



2023 KEIRO-KAI RECAP

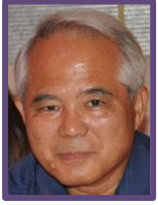
Scattered showers on Sunday, October 22 didn't deter about 150 brave souls from showing up for the 2023 *Keiro-kai* at the San Mateo Buddhist Temple. This year we honored 23 *Keiro-sha* (members over 80 years), 19 women and 4 men and 6 *Toshihi* (born in 1939 or 1951, some also *Keiro-sha*) with free bento and goody bags. Among the *Keiro-sha*, were 2 couples who were BOTH Honorees: **Yoneko & Thomas Rieker** and **Matsue & Wayland Woo**. 10/22 also happened to be the actual birthday of **Tamiko Uyehara** of Uyehara Travel from Los Angeles!

This year's event began with President **Tetsuo Ishisoko** requesting a moment of silence for members **Kazuko Bayhille** and **Shizue Hori** who sadly passed away this year. After his greeting, Co-MC's **Samina Adel & Minami Cohen** took over the mic by introducing VIP's from the Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco, **Hajime Kishimori** and **Yusuke Shimada**. A speech was made by Chief Consul Kishimori. Next, the customary *kanpai ondo* toast was performed by **Harumi Ducharme**, President of Sacramento Okinawa Kenjin Kai.

During the program, 5 new members were introduced: **Emma Anderson**, **Susan Detwiler**, **Iris Kaneshiro** (a *Keiro-sha*), **Kyoko McCloud**, and **Junyu Satoh**. Our Past President from 2003 – 2009, **Yasuharu Matt Matayoshi**, said a few words since he and **Corina** will soon be leaving the Bay Area.

We also had a few visitors from out-of-town: visiting her son **Kazuki Kinjo** from Okinawa City was **Sueko Kinjo** and visiting his mother **Eiko Studier** (a *Keiro-sha*) was son **Johann Studier** of New York. It was nice to have them both join us for the festivities!

The traditional opening dance *Kagiyadefu* was performed by **Master Kinuko Mototake**, Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisenkai Kinuko Mototake Ryubu Kenkyusho USA. Later, **Okinawa Eisaa Shimadaiko** performed *Tachiutushi*, *Miruku Munari* and other spirited traditional *taiko* music. Performing *Shishimai* were **Mai Miyagi**, **Blake Hihara** and **Emi Namba** followed by **Ryoko Oda** and **Akiko Journey** dancing *Ichubigwa*. Scattered throughout the afternoon were songs by **Kyoko Kohama**, **Akiko Nagayama** and **Al Perez**. Two storytelling hula numbers were beautifully performed by **Sue Harnett**. During a program break, the ceremonial cake cutting was done by our oldest member in attendance – **Michiko Fujii** who is 97 years young! Uta Sanshin by **Toyoko Araki & Friends** **Tsutomu & Fumiyo Tomita**, **Keiko Nakamura** invited the crowd in a sing-along! Entertaining us with *Kurushima Kuduchi* were **Master Kinuko Mototake**, **Mai Miyagi**, **Akiko Journey**, **Ryoko Oda**, **Blake Hihara**, **Emi Namba** (her last stage performance before returning to Japan), **Suzuka Suarez**, **Tsuneko Silva** and **Keiko Nakamura**. The finale was **Master Kinuko Mototake's** rousing *Bu nu Mai*. The traditional *eisaa* and *kacha-shi* with the **Okinawa Eisaa Shimadaiko** for the enjoyment of everyone dancing concluded this year's *Keiro-kai*! (continued on pg. 4)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

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

The mornings and evenings are getting cooler and the fall season has arrived. Leaves change colors in some places. How are you all doing? This summer was extremely hot, but I think it has become pleasant weather.

This year's *Keirokai* (Respect for the Aged Day) was held about a month later than usual at San Mateo Buddhist Temple. We were worried how the participation would be, but were very grateful that the hall was full of members. Thanks to our *Geino-bu* (Performing Arts Committee) and the many volunteers, we were able to complete the *Keirokai* successfully. Thank you very much to all the volunteers for all your good work.

October 30th is World Uchinanchu Day. It was established in 2016 at the 6th World Uchinanchu Festival with the hope that Okinawan culture will be carefully preserved, the identity of *Uchinanchu* will be passed on to children and grandchildren, and the Uchinanchu network that has been built around the world will be inherited and continue to prosper. I believe that your love for the Okinawa Kenjinkai is a sign that you are proud of your identity as an *Uchinanchu*. I also believe that it is our responsibility to pass on our *Uchinanchu* identity to our children and grandchildren.

The Maui wildfires that occurred in August caused extensive damage and killed more than 100 people. It was a huge shock for *Uchinanchu*. In the past, many *Uchinanchu* were active in Lahaina, Maui. In the aftermath of World War II, many relief supplies were sent to Okinawa in hopes of rebuilding their home prefecture. I believe, at the time of any disaster, many of our members made donations in the spirit of *Uchina's Yuimaru*. NCOCK will also donate. "We, *Uchinanchu* have an indomitable spirit to overcome hardships," says the World Uchinanchu Day proclamation, and Maui will recover strongly. I pray that the people of Maui can return to normal life soon.

There are wars going on in various parts of the world right now. In Okinawa, military bases are increasing on the Sakishima Islands to strengthen defense capabilities. As the World Uchinanchu Day proclamation states, "We, *Uchinanchu* have peace-loving hearts." As peace-loving people, we are heartbroken with the war situation. I hope that the conflict will end soon and that there will be world peace.

In order to improve the management of the *Kenjinkai*, we need a variety of opinions and ideas. The board of directors is recruiting board members. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact me or other board members.

There are less than two months left in this year and the weather gets colder. There is potential that you will be exposed to sickness as you gather family and friends during Thanksgiving and the holidays since it is flu season and coronavirus infections have not completely disappeared. Please take preventive measures and receive the necessary vaccinations. So please pay attention to you and your family's health. We look forward to seeing all of you at next year's *Shinnenkai*, New Year Celebration on February 18, 2024. "*Nuchi du Takara*"

ハイサイ、グスーヨー、チューウガナビラ！

朝夕すっかり涼しくなり、秋の季節となりまして、紅葉も所々で見られるようになりました。皆様はいかがお過ごしでしょうか？今年の夏は猛暑が続いたので、過ごしやすい季節になっていると思います。

今年の敬老会は例年より約一か月遅れのイベントでいろいろ心配しましたが、会場一杯の方がご参加していただき、有難うございました。芸能部及び多くのボランティアの皆様のお陰でつつがなく、敬老会を終える事ができました。ご苦労様でした。そして、有難うございました。

10月30日は世界のウチナンチュの日です。この記念日は世界中に広がるはウチナーネットワークの継承・発展を願い、ウチナンチュであることを誇りを持って祝う日です。皆様が沖縄県人会を愛するのウチナンチュとしてのアイデンティティーを誇りに思っている表れだと思います。子や孫にウチナンチュとしてのアイデンティティーを継承させていくのは私たちの責務だと思います。

八月に起こったマウイ島の山火事は甚大な被害をもたらし、百人以上の方が亡くなりました。ウチナンチュにとっても大きなショックな出来事でした。かつてラハイナには多くのウチナンチュが活躍していました。戦後、母島の復興を願う多くの救援物資が沖縄へ送られました。ウチナーの「ユイマール」精神でたくさんの方がご寄付をなさったことと思います。県人会からも寄付します。「我々ウチナンチュは、困難に打ち勝つ不屈の精神を持っている。」と世界のウチナンチュの日の宣言文にもうたわれているように、マウイは強く復興します。マウイ島の人々が普通の日も早く普通の生活を早く取り戻せることを祈ります。

今、世界の各地で戦争が起こっています。沖縄でも先島諸島の島々に防衛力強化のため軍事基地が増えています。世界のウチナンチュの日の宣言文に「我々ウチナンチュは、平和を愛する心を持っている。」とあるように、平和を愛する私達としては心が痛みます。早く紛争が終わることを、そして世界平和を願っています。

県人会の運営を改善していくには色々な意見やアイデアが必要です。役員会ではボードメンバーを募集しています。もし、県人会の運営にご興味がありましたら、私か他のボードメンバーへご連絡くださるようお願いいたします。

今年も残すところあとわずか2か月もありません。これからは感謝祭、クリスマス、正月という具合にご家族や多くの友人が集まる機会が増えます。そして、冬場にかけてインフルエンザの季節ともなります。又、コロナウイルス感染症も完全に消滅したわけではありません。感染症関連の病気が増えるのは予想されますので、必要な予防接種を受けて健康管理にはより一層の注意を払ってください。どうぞ十分にご自愛くださいませ。そして、来年の新年会（2024年2月18日開催）で皆様全員とお会いできるのを楽しみにしております。「ヌチドウ宝」

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

- February 18, 2024** Shinnen-kai (New Year Celebration), 2024 年新年会
12-4pm, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 Kentucky Street, Fairfield, CA
- March 22 - 24, 2024** 10th Annual LooChoo Identity Summit sponsored by *Ukwanshin Kabudan*
Windward Community College, Oahu, Hawaii, IN PERSON
Check out their website: loochooidentity.com
- March 27 - 31, 2024** All Kubasaki High School Dragons 50's, 60's, 70's Reunion
Hilton Garden Inn Dulles North, Ashburn, Virginia (to book call 1-703-723-8989 KHS rate)
If interested, contact Juli Kodani sfokkjuli@yahoo.com for flyer or call Sunny 321-299-3071



NCOCK PICNIC



About the JET Program 外国語青年招致事業

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program was founded in 1987, and has sent more than 70,000 participants from around the globe (including more than 35,800 Americans) to work in schools, boards of education, and government offices throughout Japan, including Okinawa. What makes JET unique is that it is the only teaching exchange program managed by the Japanese government. This program offers a unique cultural exchange opportunity to meet people from all around the world, living and working in Japan. **This year, Okinawa has 98 JET participants working there!**

We have some other NCOCK members who are also JET alumni who can help potential applicants by reviewing their application and giving them tips. It is a competitive program, but nonetheless a rewarding lifetime experience. Several thousand applications are received each year, about half of all applications will be invited to interview, and then only the top candidates are selected for participation. Please reach out to us if you are interested.



JET Alumni in Our Midst by Peter Weber

I am a NCOCK member, and former board member. I participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program as an Assistant Language Teaching (ALT) from 2004 – 2007 in Gyoda City, Saitama Prefecture.

After returning to the United States and relocating to the Bay Area, I worked as the JET Program Coordinator at the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco from 2007 – 2012. I currently work for the UCSF School of Nursing and am on the Board of the JET Alumni Association of Northern California (JETAANC). I have helped JET applicants with their application, giving them valuable feedback and tips on the process.

Participating in the JET Program changed my life and continues to impact it in a positive way. I initially applied for the program because I wanted to live in Japan and I had an interest in teaching. The experience on JET challenged me and sparked growth which set me on a path that continues to surpass my wildest dreams.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for JET this year or somewhere down the road, I would be happy to connect at: peter.weber@jetaanc.org.



OKINAWAN DELEGATION VISIT RECAP

It was a picture postcard day for Okinawa Vice Governor Takekuni Ikeda’s San Francisco visit as part of the Uchina Network Next Generation Inheritance Caravan. Their group of 7 delegates went to Calgary before stopping off in San Francisco and ended their journey in Los Angeles before heading home. 21 NCOCK members carpooled from far beyond the Bay Area to attend the event to meet and greet the 7 delegates, which included Kazuyuki Nakazato, Director of the Okinawa Prefecture Office in Washington DC.

NCOCK Co-Vice President **Annette Adams** Began with her opening remarks followed The greeting from Vice Governor Takekuni Ikeda. Our commemorative historical booklet, member Maria Bartruff’s book, the Tushima Maru tragedy, and an honorary NCOCK certificate were presented to Mr. Ikeda. After a group photo, lunch and *yuntaku* social gathering followed.



A big shout-out to the many volunteers who made this event such a success! To begin with, Co-Vice President Annette Adams took

over the helm while President Tetsuo Ishisoko was on Okinawa. Treasurer **Juli Kodani** arranged the lunch with Harborview Restaurant owner **Frank Wong**, husband of members **Deanna** and son-in-law of **Ritsuko Yip**, who was in attendance. Board Member **Emi Namba** translated Annette’s opening remarks and gave the closing remarks in both English and Japanese. **Tsuneko Silva**, another Board Member and **Toyoko Yungling** passed out the goody bags and fitted them with our Uchinanchu Taikai T-shirt. Corsages and boutonnieres were handed out by **Akiko Nagayama** and **Eiko Studier**. During the short video on the 7th Uchinanchu Taikai, we caught a glimpse of some NCOCK members in the parade and receiving awards! Thank you to donations from Fujiko Dandoy, Michio Goto, Juli Kodani and Tsuneko Silva. We know that everyone not only enjoyed *yuntaku* with the dignitaries, but had a chance to meet each other. The delicious Cantonese meal was well-received too!

Social media can be a very powerful tool for building a following, but it also takes time and effort to get those results. You can check our website: ncokk.org to find out what’s going on AND we’re also on **Facebook: ncokk.org** and **Instagram: [hatai.ncokk](https://www.instagram.com/hatai.ncokk)**

So join our Facebook and Instagram NCOCK community and drop a comment to say Hello!

(Keiro-kai continued from pg. 1)

Many of the Honorees were delighted to get all the attention and commented how much they enjoyed the entertaining program! The music, dance, *taiko* and songs brought back fond memories of their *furusato* 故里 (hometown)! We appreciate the many members who contributed to the donation box for the *Heart of Ryukyuan Dance* event in Washington DC.

We’re looking forward to seeing all of you at our next BIG annual event, the *Shinnen-kai* or New Year Celebration on **Sunday, February 18, 2024** at the Fairfield Community Center. Be sure to mark the date on your 2024 calendar. We hope you can come and help us make it a success as well!

THANK YOU to our generous members:

Donations to NCOCK:

Minoru & Masae Arakaki
 Toyoko Araki
 Mieko & William Blang
 Yoshiko & Tom Canevari
 Minami & Issa Cohen
 Harumi & Tom Ducharme
 Maria Frye
 Sue Hartnett

Dee Harris
 Yoshiko Hotchkin
 Mieko Merrill
 Haruko Profumo
 Yoneko & Thomas Rieker
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Tip of the Hat – Keirokai 2023 by Juli Kodani

ご苦労様でした! Thank you to all the volunteers for your hard work!

It is always our hope that everyone who attends our events spends an enjoyable afternoon of Okinawan music, dance, *eisaa taiko*, singing and socializing with family and long-time friends. This year, a total of 29 *Keirosha* (those over 80 years) and *Toshibi* (born in 1939 or 1951) members were honored. We could not have pulled it off without the energy and cooperation of so many people!

Some helped way before the event: **Chika Mori** created the online Google form; **Minami Cohen** translated the flyer into Japanese; telephone reminder calls were made by **Mieko Blang**, **Dee Harris**, **Sue Hartnett**, **Tetsuo Ishisoko**, **Emi Maeda**, **Chika Mori**, **Natsumi Motomura**, **Akiko Nagayama**, and **Tsuneko Silva**. We have to thank **Keiko Nakamura** and **Akane Matsuo** for the beautiful program design and layout.

We want to recognize those who helped on the day of the Keiro-kai too: San Mateo Buddhist Temple members **Donald & Suzy Lee** who set up SMBT for us every year; **Fred Kodani & Minami Cohen** for manning the reception table; **Tetsuo & Chris Ishisoko** for managing the AV; **Tsutomu Tomita** as the stage time manager; **Annette Adams & Tsuneko Silva** for handling the kitchen.

Thanks also to carpoolers **Francine Austin**, **Kyoko McCloud**, **Akiko Nagayama**, **Tsuneko Silva** and the many other family drivers. Without their help, many members would not be able to attend our events. And **Minami & Issa Cohen** for donating the two ceremonial cakes.

We have to acknowledge the many volunteers who helped serve tea & cake, pass out bento & goody bags, take photos, and sell our T-shirts: **Emma Anderson**, **Suzanne Chanduloy**, **Harold Chaput**, **Minami**, **Issa & Hana Cohen**, **Susan & Sequoia Detwiler**, **Naoko Folkman**, **Rachel Greathouse**, **Dee Harris**, **Jennifer Ishisoko**, **Kazuki Kinjo**, **Junyu Satoh**, and **Alexyss McClellan-Ufugusuku**. Please forgive me if I overlooked anyone.

I want to express our thanks to **Master Kinuko Mototake**, Geino-bu Director and all the performers for putting on an entertaining program of beautiful dances, drumming, and Okinawan music, bringing comfort and happiness by sharing with family and friends. Kinuko and her students are dedicated performers at all our events and on other stages. We are very fortunate to have a Ryukyuan *Shihan* (Certified Dance Master) in our kenjinkai. Like President Ishisoko said in his last message, "we need to continue to support the Ryukyu/Okinawa performing arts in order to help our Okinawa *kenjinkai* survive. There will always be a very close and mutually beneficial relationship between the two."

For me this year's Keiro-kai was made easier thanks to help from the NCOKK Board, many members with their families and even some performers. Their joint cooperation made it a huge success! Thanks to all of them, I didn't have to oversee assembling the goody bags, bento distribution, cake cutting or tea serving! I even enjoyed watching some of the program, unlike in years past! Again, my gratitude 感謝 (かんしゃ) to the outpouring of help! Long-time and new members alike, families with children, performers, and even our seniors, reached out to assist! I've been doing this for many years, but could not do it every year without our loyal supporters. 御拝で一びーる



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



What is a Lasting Legacy?

As human beings, we often want to make a connection to something bigger than and more eduring than ourselves. A lasting legacy captures some meaningful aspect of our unique presence and preserves it for the benefit of those who follow us. Whether through work, family, or community, we all have the opportunity to leave a one-of-a-kind mark on the world. I came across an article about *Leaving a Legacy* by Bill High who has a consulting company called 7 Generation Legacy and just happens to be half Japanese:

I've said that the power of a person's life is the stories they leave behind. When a loved one dies, we tend to think about their legacy, about the meaning of their lives. A memorial service is a time to reflect upon that person's life and all the lives they touched. Every single one of us leaves behind a legacy.

Family legacy is not just about what I've created, but about the story that I'm a part of and share. In truth, we are always part of a bigger narrative. Our story is never just about ourselves. There have always been events, actions, and people who intersect with our story. Our challenge is to see the larger narrative, recognizing how others have shaped us and how we impact others.

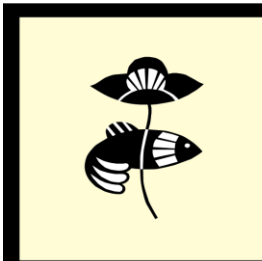
We influence people every day by what we say and do, by what we write, create and share. And all of that influence adds up. May we use the power of our lives for the lasting good of those we touch, from our own families to our communities and even our online connections!

めんそーれー

New Members / Address Changes as of 10/31/2023:

新会員加入 2023年10月31日付

- Emma Anderson
- Katsuko Senaga Inocencio
- Kyoko McCloud
- Junyu Satoh
- Alain Oyafuso



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2023 NCOKK HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year there were two recipients of the NCOKK High School Scholarship. They are **Avery London**, son of Jason and Bonnie London of Loomis and **Kai Tomita**, son of Tsutomu and Fumiyo Tomita of Oakland. Here, in their own words, are their short introductions and winning essays:



My name is **Avery London**, and I'm a 3rd generation *Uchinaanchu* from Loomis, California. I just began my freshman year at Pomona College after graduating high school, with intentions to study Ryukyuan linguistics and contribute to the language revitalization movement. I'm honored to receive this scholarship, as continuing to work within my community means a lot to me. My grandma's family comes from Nago and the Yanbaru region, and over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to reconnect with my roots through the NCOKK and the *Uchinanchu* Festival. Thank you all deeply.

Haisai gusuuyoo! Wannee Avery London yaibiin, Pomona College-nkai ichabiin, Uchinaaguchi narabusaibiin. Kuru ujumi nifeedeibiru!

My family raised me at the intersection between languages. From the moment I could talk, I was reciting Torah portions at my local Hebrew school. Despite only being half-Jewish, I cherished those musty Saturdays in synagogue, studying religious vocabulary from my rabbi. At home, my grandma taught me splashes of Japanese between bites of bittermelon stirfry, sitting on the patio of her cactus garden. She was often reserved about her overseas family, but I grew up under that unmistakable Nago accent and chuckling shouts of *akisamiyoo* throughout the household! Even though our common tongue was English, I have always felt connected to a greater language community.

Leading up to high school, the *Uchinaanchu* part of myself has sung in the background. While I am only a recent member of the NCOKK, my family used to be active in the Sacramento Kenjinkai, and those late night strums from my grandma's practice *sanshin* helped ignite a passion for our island's music. But linguistically, I felt distant from Okinawa, even if I couldn't understand why. Three years ago, on a walk through the park, my grandma casually mentioned knowing three languages — English, Japanese, and the indigenous language of our homeland. That's when everything clicked!

Through my community, school, and research, I've been trying to reconnect with my ancestry. Recreationally, I'm a beginning *Eisaa taiko* and *sanshin* player. Academically, for my high school capstone project, I interviewed and recorded a number of *Uchinaanchu* on the island and within the diaspora about their relationship to Okinawa and perspectives on contemporary social problems. In addition, I have been studying *Uchinaaguchi* with Okinawan groups and independent study, in hopes of achieving fluency at some point. *Avery London*



My name is **Kai Tomita** and I am a proud member of the Okinawa Kenjin-Kai and the *Eisaa Shimadaiko* group. Being a part of this community has brought on so many amazing experiences and I feel so fortunate to have been able to deepen my *Uchinanchu* roots. I am sincerely honored to be selected as a recipient of the NCOKK Scholarship. Thank you so much.

In some ways, these elements have influenced and guided my career interests. Next year, I am attending Pomona College in Southern California under the linguistics department. I intend to study abroad in the University of the Ryukyus during my undergraduate degree and aspire to contribute to the Ryukyuan language revitalisation movement in whatever way I can. The preservation and perseverance of our strong heritage is very important to me. Wherever I end up in life, I hope to bring a piece of *Uchinaa* with me.

Whenever I go on stage or stand in line ready for the parade, there's a little part of me that gets nervous. "What if my uniform is not straightened out? What if I make a mistake?" Thoughts like these bounce around my head as I raise my arm. But when I bring my *bachi* down to my drum and the first beat rings throughout the air, all those worries disappear as if they were never there.

Growing up, my parents would always show me the music, foods, and history of Okinawa. As I grew older, I feel like I have come to really appreciate their efforts in exposing me to my roots as an Okinawan. When they had me join the *Shimadaiko* group based in Alameda, my life would drastically change for the better. Under many instructors, like Master Kinuko Mototake, I have been given many opportunities to learn and spread my Okinawan culture through *Eisaa*. I feel grateful to my friends and masters in my *taiko* group and to the Okinawan community for giving me the chance to deepen my identity as an *Uchinanchu*. For me, the Kenjin-Kai is like a second family that I'm honored to be a part of.

Back in 2020, while I was looking forward to a new year with Cherry Blossom festivals, *Shinnen-kai*, and *Keiro-kai* performances, our lives would completely change with the Covid-19 pandemic. For most of my first and second years of high school it would all be online. Because of the lack of in-person interactiveness and the overall feeling of anxiety and stress, my grades would start to go down. At the rate I was going, I was looking to fail high school. However, through my participation in the *Uchinaa* Junior Study in 2021 and the supportive encouragement of my parents, I had made a goal to achieve higher grades in my third year. During this time I would also start thinking about the college that I would want to go to after high school but more on that later. I would start focusing more during my classes, turning in my work on time, taking extra courses on top of my required classes to make up for my failing grades, ultimately finishing my junior year with grades I would be proud of.

As I have mentioned before, I participated in the 2021 *Uchinaa* Junior Study. Not only was I able to speak and listen to people from Okinawa, I was able to interact with many other teens my age who came from places like Brazil, Bolivia, Europe, and other parts of California. Seeing the diversity of the participants, all connected with the single goal to explore and share their Okinawan backgrounds, made me feel a genuine sense of pride for being *Uchinanchu*. Through this study I was reminded that no matter the distance or time between people, we are all inevitably interconnected by some shape or form.

Yet this can be hard for people to see, even for me, with the current state of our world. Which brings me to my choice of college. In order for me to face the complexities of our rapidly changing world, I decided to apply for a liberal arts school called Soka University of America.



IN MEMORIAM: Shizue Hori 1928 – 2023
by Florence Hori

Shizue Hori passed away peacefully on August 28, 2023 at the age of 95 in her Oakland home surrounded by her family. She was born in Oita, Japan the oldest of 6

children. Shizue was a survivor of the Battle of Okinawa. After WWII, she married Masashi Hori, a *Kibei Nisei* (2nd-generation Japanese American born in the US but raised in Japan). He was working for the US Department of Defense in Okinawa when he passed away in 1976, a year before retiring.

Shizue's biggest fear in life was to move to the US on her own. In 1985, she made the decision to move to California to be closer to her children. In the last 38 years, she learned to take the bus to Buddhist meetings and attend school to learn English so she could communicate with her grandchildren and members in her SGI Buddhist group. She was very courageous. She even decided to become an American citizen at the age of 79! She told her daughter that one of the greatest privileges of becoming an American citizen was to be able to vote!

She loved music, was a member of SGI chorus Voice of Peace, volunteered in her SGI Buddhist organization and enjoyed chanting *Nam-myoho-renge-kyo* every day. As a member of the *Nakayoshi* Group, she enjoyed singing Okinawa songs and performed at Okinawa Kenjin-Kai New Year and Keiro-kai events. She loved to dance and was an excellent cook. She had great fashion sense and always looked fashionable!

Shizue is survived by her children, Florence, David and Judy, nephew Tsutomu Tomita (Fumiyo and Kai), 3 grandchildren Joshua, Mindy, Joseph and Mathias, 6 great-grandchildren Essence, Jaelin, Jivan, Emilia, Felicity and Deaglan, brothers Toshio and Shigeo, sister Yoshiko and many cousins, nieces, and nephews in Okinawa.

(Scholarships continued from pg. 6)

Soka's mission, in the words of its founder Daisaku Ikeda, is to foster young people to become capable members of society through wisdom, courage and compassion. I felt as though Soka's core values aligned with mine in the sense that we are all capable of leading a contributive life for the betterment of ourselves and the lives of others. Furthermore, I believe Soka's interdisciplinary approach to the liberal arts will give me the opportunity to gain broad based knowledge to tackle challenges that affect all of us on both local and global levels. Fortunately, I was able to pass the competitive admissions process and be accepted into SUA. Knowing that this is only the beginning of my journey, I'm certain the support from the NCOCK will prove to be a crucial aid in my future endeavors. *Kai Tomita*

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 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!

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。


SPOTLIGHT ON A NEW MEMBER:

by Jackie Kaneshiro & Family

Iris Toyoko (Higa) Kaneshiro was born in 1927 on the island of Mindanao, Philippines. At the age of 9, the family returned to Okinawa.

Iris became a nurse and while working at Kadena AFB, she met Seigi Kaneshiro from Kauai, Hawaii. He was a translator for the US Army. They married in 1947 and left Okinawa for Hawaii where they settled down and started a family. They had 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Unfortunately, Seigi passed away in 2005.

Today at 96, Iris is very much the social butterfly, always looking to lend a hand and one very talented lady. She loves to dance, plays the *koto* (Japanese 13-stringed musical instrument) and harmonica, is a 4th level Ikebana teacher, loves working on "Word Search" and other puzzles in the newspapers, exercises and reads her Bible daily. She also excels in crafts, long before "*repurposing*" became trendy!

Iris relocated to California this year so her children can visit often. She made many new friends, including at this year's NCOKK family picnic in July and at the Keiro-kai celebration in October. Both of these events lifted her spirits tremendously. She looks forward to meeting YOU at the next NCOKK event!


UYEHARA TRAVEL TOURS IN 2023/24

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thanks to your support.**

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from November 1st**

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**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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