who announced his marriage to **Arisa Mototake** (daughter of Hideyoshi & Hiromi Mototake and Master Kinuko Mototake's niece). Geino-bu Director **Kinuko Mototake** and her able assistants **Fumiyo Tomita** and **Keiko Nakamura** led the group in some of the *eisaa taiko* standards, culminating with the *kachashii* finale! When the children, both toddlers and teens, started banging the drums to music, photographers rushed to capture the *aw-how-cute*-moment! One day they may even become our own *Eisaa Shima Daiko* members!

As always, it would not have been a success without a cast of dedicated volunteers and their families! Some members would not have come without our volunteer carpool drivers **Francine Austin, Seiken Nakama, Keiko Nakamura** and **Fumiyo Tomita** to pick them up or take them home. Arriving early to help with the picnic set-up were **Annette Adams, Harumi & Tom Ducharme, Evelyn Frank & her son Andy, Tetsuo Ishisoko, Akiko Journeay, Juli & Fred Kodani, Tsuneko Silva, Fumiyo & Tsutomu Tomita,** and **Toyoko Yungling**. Tip of the chef's hats to **Kazuki Kinjo, Harold Chaput** and **Fred Kodani** for managing the grilling stations. Thanks also to the **Oyakawa-Kim** family for lending us their Corn Hole game even though they couldn't come! AND we appreciate all the members who stayed at the end to help clean-up the picnic site! *Niffee debiru* (御拝で一びーる)

Here are some comments from our members:

Thank you for the wonderful picnic. I enjoyed it very much. I was so glad to see old friends, particularly the Kohama sisters whom I haven't seen for many, many years. *Shingi Kuniyoshi*

We had a wonderful time and it was a joy to see Mom (Iris Toyoko Kaneshiro) so happy! I sent photos to her daughters and son in Hawaii and they were overjoyed! I also shared that the group was very warm and welcoming, food delicious and music and dance fun! *Jackie & Jennifer Kaneshiro*

Thank you and your crew did a tremendous job for the picnic. My whole family enjoyed it and gained a few extra pounds! We even visited the aquarium there and watched the feeding of sea anemones. It was very interesting! *Akiko Kohler*

**Orizuru for Peace**

In March of this year, NCOKK was contacted by Deputy Director Kazuya Tamaki of the Okinawa Prefecture DC Office announcing the launch of a peace Orizuru project initiated by Congresswoman Crissy Houlahan (D-PA). She visited Hiroshima with a delegation to Japan and after returning to the US, decided to fold paper cranes with the people of Pennsylvania to send a strong message for peace to the global leaders gathering in Hiroshima on May 19-21, 2023 for the G7 Summit.

Having experienced the tragedy of a fierce ground battle during WWII, Okinawa aspires to serve as a bridge between nations by building trust and peacemaking. As part of Okinawa's small but steady efforts toward peace, the Okinawa Prefecture DC Office called on other Uchinanchu in the US to work together with the people of Pennsylvania on this project. NCOKK, thanks to the dedication of **Tsuneko Silva, Fumiyo Tomita** and many others, sent about 3,000 cranes before the April deadline and informed other kenjinkai's to participate. More than 11,000 cranes were received from the people of Pennsylvania and Uchinanchu around the US! They made it to Hiroshima well in advance of the G7 Summit. Mr. Tamaki said, "*It was really touching to see so many people participate in this project.*"

Each of these cranes gently and neatly folded by women, men and children of all ages throughout the US signifies a



strong wish for peace!! As an Uchinanchu, I renewed my determination to work toward global peace as the war in Ukraine continues and tensions in some parts of the world intensify. Once again, we sincerely appreciate your help with this project. Ippe niffee debiru."

Yutaku Afternoon with Victor Kinjo by Ron Nakasone

Those who attended “Come to the River – A Concert and *Yutaku* with Victor Kinjo” on May 6 at Oakland’s EastSide Arts Alliance & Cultural, experienced a delightful afternoon of music and storytelling. “*Come to the River (Vimo Pro Rio)*” is the 2022 lead song of *Terraqueos* (Earthlings) and expresses Victor’s thoughts for humanity. He explained that *we need to be grateful for our respective cultures for rivers and it is crucial to listen to it. He said, “I believe music has the power to unite different peoples, identities, and cultures in harmony.”* His melodious tenor voice and upbeat personality were infectious. They give credence to the Ryukyuan adage: *Ichariba choodee (行逢りば兄弟)* or “*Once we meet, we are brothers and sisters.*”

Victor Kinjo earned a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Campinas, writing about Okinawan diasporic identity, music, and performance. He completed his postdoctoral research at New York University. His ancestral roots are in Uruku (Oroku) Village in southern Okinawa.

The event was sponsored by the Genyukai Berkeley, Northern California Okinawa Kenjin-Kai (NCOKK), and the EastSide Arts Alliance & Cultural Center.

For more information about Victor Kinjo, please check these links:
spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/10pegOaMjCHp3d18uJG2t8>

instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/victorkinjo>

facebook: <http://www.facebook.com.br/oficialkinjo>

youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/victorkinjo>

<http://www.kinjo.com.br>

Victor Kinjo WOWS Oakland Crowd by Blake Hihara

Fresh off advocating for the Japanese government recognition of *Uchinaanchu* (Okinawans) as Indigenous peoples at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Victor Kinjo, Okinawan-Brazilian singer, researcher, performer, and all around *jiinumuchi* (polymath) blessed the Bay Area with a performance at the EastSide Arts Alliance in Oakland in May.

Come to the River – a concert and “*yutaku*” with Victor Kinjo, was sponsored by Genyukai Berkeley, an Okinawan music research and performance group, and the Northern Californian Okinawan Kenjin-Kai. Victor took us all on a trip down the river, sharing his motivations for research on Okinawan-Brazilian identity, his sources of musical inspiration, and the stage with Genyukai Berkeley and other musicians. Musical selections included American pop covers translated into Brazilian Portuguese, traditional Okinawan songs, and Victor’s original compositions. Victor targeted the heart with themes of love and environmental activism; protecting the waters of *Uchinaa* from U.S. military pollution and nurturing Okinawan culture passed down from elders to the new generations. He was on the mark. I was moved to tears by the group rendition of the beloved song “*Tinsagu nu hana.*”

Following the performance was the *yutaku* (free-flowing chat) where everyone shared ideas, food, and connection. This trip to the river left me emerging refreshed and grateful. I eagerly await Victor’s next visit to Northern California – until then we can spend the time with our own *yutaku* by the San Francisco Bay.

You can stay up to date with all things Victor Kinjo at his website: www.kinjo.com.br/en

Elder Financial Exploitation Program

A Kimochi Community Program on **ELDER FINANCIAL FRAUD** was held in May at the Kimochi Senior Center in San Francisco. Specialist Lester Quock was on hand to discuss ways to protect vulnerable people, including our elders, from criminal activity. The FBI’s Community Outreach Program supports the Bureau’s investigative mission by working to address multiple interrelated societal problems. He spoke about learning how to identify and prevent Elder Financial Fraud since this is a significant problem and is expected to become worse with the aging of America. Q&A session followed.

https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/scams_schemes_frauds/tips_for_preventing_elder_financial_exploitation#:~:text=Elder%20financial%20exploitation%20is%20the%20illegal%20or%20improper,products%20and%20services%20marketed%20specifically%20to%20the%20elderly.

<https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/advisory/2022-06-15/FinCEN%20Advisory%20Elder%20Financial%20Exploitation%20FINAL%200508.pdf>



78th Irei no Hi ~ 慰霊の日
(literally, “the day to console the dead”)

June 23, 1945 is the day the battle of Okinawa ended. 2023 marks the 78th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa, the last battle of the Pacific War.

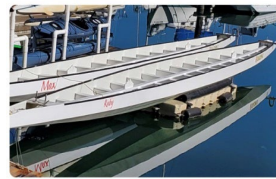
It was the only ground engagement of the Pacific War fought on Japanese soil. More than 240,000 people died, including 120,000 Okinawans, equivalent to one in four Okinawans, and almost 94,000 were local civilians.

Every year across the world, Okinawans and their descendants hold this event so we never forget the tremendous violence their ancestors and families suffered in their own homeland. *Irei no Hi* is a testament to their resilient survival.

This year they added another 365 names — 296 were Japanese sailors who went down with The Yamato, once the largest battleship afloat during WWII. It went down on April 7, 1945, during a one-way, last-ditch counterattack against U.S. forces on Okinawa. The number of names increased to 242,046 with this addition.

NCOCK and the Okinawa Study Group co-sponsored this moving event on June 24, 2023 online via Zoom. Interfaith services were conducted by **Rev. Ronald Y. Nakasone** (Buddhist) and **Rev. Donald Drummond** (Presbyterian). Testimonials were given by members **Fujiko Dandoy, Helen Austin, Fumi Gibbons, Avery London** and **Ryoma Nakagawa** who shared their experiences as survivors or descendants. Wesley Ueunten joined us from Okinawa to moderate the testimonies. A Q&A / *yuntaku* session followed.

Aerial photo pictured above: The Cornerstone of Peace at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park was erected in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War and the Battle of Okinawa.



Max & Ruby Dragon Boats

Paddles Up! Summer is here!

Did you know that NCOCK has a member who is crazy about Dragon Boat racing? Want to give it a try too? No experience necessary and all the gear is provided. DragonMax

meets at Berkeley Marina on Saturday mornings. If you like to play the ukulele, the DMAX ukulele group gets together most Saturdays after practice. Any NCOCK member can contact **Annette Adams** @ 916-675-2844 for more information. To learn more about Guest paddling, the Outreach program and membership, visit [Berkeley Racing Canoe Center – BRCC-Watersport in Berkeley \(thebrcc.org\)](http://BerkeleyRacingCanoeCenter-BRCC-WatersportinBerkeley.thebrcc.org).

めんそーれー

New Members / Address Changes as of 7/22/2023:

新会員加入 2023年7月22日付

Susan Detwiler

Iris & Jennifer Kaneshiro

Laney Tseng Northrup

Michael Smith



Address Change:

Ban Ishii

Shirley & Mario Nakane

THANK YOU to our generous members:

Donations to NCOCK:

Yoshiko & Tom Canevari

Keiko Mabrey

Hiroko & James Paramo, for NCOCK Scholarship Fund

Yukiko & Timothy Smith

Elaine & Rodger Takeuchi

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IN MEMORIAM: by Brian and Michael Smith



Toyo Bayhille (1933 – 2022) & Kazuko Bayhille (1961 – 2023)

There was a joint Celebration of Life on June 25 at Fairfield for Toyo Nakasone Bayhille who sadly passed away on January 29, 2022. She was a longtime and dedicated NCOKK member who lived in Fairfield. Toyo was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who loved to cook, craft things like origami paper *tsuru*, and host home parties for all her friends.

Her daughter Kazuko Bayhille passed away on February 8, 2023. She was also a NCOKK member and lived in Fairfield. Kazuko was known for her selflessness, generosity, and care for others. She was proud of her sons and the fact that she was a cancer survivor. Kazuko leaves behind sons Jonathan Smith, Michael Smith, Daniel Smith and Brian Smith, three grandchildren and family on Okinawa. Toyo and Kazuko were both born on Miyako-jima and moved to America with Bert Bayhille (US Air Force). Both will be missed by their families and friends.



Searching Your Family History, Part 2

by Juli Kodani

May was AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islanders) Heritage Month. Although AAPI people are often lumped together in the same ethnic category, the group comprises people from Southern, Southeast, Central and Western Asia, the Indian subcontinent and the Pacific Islands, each with its own unique culture, language and history. Since 1992, the entire month of May was selected because it marked two significant events in Asian American history – the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the US on May 7, 1843 and the anniversary of the completion of the first US transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, in a large part, thanks to the Chinese railway laborers.

In the Winter 2021 issue of *Tayui*, I shared my journey to uncover my father's family history in Alameda. Like a detective, I used many tools and online links to hunt and document pieces of information about his parents, sister and himself. Coincidentally a new-found friend who helped me with my project was a long-time historian in the Alameda Japanese American community. She happened to be working on the Alameda Japanese American History Project, funded by the National Parks Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program to research and conduct oral histories of those who lived through the era of evacuation, incarceration and post-war return. The current exhibit at the Alameda Free Library is a culmination of 3 years of research by a core of dedicated people, including my friend Jo Takata. The photos, video and audio testimonies, and texts from this project will be archived in the Densho Digital Repository and the Internet Archive.

If you don't know your family history, take the time to learn their stories before it's too late. Conduct interviews and record their Oral histories, preserve any documents, photographs, collections/artifacts and share them with a larger audience. There are compelling stories to tell and need to be passed on to future generations.

NCOKK Secretary **Ben Kobashigawa** suggested if you have old photos of historic value to our kenjin-kai, please share them with us so we can identify the people pictured and archive them for posterity before it is too late. This would be a very rewarding job and well worth doing.

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 NCOKK 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 NCOKK 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.

NCOKK Personal Contact Information Policy (as of July 2021)

Due to privacy concerns, the NCOKK 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 NCOKK 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 BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

A person between 80 and 89 is called an **octogenarian**. A person between 90 and 99 is called a **nonagenarian**. A person between 100 and 109 is called a **centenarian**. If you want to share an **80+** NCOKK member's birthday in *Tayui*, please send us their photo and a short summary.



Kiku Uechi Olsen (taken April 2023)

Sister of Teruko Uechi Canty, one of our original kenjinkai members and aunt of current member Ted Canty (upper right corner). She enjoys playing volleyball and gardening.

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