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JUNE 2026

# Tayui



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

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

As warm days continue and the trees that stood bare during the winter are now filled with fresh green leaves, we can truly feel the arrival of early summer. I hope all of our members are doing well and enjoying the season.

In April, Cherry Blossom Festivals were held throughout many communities, and I hope many of you had the opportunity to enjoy them. Our Kenjin-Kai participated in both the San Francisco and Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festivals, where our performances and activities were very well received by the audience.

Today, I would like to share some thoughts related to one of our organization's most important goals: building a sustainable future for our Kenjin-Kai.

Many of you may remember that in the previous issue of *Tayui*, I introduced the **Uchina Junior Study Program**, a program sponsored by Okinawa Prefecture for junior high and high school students. This year, four high school students from our Kenjin-Kai applied to participate.

This program provides young people with a meaningful opportunity to learn about Okinawan history and culture while deepening their understanding through direct interaction with people in Okinawa. However, only ten students from Okinawan communities around the world were selected this year.

Fortunately, one student from our Kenjin-Kai was selected once again. However, there are more than ninety-three overseas Okinawan Kenjin-Kai officially registered with Okinawa Prefecture, making it extremely difficult for any single organization to have multiple students selected each year. In addition, according to several Kenjin-Kai presidents in the United States, the program has become increasingly popular in recent years.

At the same time, I strongly feel that interest in Okinawan culture is growing among the younger generation within our own community as well. The increasing number of young participants in our *Eisa* group, as well as the record-high four applications from our Kenjin-Kai to the Uchina Junior Study Program this year, are clear signs of that growing interest.

Personally, I do not believe the number of participants accepted into the Uchina Junior Study Program will increase significantly in the future. This raises an important question: how can we continue to develop future community leaders in a sustainable way?

I believe the time has come for our Kenjin-Kai to seriously consider developing programs of our own. For example, we could create an independent program similar to the Uchina Junior Study Program—one that would allow younger generations to learn about Okinawan history and culture while building deeper connections through interaction with people in Okinawa. I believe initiatives like this will play a vital role in shaping the future of our Kenjin-Kai.

I would very much like to exchange ideas with members who have thoughts, experience, professional knowledge, or special talents related to this topic. The future of our Kenjin-Kai is an important issue that all of us should think about together. If you are interested, please feel free to contact our executive board at [info@ncokk.org](mailto:info@ncokk.org). We also hope to organize a Zoom discussion session in the near future to exchange ideas with interested members.

June 23 marks the 81st anniversary of Okinawa's Memorial Day following the end of the Battle of Okinawa. Our Kenjin-Kai will hold a memorial event on June 28. This year, we are fortunate to offer both an in-person gathering at J-Sei and participation through Zoom.

In addition, our annual summer picnic will be held on July 26. This year, several staff members from the Okinawa Prefectural Library are scheduled to attend. We believe this will be a particularly valuable opportunity for anyone interested in researching their Okinawan roots and family history. Further details will be announced by email at a later date, and we warmly encourage everyone to participate.

As the weather continues to grow warmer, please remember to stay hydrated and take good care of your health. "Nuchi du Takara"

ハイサイ、グスーヨー、チューウガナビラ！

毎日暖かい日が続き、冬の間に落葉していた木々にも若々しい葉がすっかり生い茂り、初夏の訪れを感じる季節となりました。会員の皆様におかれましては、いかがお過ごしでしょうか。

四月には各地で桜祭りが開催され、皆様も楽しまれたことと思います。我が県人会も、サンフランシスコ市およびクパティノ市の桜祭りに参加し、多くの観客の皆様から大変ご好評をいただきました。

さて、今回は当県人会の大きな目標である「持続可能な県人会の発展」に関連してお話したいと思います。

皆様は前回の「たゆい」にて、沖縄県が中学生・

高校生を対象とした「ウチナー・ジュニアスタディー・プログラム」を実施していることをご紹介したので覚えていらっしゃるでしょうか。今年は当県人会から四名の高校生が応募いたしました。

このプログラムは、沖縄の歴史や文化を学び、現地の人々との交流を通して理解と関心を深めることができる、大変意義深いものです。しかしながら、世界各地の沖縄系中高生の中から本年選ばれたのは、わずか十名でした。

幸いにも、今年は当県人会から一名が選出されました。*(continued on pg.3)*



(L to R): Kalen, Jason, Alton, Revin, Lisa Motoyama (El Cerrito Mayor at the time) & Amy

## From Solano Sparkle to El Cerrito Spirit: The Family Legacy Behind Anime Island

by Amy & Jason Yamashiro

A vibrant hub of Japanese pop culture has taken root in El Cerrito, but its foundation was laid decades ago on the neighboring streets of Berkeley and Albany. Anime Island, A family-owned destination for anime - themed

merchandise trading cards, and community tournaments, is more than just a retail space—it is the latest chapter in a decades-long East Bay legacy.

At the center of this new venture is NCOKK member Amy Yamashiro (who is also Christine's daughter and Jane's sister) the store's co-owner and the "mom" of the operation. While Anime Island might feel like a modern departure from traditional retail, Amy's approach to business is deeply rooted in the lessons she learned from her late father, Richard Yamashiro.

**A Golden Legacy on Solano Avenue** For over 50 years, Richard Yamashiro, a Japanese American with proud Okinawan roots and an early kenjinkai member, owned and operated Richard's Jewelers. It wasn't just a shop; it was a local institution.

Amy recalls a unique, "old-school" business philosophy that defined her father's tenure: this jewelry store's back door was often left unlocked so that friends could walk in, pour themselves a cup of coffee, and visit with Richard as they made their way to the front. People would stop in because they saw another friend's car parked outside. This sense of hospitality and communal belonging is what Amy and her family have sought to replicate at Anime Island.

**The Next Generation's Vision** While the entrepreneurial spirit was inherited, the spark for Anime Island came from the youngest members of the family. Amy's three sons—Kalen, Alton, and Revin—are the reason the store exists.

Growing up in the East Bay, all three boys spent a lot of time watching anime and playing trading card games. During the pandemic, the family spent hours marathoning series together, but the boys' subsequent attempts to find merchandise led to disappointment. What began as a diatribe about the inadequacy of available "merch" at reasonable prices, grew into a recognition of the opportunity to enrich their community. The boys pitched, Jason and Amy listened and agreed, and a full-scale family business was born.

**A New Community Hub** Since its grand opening in May 2023 and its subsequent move to a larger space within the El Cerrito Plaza, Anime Island has quickly become the "vibrant island" the family envisioned. The store not only hosts weekly tournaments for *Pokemon*, *Magic: The Gathering*, *One Piece*, and other TCGs, but stocks an impressive variety of reasonably priced anime-themed merchandise. And Kalen and Alton moving into store management has provided the capacity to plan for a new location opening at the *Vacaville Premium Outlet Mall* this summer!

From the Okinawan heritage of Richard's jewelry shop to Japanese pop culture at Anime Island, this throughline is a testament to the power of family, heritage, and listening to the next generation. For the Yamashiro family (Amy's husband Jason took the Yamashiro name), the business isn't just about selling products—it's about providing that space for the community to thrive. **NOTE:** Check out their website: [www.animeislandca.com](http://www.animeislandca.com)

## Representing NCOKK at LooChoo Identity Summit

by Avery Yara London

*Haisai!* My name is Avery, I'm one of the NCOKK members who traveled to O'ahu last March to attend the 12th annual **LooChoo Identity Summit**, where Okinawan elders and youth came together to discuss issues like Ryukyuan language and traditional music revitalization. The Okinawan nonprofit who organized it, *Ukwanshin Kabudan*, was very welcoming and supportive of Summit attendees from California. They worked hard coordinating the event, despite the torrential rainfall in Hawai'i during this time! The day before the Summit, Governor Josh Green shut down government buildings, including Windward Community College where the Summit was originally supposed to be held! Throughout the night in heavy rain, organizers moved equipment from Windward across the island to Honolulu. We were able to start on Saturday with a touching ceremony of singing *Tinsagu nu Hana* in the rain.

As part of the LooChoo Identity Summit, many musical groups played traditional music, including *Kunjan Sabakui*, *Asadoya Yunta*, and various other *shima uta*. Several modern Okinawan musicians like Brandon Ufugusuku Ing demonstrated how he continues creating new art in Okinawan language, by blending *sanshin* with electric guitar and writing educational songs. Several panelists from across Hawai'i, California, Oregon, and Okinawa Island talked about their experience leading community activism in their hometowns. In addition, Māori scholars Tahau and Genae Thompson travelled all the way from New Zealand to talk about the Māori language reclamation movement and the Indigenous networking of Okinawan and Pacific Islander scholars. It was a very moving event to attend and I am deeply grateful for all of *Ukwanshin Kabudan's* support.

If anyone from the NCOKK is interested in attending, especially college students, this summit is hosted every year in March and *Ukwanshin Kabudan* funds students traveling to O'ahu! You can find further information here: <https://loochooidentity.org/>.

**NOTE:** Avery was a 2023 NCOKK high school scholarship recipient and is also currently conducting an Oral History project as an Ethnic Studies student at Pomona College in Southern California. He is interviewing and investigating how Okinawan educators in the diaspora are helping language and cultural reclamation (the community-driven process of reviving, restoring and asserting indigenous or marginalized languages and traditions). This project is taking him this summer to both Southern and Northern California and Hawaii.

## 2026 CALENDAR of EVENTS

### イベントカレンダー:

**June 28, 2026**

Irei no Hi, Commemorating 81st Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa

J-Sei Community Center, 1285 66th Street, Emeryville (off I-580), 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

慰霊の日、沖縄戦終戦 81周年記念

2026年6月28日 詳細は後日お知らせいたします, 時間2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

**July 26, 2026**

NCOKK Summer Family Potluck Picnic, Crown Memorial State Beach, Crolls Garden Picnic Area

(between McKay Avenue and Eighth Street), Alameda, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Online reservation link for the picnic will be emailed to members later.



**September 20, 2026** NCOKK Keiro-kai (Respect for the Aged Day), TO BE ANNOUNCED

(continued from pg. 1)しかし、海外（日本国外）には九十三以上の沖縄県人会が沖縄県に登録されており、そのような状況の中で、一つの県人会から毎年複数名が選ばれることは極めて難しいと思われまます。さらに、米国内の県会会長らの話によりますと、このプログラムは近年ますます人気が高まっているそうです。

一方で、我が県人会においても、若い世代の間で沖縄文化への関心が高まっていることを強く感じています。我がエイサーグループに若い世代の参加者が増えていること、そして「ウチナー・ジュニアスタディー・プログラム」に過去最多となる四名の応募があったことも、その表れではないでしょうか。

私は、今後「ウチナー・ジュニアスタディー・プログラム」の参加人数が大幅に増えることは難しいと考えております。では、これからの若い世代のリーダーを、どのように持続可能な形で育成していけばよいのでしょうか。

私は今こそ、我が県人会独自の取り組みを具体的に検討すべき時期に来ていると考えております。例えば、「ウチナー・ジュニアスタディー・プログラム」のように、沖縄の歴史や文化を学び、現地の人々と交流しながら理解を深めることのできる独自プログラムの構想です。これは、将来の当県人会の発展を左右する重要な取り組みになると考えております。

この件につきまして、多くの考えやご意見、専門的な知識や才能をお持ちの方々と、ぜひ意見交換をさせていただきたいと思っております。県人会の将来は、会員の皆様全員で考えていくべき大切な課題です。ご関心をお持ちの方は、ぜひ執行部までEメール（[info@ncokk.org](mailto:info@ncokk.org)）にてご連絡くださいますようお願いいたします。また、この件に関しましては、近いうちにZoomを通じた意見交換の場も設けたいと考えております。

六月二十三日は、沖縄県では戦後八十一年目の「慰霊の日」を迎えます。当県人会でも六月二十八日に慰霊行事を行う予定です。今年は幸いにも、J-Sei会場とZoomの両方を利用して開催いたします。

また、七月二十六日には恒例の夏のピクニックを開催いたします。今年は沖縄県立図書館のスタッフ数名もご参加予定です。特に、ご自身のルーツ探しに関心をお持ちの方々にとっては、大変良い機会になるかと思ひます。詳細につきましては、後日Eメールにてご案内いたしますので、多くの皆様にご参加いただければ幸いです。

これから暑い日が続くかと思いますが、水分補給を十分に行い、どうぞ健康に気をつけてお過ごしください。「ヌチドゥ宝」

**めんそーれー**

**New Members / Address Changes as of May 31, 2026:**

新会員加入 2026年5月31日付

Janet Keintz

Mark Shigenaga

John Wood

Kimberly Yagi



**Thank you to our generous members:**  
**Donations to NCOKK:**

Kazuko Bray

Kay K. Chung

Steve Matsumoto, grant from Fidelity Charitable

Bea & Yukie Shiroma

Sam & Norma Uchihara

James Yamada, in memory of Jeanette Yamashiro

(If you made a donation in money or in-kind and we did not recognize you by name, please know that it was not intentional. We appreciate all the support we receive and will make every effort to acknowledge you in the future. Thank you for your understanding.)



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





## Support Is Passed On

by Yoshiya Kinjo 金城吉哉

### A Single Notebook

In the fall of 2024, I left Tsukazan, Haeburu Town in Okinawa, and came to America alone. Inside my suitcase, I carried an old notebook. It belonged to my grandfather. During the American administration of Okinawa, he received a military scholarship and studied economics at Michigan State University. The notebook still held his handwritten lecture notes and his name, exactly as he had left them. Before I boarded my flight, I took it from his house. I thought of it as a kind of good luck charm.

### My Grandfather Crossed the Same Ocean

Looking out the airplane window at the Pacific Ocean, I thought about how my grandfather had crossed this same sea, and how he had once looked up at the Golden Gate Bridge. When he made that journey, Okinawa was still under American administration. I can no longer ask him what he was feeling then. But whenever studying became too hard, or the unfamiliar environment wore me down, I would open the notebook and look at the traces of his handwriting. It felt as though he was telling me: "I studied until my eyes bled, and that is how I succeeded. You can do it too, Yoshiya."

### "Which Part of Okinawa Are You From?"

Back in Okinawa, people often ask when they meet someone: "Where are you from?" Because Okinawa is a small island, knowing which village or city someone comes from can instantly create a sense of connection. It is a way of saying, "We may have something in common." That kind of warmth, the instinct to reach toward the person next to you, is something a notebook alone cannot provide.

That was when I found about the Northern California Okinawa Kenjin-Kai (NCOKK). At my first event, members came up and asked, "Which part of Okinawa are you from?" Such a simple question, yet it made my chest grow warm. There was a place where being Uchinanchu was enough to be welcomed. The Okinawa Kenjin Kai became, for me, a place I could return to in a foreign land. I found myself wondering whether my grandfather, studying in Michigan, had found something like this, too.

### Culture Lives on Through the People Who Carry It

Okinawa's history of emigration reaches back to the Meiji era. In 1899, the first Okinawan immigrants arrived in Hawaii. From there, Okinawan people made their way to Brazil, Peru, the Philippines, and many other parts of the world. In unfamiliar lands where the language and customs were entirely different, what they held onto was the bond with others who shared their hometown. That bond eventually took the form of kenjin kai.

At Kenjin Kai events, I watched members perform *Eisa* and Ryukyuan dance. Seeing them in Okinawan dress, moving to the sound of the taiko drum on American soil, I thought about those who had crossed the ocean long before us and kept Okinawan culture alive. After the *taiko* fell silent at the end of a New Year gathering or a Keirokai (Respect-for-the-Aged celebration), something lingered in the room. In that quiet, I understood: in a foreign land, across generations, Okinawan people have always remained Okinawan. Culture survives because someone protects it and someone passes it on. And I began to think that the act of supporting one another, may itself be part of Okinawan culture.

## With Gratitude

This fall, I will transfer from Foothill College to UC Berkeley to study Molecular and Cell Biology. It has not been an easy road, but my grandfather's notebook and the warmth of the NCOKK community carried me through. The home I live in now was also introduced to me through the Okinawa Kenjin-Kai. I want to express my deepest gratitude to my host family, **Yoshiko and Tom Canavari**. They cooked for me every day without fail. On nights when the lab kept me until 10 o'clock at night, a warm meal was always waiting when I got home. Coming back exhausted I'd find *tebichi* (a traditional Okinawan dish made of slow-simmered pig's feet) on the table. I cannot fully put into words how much that meant to me!

I am still searching for housing in Berkeley. The rent is high, and it has not been easy, but I think of it as simply another obstacle to get through. Someday, I hope to be for someone else what Yoshiko and Tom have been for me, and to give back in some way to everyone in the Kenjin Kai who made this journey possible. THANK YOU!

**Note:** You may remember that Yoshiya wrote an article in the Spring 2025 issue of *Tayui*.



支えは、受け継がれる  
一冊のノート

2024年の秋、私は沖縄県南風原町津嘉山からひとりでアメリカへ渡りました。スーツケースの中に、一冊の古いノートを入れて。そのノートは、祖父が残したものです。祖父はアメリカ統治時代、米軍の奨学金でミシガン州立大学の経済学部で留学していました。英語で書かれた講義のメモや彼の名前の跡が、そのまま残っていました。お守りのつもりでそれを渡米する前に、祖父の家から持ち出しました。

### 同じ海を、先人も渡った

飛行機の窓から太平洋を見ながら、祖父もこの海を渡り、ゴールデンブリッジを見上げたのだと思いました。祖父が渡ったころ、沖縄はまだアメリカの統治下にありました。どんな気持ちで渡ったのか、今は直接聞くことができません。ただ、勉強が辛いときや慣れない環境に疲れたとき、ノートを開いて、彼の文字の跡を見ると、なんとなく背中を押してもらえた気がしました。彼は私に「私も目から血が出るほど勉強したから、成功できたのだ。吉哉にもできる」と言ってるようでした。

### 沖縄のどこから来たの？

沖縄で、道を歩いていると「あなた、どこからきたの？」と言われる。それは些細な質問かもしれないが、その言葉には私とあなたの共通点を少しでも探そうとする沖縄ならではの温かい質問かもしれない。そのような温かさや、隣にいる人に自然と手を差し伸べたくなるような気持ちは、ノートだけでは得られないものです。

そんなときに出会ったのが、北カリフォルニア沖縄県人会でした。初めて参加したとき、皆さんが「沖縄のどこから来たの？」と声をかけてくれました。それだけのことなのに、なぜか胸が熱くなりました。「ウチナーンチュ」というだけで自然に迎えてもらえる場所がある。県人会は私にとって、異国の地での「帰れる場所」になりました。祖父がミシガンで学んでいたとき、彼にもこういう存在があったのだろうか、ふと思いました。 (continued on pg.7)



### Uchina Junior Study Program Winner

by Zoe Calhoun

Being selected for the Uchina Junior Study program in Okinawa is something I feel incredibly proud and excited about. When I first found out I was chosen, I was overjoyed. (There were 4 applicants from the NCOKK membership.) Out of many students, being given this opportunity feels like a real achievement and a recognition of my work and curiosity.

What makes this even more meaningful to me is the chance to connect more deeply with Okinawa itself. I've always been interested in learning about its history, traditions, and everyday life, but being part of this program means I will be able to experience Okinawa firsthand. I'm excited to learn from people directly, explore new places, and understand the culture.

Another special part of this trip is the opportunity to visit family. Being able to spend time with relatives and strengthen those connections makes this experience feel even more personal. I feel proud not only as a student, but also as part of a family with ties to Okinawa. It's a chance to learn more about where I come from and to build memories with people, I may not get to see often.



Overall, I feel extremely grateful for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to everything I will learn, the people I will meet, and the experiences that will stay with me long after the program ends



**Note:** Zoe is the daughter of Megan and Matthew Calhoun. From North America each year, only 1 representative is selected from mainland US and 1 from Hawaii, while the remaining slots are reserved for participants from other countries. Congratulations, Zoe! She will be following in the footsteps of 2021 recipient, Kai Tomita, who was unable to study in Okinawa, due to Covid.

The goal of the *Uchina Junior Study Program* is to develop various *Kenjinkai* communities around the world by fostering the next generation of youth to lead the Uchinanchu Network. NCOKK has taken an active interest in assisting applicants vying for the summer program and the year-long *Kempi* scholarship. It is a very competitive field with preparation a year in advance sometimes the norm. Educating the NCOKK membership about the requirements and the selection process will hopefully enable more students to apply.

If you know of any child or grandchild of an NCOKK member in good standing, between the ages of 13 and 18 (for Uchina Junior Study Tour) or college-age (for *Kempi*), please consider this wonderful opportunity for them to study in Okinawa. Let us know if they're interested since it's not too late to begin preparing for 2027!



### A Different Perspective

by Amir Adel

Hello everyone! Last year I spent one year living in Okinawa studying at a Japanese language school (ICLC Okinawa), as well as learning more about my Okinawan heritage. (**Note:** Amir is

the son of Miana Ziomek Adel.)

With the help of NCOKK, I was able to receive a scholarship that allowed me to study free of charge after graduating from UC Davis. I wanted to take some time to share some of my experiences and how my time in Okinawa broadened my perspective on how to live a fulfilling life.

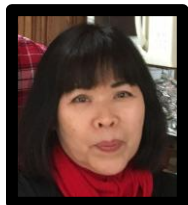
It was a scary transition, going from a society I knew, to one where I didn't even know how to properly order food. But it was simple experiences like this that I look back on and realize how much I've grown with being comfortable in the uncomfortable. With my time in a multicultural school, I also learned much more about other cultures as well. Our classes were from a mix of people from all over the world, to fellow Uchinanchu from Brazil, Nepalese students looking to find jobs, or Chinese students looking to start anew. Being involved with a vast array of people and cultures showed me much more of what there is to life in terms of values and beliefs.

In terms of my cultural study, I was able to learn *sanshin* weekly, practice the technical movements of *eisa*, as well as participating in local events. To start, I was able to learn more about Okinawan *sanshin* from a sensei in Ginowan. Being able to learn firsthand was an amazing experience, I was also allowed to practice in their *sanshin* group where we played traditional Okinawan music. Through the help of staff at my school, I was also able to learn more of the intricacies of *eisa* with the famous group, Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko. I relearned the details of basic movement as well as being able to participate in the biggest *eisa* festival in Okinawa (is there a name or month, i.e. summer). In terms of local festivals, I participated in the *Naha Harii*, a longstanding traditional dragon boat race with fellow peers of Okinawan descent. These experiences are just a peek into my time in Okinawa, but are truly some of the most unforgettable moments of my life.

In terms of my major takeaways from my time spent there, I would say it's how I see connection. During my day-to-day life I realized just how happy people are with much less than we have in America. The biggest shift in my perspective was realizing that living in the moment and prioritizing meaningful connections and experiences is far more fulfilling than our materialistic society.

I am truly glad to have had this experience and encourage any person, young or old, to try something similar, if they are willing and able.





### In Memoriam

Sachiko Wood 1949 – 2026  
by John Wood

Sachiko (Nashiro) Wood, age 76, passed away at her home in Fairfield, CA on January 29, 2026. Her husband, John D. Wood, and her daughter, Jenny M. Wood, were with her as she took her last breath. She was born on July 29, 1949 in Nago, Okinawa to Seizen and Yoshi (Yafuso) Nashiro. She married John David Wood on December 20, 1973, in Cypress, Texas.

Sachiko grew up in Okinawa and prior to her marriage to John, worked and went to school in Gifu (Japan) where she studied fashion design. After her marriage to John, she traveled and lived in many places including Galveston (TX), Okinawa, Palau Western Caroline Islands, Cypress (TX), San Diego, Honolulu, New York City, and London (England) before moving to Fairfield in 1990. The last 3-1/2 years of her life was spent mostly in Kochi and Tokyo, touring Japan, and traveling to Okinawa and Fairfield from time to time.

Sachiko was a wonderful mother to her two children and a fantastic wife to her husband. Amazingly, while raising a family, she also was a true entrepreneur. After moving to the US, she began work in Galveston (TX) as a specialized seamstress who designed and made customized women's clothes. In Cypress (TX) and San Diego, she worked with interior decorators specializing in window draperies for clients. While in Honolulu, she worked in sales at a sports boutique and started a business designing and making children's clothes. In New York City, she worked as a waitress at a Japanese restaurant in the Wall Street area, learning the restaurant business. She took that knowledge and helped an investor start a Japanese restaurant. She also worked as a street vendor selling all types of merchandise, interfacing with many interesting people. While in London, she worked in sales at a high-end Japanese tourist store, "Irigusia" (a subsidiary of Japan Airlines), where she became a very successful buyer for the store.

Sachiko had many interests which included sports, art, calligraphy, flower arranging, gardening, studying English and cooking. She excelled in learning new recipes everywhere she went and her dishes were second to none. She continued art and English studies at Solano Collage and began working as a Lancome and Shiseido makeup specialist, eventually recruited by Shiseido as a counter manager at Macy's. She also went back to school and received a California Esthetician license. Before retiring, she worked as an independent makeup artist traveling to many stores around the Bay area, including Macy's and Nordstrom stores in the Bay Area.

Sachiko is survived by her husband, John David Wood, and her two children, Jenny Michelle Wood (Andre Fedorov), and Christopher Masami Wood (Ayako Sophie), along with three grandchildren, Jordan Rinne', Noah Wood, and Nathan Wood and a step granddaughter, Zoe Fedorov. She is also survived by a brother, Masakatsu Nashiro and four sisters, Yoko Nashiro, Yasuko Yamanoha, Tsuneko Yamashiro, Kazuko Jahana on Okinawa and one sister, Mitsuko Mitani in Mie Prefecture and many nieces and nephews in Japan.

*Sachiko lived a life shaped by adventure, creativity, and love – her spirit will remain with us always. (Note: John wrote the attached poem for her)*

### 追悼 (In Memoriam)

By John Wood Japanese Translation  
ウッド・サチコ (旧姓：名城)  
1949年 - 2026年

ウッド (旧姓：名城) 幸子 (享年76歳) は、2026年1月29日、カリフォルニア州フェアフィールドの自宅にて永眠いたしました。最期は夫のジョン・D・ウッドと娘のジュニー・M・ウッドが見守るなか、静かに息を引き取りました。幸子は1949年7月29日、沖縄県名護市にて、父・名城政善、母・ヨシ (旧姓：屋比久) の間に生まれました。1973年12月20日、テキサス州サイプレスにてジョン・デヴィッド・ウッドと結婚いたしました。

沖縄で育った幸子は、結婚前に岐阜県にてファッションデザインを学び、研鑽を積みました。結婚後は、テキサス州ガルベストン、沖縄、パラオ諸島、サイプレス、サンディエゴ、ホノルル、ニューヨーク、そしてロンドン (英国) と世界各地を巡り、1990年にフェアフィールドに移住いたしました。晩年の3年半は、主に高知と東京に滞在して日本各地を旅し、時折沖縄やフェアフィールドを訪れる日々を過ごしました。

幸子は二人の子供にとって素晴らしい母親であり、夫にとっては最高の妻でした。驚くべきことに、家庭を支えながら起業家としても類まれな才能を発揮しました。渡米後、ガルベストンにて婦人服のオーダーメイドを手掛ける熟練の仕立職人としてキャリアをスタートさせました。その後、サイプレスやサンディエゴではインテリアデコレーターと共に窓のドレープ (カーテン) 装飾を専門に手掛け、ホノルルではスポーツブティックでの販売に加え、子供服のデザイン・製作事業を立ち上げました。

ニューヨークでは、ウォール街近くの日本食レストランで働きながら飲食ビジネスを学び、その知識を活かして投資家によるレストランの立ち上げを支援しました。また、露天商として様々な商品を販売し、多様な人々との交流を楽しみました。ロンドン滞在時には、日本航空系列の高級免税店「イリグシア」にて、バイヤーとして大きな成功を収めました。

幸子の関心は多岐にわたり、スポーツ、芸術、書道、生け花、ガーデニング、英語学習、そして料理を深く愛しました。行く先々で新しいレシピを習得し、その腕前は誰にも引けを取らないほどでした。ソラノ・カレッジにて美術と英語の学習を続けながら、「ランコム」や「資生堂」のメイクアップ・スペシャリストとして活躍し、その後、資生堂に請われてメイシーズのカウンターマネージャーに就任しました。さらに、カリフォルニア州のエステティシャン免許を取得。引退前はフリーランスのメイクアップアーティストとして、メイシーズやノードストロームなどベイエリア各地の店舗を飛び回りました。

遺族には、夫のジョン・デヴィッド・ウッド、長女のジュニー・ミシェル・ウッド (夫：アンドレイ・フェドロフ)、長男のクリストファー・正巳・ウッド (妻：アヤコ・ソフィー) がおります。また、孫のジョーダン・凜、ノア・ウッド、ネイサン・ウッド、そして継孫のゾーイ・フェドロフがおります。

また、親族には、兄の名城政勝、姉の洋子、妹の山入端安子、恒子 (山城)、謝花和子、そして三重県の妹・三谷光子、さらに日本国内に多くの甥や姪がおり、幸子の旅立ちを惜しんでいます。 (continued on pg.7)

(continued from pg. 6) 冒険心、創造性、そして愛に満ちた幸子の生涯は、私たちの心の中に永遠に生き続けます。  
遺族】

### To my wife the Flower of my Life

God looked around His garden  
and He found an empty place,  
He looked down upon this  
earth and saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you  
and lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful.  
He always takes the best

He knew that you were suffering,  
He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
get well on earth again.

He saw your road was getting rough  
And your hills were hard to climb.  
So, He closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered, "Pease be thine".

It truely broke my heart to lose you  
but you didn't go alone.  
For part of me went with you  
The day God called you home.



## 私の人生の華であった妻へ (To my wife, the flower of my life)

神様が庭を眺めて、空いている場所を見つけました。  
そして地上を見下ろし、あなたの疲れ切った顔を見つけました。  
神様はあなたを抱き寄せ、安らぎへと導きました。  
神様の庭はきっと美しいのでしょう、いつも一番素敵な人を連れて行くのだから。

あなたが苦しんでいることも、痛みの中にいることも、  
地上では二度と元気になれないことも、神様は知っていました。  
道が陰しくなり、丘を登るのが辛くなったのを見て、  
神様はあなたの疲れ果てた顔を閉じ、「安らかに」と囁きました。

あなたを失い、私の心は本当に引き裂かれました。  
けれど、あなたは一人で行ったのではありません。  
神様があなたを天に呼んだあの日、私の一部もあなたと一緒に旅立ったのです。

(continued from pg. 4)

文化は、支えとともに生きている

県人会の活動で、エイサーや琉球舞踊を披露する場に立ち会いました。アメリカの地で沖縄の衣装をまとい、太鼓の音とともに踊る姿を見て、琉球の先人たちが海を渡りながらも沖縄の文化を守り続けてきたことを思いました。新年会や敬老会の終盤のカチャーシーの太鼓の音が静まったあと、会場に残った余韻の中で、遠い昔も、今も、沖縄の人は異国の地で沖縄であり続けてきたのだと気づきました。文化は、誰かが守り、誰かが伝えることで生き続けるのだと感じました。そして、支え合うことそのものが、沖縄の文化なのかもしれないとも思いました。

皆さんへの感謝を胸に

この秋から、Foothill CollegeからUC Berkeley のMolecular and Cell Biology (分子・細胞生物学) 専攻に編入することが決まりました。簡単な道ではありませんでしたが、祖父のノートと、県人会の皆さんの温かさが支えになりました。実は、今住んでいる家も、県人会を通じて紹介していただきました。ホームステイ先のYoshiko CanavariさんとTom Canavariさんには、特別な感謝を伝えたいと思います。毎日手料理を作ってくださり、夜の十時までラボがある日も、温かい食事が待っていました。疲れて帰っても食卓にテレビがある。その安心感がどれほどありがたかったか、言葉では言い尽くせません。

Berkeleyに移ったあとの住居は、まだ探している最中です。家賃が高く、なかなか見つからないのが正直なところです。でも、これもまた乗り越えるべき壁のひとつだと思っています。いつか私も、誰かにとってのYoshikoさんやTomさんのような存在になれるよう、そして県人会の皆さんへの恩返しができるよう、これからも歩んでいきたいと思っています。

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@ncokk.org)にお知らせください。



## UYEHARA TRAVEL TOUR HIGHLIGHTS 2026

- **July 27 – August 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Brazil/Argentina Tour, \$3,500.00  
plus air fare**
- **2027 Uchinanchu Festival –  
October 27 – 31, 2027  
Mark your calendars!**

### 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**. Please make sure that you check **for friends and family and NOT for goods and services**. We hope that this will make it easier for everyone to pay their membership dues, etc.

For those who prefer to pay online:

Venmo  
@NCOKK  
or [ncokk2020@gmail.com](mailto:ncokk2020@gmail.com)

PayPal:  
[ncokk2020@gmail.com](mailto:ncokk2020@gmail.com)

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



**Note our NEW address:**

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