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SPRING 2025



Tayui

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



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

With the various cherry blossom festivals having come to a close, and with both Children's Day and Mother's Day behind us, the days have been growing warmer, and we can feel the arrival of early summer. We hope you are all doing well.

For those with children, we imagine this season brings a busy schedule with end-of-year ceremonies and graduations. At the same time, many of you must be feeling excited as you begin planning for the summer holidays.

As for our Kenjin-Kai, we are pleased to announce that our annual summer potluck picnic is scheduled for July 27. With everyone's cooperation, we hope to see even more participants this year than last. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

We are also proud to share that Mr. Makoto Kuniyoshi, grandson of Mr. Shingi Kuniyoshi, has been selected as a participant in this year's "Uchina Junior Study" program, which includes a week-long stay in Okinawa. We commend his enthusiasm for learning more about Okinawa and hope that the experience he gains will one day contribute to the growth and success of our Kenjin-Kai. We also encourage other high school students to take advantage of the programs to deepen their understanding of Okinawan history and culture.

Our Kenjin-Kai also offers a scholarship program for high school graduates who will be entering college or vocational schools. If your family includes an eligible student, we strongly recommend applying. The deadline for this year's scholarship applications is June 30.

Our group has long participated in the Grand Parade of the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival, but unfortunately, due to a shortage of performers this year, we had to make the difficult decision not to participate. As mentioned in my previous *Tayui*, this is a clear sign of our aging performance group, shortage of younger generation performers and the risk of its potential dissolution in the near future. The continuation of our proud Ryukyuan and Okinawan cultural heritage is a major challenge ahead of us. The board must act with a strong sense of urgency to develop and implement concrete plans to address this issue without a delay, and we kindly ask for your support and involvement.

June 23 marks "Irei no Hi" (Okinawa Memorial Day)—a solemn day in Okinawa commemorating the end of the Battle of Okinawa. It is a time to remember all lives lost, regardless of nationality, and to reflect on the importance of peace. As we mark the 80th year since the war's end, it is especially meaningful.

Meanwhile, the ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine continue to weigh heavily on our hearts. We sincerely pray that no more lives are lost and that peace will come to these regions as soon as possible.

As we move into the heat of summer, please take good care of your health. Wishing you all continued well-being and happiness. "Nuchi du Takara"

ハイサイ、グスーヨー、チューウガナビラ！

各地での桜祭りも終わり、五月の子どもの日や母の日も過ぎました。最近では暖かい日が多くなり、初夏の訪れを感じますが、皆さまいかがお過ごしでしょうか。

これからの季節、お子さまをお持ちのご家庭では修了式や卒業式などで慌ただしい日々をお過ごしのことと思います。また、夏休みの計画に胸を膨らませていらっしゃる方も多いことでしょう。

当県人会でも、例年通り夏のポットラック・ピクニックを7月27日（日）に開催予定です。昨年以上に多くの方々にご参加いただけますよう、皆さまのご協力をお願いいたします。

さて、國吉信義殿のお孫さんである國吉誠君が、今年の「ウチナージュニアスタディ」プログラムに参加するメンバーに選ばれました。沖縄についてもっと学びたいという彼の意欲を心から称えたいと思います。このプログラムでの学びを将来、当県人会への貢献につなげてくれることを願っています。また、他の高校生たちもぜひこのような機会を活用し、沖縄について多くを学んでほしいと思います。

さらに、当県人会では、高校卒業後に大学や技術学校へ進学する学生を対象に奨学金制度を設けております。該当されるご家庭の方は、ぜひ申請をご検討ください。今年の申請締め切りは6月30日です。

今年の北カリフォルニア桜祭りのグランドパレードには、残念ながら出演メンバーが不足し、当県人会としての参加を見送ることとなりました。これは、以前お伝えしました通り、「芸能部の高齢化」が深刻化している証左であり、近い将来、芸能部の存続そのものが危ぶまれる状況です。誇り高き琉球・沖縄文化の継承、そして芸能部の活性化は、今後の重要な課題であり、役員会としても強い危機感を持ち、迅速に具体的な対策を講じる必要があります。皆さまのご理解とご協力をどうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。

そして、6月23日は「慰霊の日」です。これは、沖縄戦で亡くなられた全ての方々を追悼し、平和の尊さを改めて胸に刻む日です。戦後80年を迎える今年は、特にその意義を深く考える機会となるでしょう。

一方で、ガザ地区やウクライナでは、いまだ戦争が続いており、胸が痛みます。一日も早く、これらの地に平和が訪れることを心から祈っています。

まもなく本格的な夏を迎えます。皆さまどうぞ体調管理に十分お気をつけて、お元気にお過ごしください「ヌチドゥ宝」



The Multiverse Image

by Irene Hashimoto

I advise my students, “Never start an essay with a question,” but this one deserves an inquisitive kickstart. “How does an image win an Honorable Mention in a photo contest?” First, the photographer is notified by a newsletter editor (thank you Juli Kodani) of a photo competition because she knew that the photographer had a unique and relevant travel experience. I am not certain exactly when I communicated that I would be in Japan as a scout leader of the 18th contingency of the Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Scout Exchange Program to commemorate its 40th anniversary. The celebration was postponed for three years because of the COVID pandemic travel restrictions. After many meetings at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, Scouting America’s Troop 50 and Troop 250 were ready to send 18 youth scouts and 5 adult scout leaders, including myself.

Now you may be asking, “How does Matsuyama relate to the Okinawa Kenjinkai?” In a multiverse, they are linked through the Consulate General of Japan, which wraps its reach around all things Japan around the world, including the USA. Juli received notice of the photo contest from **Ryan Okada**, Coordinator of Community & Cultural Affairs, of the Japan Information & Cultural Center (JCC) of the Consulate General of Japan. Ryan helps the Consulate coordinate and celebrate cultural activities involving sister cities, kenjin-kai’s (prefectural associations), and other Japan-US community relationships. His communique, published in *Tayui*, included the process and forms to submit images appropriate for the 2024 Japan Photo Contest to feature the “people-to-people” theme of Japan-US cultural activities. However, it was Juli who strongly suggested I submit images to share my unique experience, and now influenced the completion of this essay.

After learning that my image of “Scouts on the Bridge” earned the honorable mention, Ryan invited the winners and the general public to the gallery of the winning images at the Consulate General’s office. In the last week of display, I made an appointment with Ryan to visit the gallery with my sister. So, you may be wondering, “How was your sister able to join you so soon?” My sister, Janet, who graduated from Kubasaki High School with Juli’s younger sister, lives in Oakland. Although the Bay Area and Sacramento are only 2.5 hours’ drive away, we rarely meet live and default to ZOOM or text. I’ve often thought of taking Amtrak to Jack London Square, but here was an opportunity for us to meet up in San Francisco. She took BART, I drove, and we met at the office of the Consulate General. When the elevator door opened, I recognized Ryan and realized we had met many years ago in Sunnyvale on a Metrolink platform on our way to the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival. He was in a yukata back then. I may also have been wearing a yukata. This part of the multiverse is a little hazy, so it is possible that I took public transportation in my *Eisa* wardrobe to the staging area near City Hall to march up the hill to Japantown in the annual parade.



Of course, I brought some *omiyage* (gifts) from my Sacramento home to Ryan and my sister, because that is what Japanese do, regardless of the prefectures or sister cities from where one hails. After some multiverse reflection, I should have presented souvenirs from Matsuyama wrapped in their local *furoshiki* (cloth gift wrap). Instead, in the plastic bags were red *tsubaki* (camellia) branches and homegrown *zabon* (grapefruit), originally planted by my Nisei father Shoichi 40 years ago, when he and Issei wife Miyoko settled in Sacramento, after retiring and leaving Okinawa. Meeting the Japanese standard of the *omiyage* (gift) exchange, Ryan presented me with a copy of my honorably mentioned image, even larger than the one in the gallery. I will make sure to frame it and present it to the Matsuyama scout delegates who will visit this coming summer.

[Sidebar Multiverse: Driving, rather than going by Amtrak, allowed me to pay respects with the floral and fruity gifts to their original grower Dad at the Sacramento Valley National Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Dixon, CA. There are more crosses than the Dharma wheels on the stones, but there are enough Japanese names reminding us of the sacrifices made by the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Battalion.]

After bowing farewell to Ryan at the elevator, Janet and I did what tourists do – had lunch in the Ferry Building and hiked the Embarcadero. The “Scouts on the Bridge” is a multiverse spanning the relationships between the current sister cities of Matsuyama and Sacramento, its 40+ year history, the sisters’ growing up in Okinawa from 65 years ago, and Japan-US relations established 170 years ago.

Answer to the question, “How does an image earn an Honorable Mention in a photo contest?” By connecting numerous layers of multiverses that share the chosen theme of friendship, mutual association, and people-to-people experiences.



Scouts on the Bridge at Osaka Castle



Hashimoto Sisters @ the Gallery
(Janet L, Irene R)



S U S H I
R A N

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2025 CALENDAR of EVENTS

イベントカレンダー:

- June 30, 2025** NCOKK High School Scholarship DEADLINE (see details on our website ncokk.org)
- July 27, 2025** 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
- October 26, 2025** NCOKK Keiro-kai (Respect for the Aged Day), TO BE ANNOUNCED



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We are looking for volunteer members interested to become the Regional Representatives for the **408 & 510** Area Codes. The job is to call / contact members in the telephone area code and pass on timely kenjinkai information to them. A listing of those in the telephone area will be provided for you. You do not have to be in that Area Code to volunteer to make the calls.

408 および 510 エリア コードの地域代表に興味のあるボランティア メンバーを募集しています。仕事は、電話エリア コードのメンバーに電話 / 連絡し、タイムリーな県人会情報を伝えることです。あなたの電話エリアのメンバーのリストが提供されます。電話をかけるボランティアをするのに、その市外局番内に住んでいる必要はありません。

8th World Uchinanchu Taikai on Okinawa in 2027

The 2027 World Uchinanchu Festival (世界のウチナアンチュ大会) will take place in Okinawa, Japan from late October to early November. The festival is free to attend. It is a celebration and opportunity to showcase the Okinawan culture and spirit. Held every five years, it honors the achievements of Okinawans around the world, recognizes the value of Okinawan community heritage, and aims to strengthen the *Uchina* network through exchanges with Okinawans worldwide by bringing everyone together to reaffirm their roots and identity.

There will be stage shows, cultural workshops, welcoming events in municipalities, exhibitions about Okinawan emigration and identity, cultural exchange events and Okinawan music events and competition. It will include a parade down Naha's Kokusai-dori by all the participants by country/state. At the last one in 2022, NCOKK marched as the second largest U.S. group, only behind Hawaii!

So, start saving toward the trip! Plan to include everyone in your family, so they can meet their Okinawan relatives!

NOTE: Article in Japan Travel by Bronson Lam:

<https://en.japantravel.com/okinawa/world-uchinanchu-festival/67896>

Thank you to our generous members:

Donations to NCOKK:

Kozue Kay Chung
Juli and Fred Kodani, in memory of Mitzi Yorichi
Yoneko and John Livingston
Dan Sueyoshi and Family, in memory of Yoshiko Sueyoshi
Elaine & Rodger Takeuchi



COMMENTS FROM OUR MEMBERS & COMMUNITY:

I appreciated meeting lots of people and the little gift for the Year of the Snake, which I display on my living room coffee table, to remember the wonderful Okinawan singing and dancing celebrations and the beautiful vibrant *bingata*! Thank you for keeping everyone in touch with the newsletter, etc.
Mariko Oshiro Dantzer

The Kenjinkai was a big part of who our mother was and helped us connect with our heritage. Always happy to support the NCOKK. *Dan Sueyoshi, in memory of Yoshiko Sueyoshi*



めんそーれー

New Members /

Address Changes as of 5/30/2025:

新会員加入 2025年5月30日付

Phanthipha & Eduardo Higa





海を越えて見つけた沖縄のつながり Okinawan Connections Discovered Across the Ocean by Yoshiya Kinjo 金城 吉哉

自己紹介: 私は南風原町津嘉山出身の金城吉哉です。昨年の秋からカリフォルニア、Los Altos HillsのFoothill Collegeで生物学を勉強している留学生です。この半年間、いろんな国からの留学生やアメリカ人と交流するうちに、「沖縄出身」ということが思いがけない形で私の留学生生活を豊かにしていることに気づきました。特に、アジアにルーツを持つ友達との間に自然と生まれる親近感は、「沖縄」が私たちをつないでいることを実感させてくれます。

思いがけない文化的発見: 留学生活で一番びっくりしたのは、特に何もしなくてもアジア系の友達と自然に仲良くなれることです。例えば、ベトナム系アメリカ人の友達に「ゴーヤーを家で食べるの?」と聞いたら、彼らも「食べるよ」と言っていて、ゴーヤーの苦さは言葉も国も越えるんだなと感じました。中国と琉球、中国と東南アジアの交易のなごりが、こんな形で今でも続いていることに興味しました。

言葉の不思議な共通点: また、私は沖縄の言葉で「ちゅふあーら」が満腹を意味することを知っていて、それが中国語の「吃饱了 (チーパオラ)」から来ていることも知っていました。このことを中国人留学生の友達に話したら、すごく感心していました。これをきっかけに、お互いの言葉の似ているところを探すのが楽しみになりました。

文化の中継地点としての沖縄: こういう体験を重ねるうちに、沖縄が単なる日本の南の島ではなく、アジアの文化をつなぐ「中継地点」だったんだなと実感するようになりました。地理的に中国、台湾、フィリピン、東南アジアの間にある沖縄は、何百年もの間、人や文化、言葉、食べ物が行き交う中継地としての役割を果たしてきました。

日本の他の地域から来た留学生にはない、この特別なつながりを持っていることを誇りに思います。アメリカで学ぶ沖縄出身の若者として、私は沖縄文化とアジア各国の文化をつなぐ小さな橋渡し役になれているのかもしれない。

共通点を探す大切さ: 特に興味深いのは、このことにアメリカに来て初めて気づいたということです。沖縄にいと、沖縄のいいところに気づきにくいものです。そんなふうに気づかないでいると、沖縄の本当のよさである「中継地点」としての意味が薄れてしまいます。つまり、私が一番言いたいのは、「自分たちと違うところ」を探すんじゃなくて、「自分たちと同じところ」を探すことが大事だということです。同じところを見つけることで相互理解が深まり、そのうえで違いも尊重できるようになります。そうすれば、お互いを排除するような考えが減って、多様性を大切にすることにつながります。

皆さんも、何十年も前にアメリカに渡って、似たような経験をされたのではないのでしょうか。沖縄とアジア各国のつながりは、時代が変わっても、場所が変わっても、私たちの中に生き続けているのだと思います。これからも、この大切なつながりを次の世代に伝えていきたいです。



I am Yoshiya Kinjo from Tsukazan, Haeburu. Since last fall, I have been studying biology as an international student at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California. During these past six months, while interacting with international students from various countries and local Americans, I've realized that being "from Okinawa" has unexpectedly enriched my experience of studying abroad. In particular, the natural sense of closeness that develops between me and friends with Asian roots makes me feel that "Okinawa" is what connects us.

Unexpected Cultural Discoveries: The most surprising aspect of my student life abroad is how naturally I became friends with Asian peers without any special effort. For example, when I asked my Vietnamese-American friend, "Do you eat *goya* (bitter melon) at home?" they replied, "Yes, we do," making me realize that the bitterness of *goya* transcends both language and national boundaries. I was fascinated to see how the legacy of trade between China and Ryukyu, as well as between China and Southeast Asia, continues in this form to the present day.

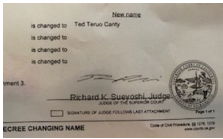
Curious Language Commonalities: I also knew that in the Okinawan language, *chufaara* means "full (after eating)," and that it derives from the Chinese phrase *chi bao le* (吃饱了) (pronounced similar to *chee-pao-la*). When I shared this with my Chinese international student friend, they were incredibly impressed. This became the starting point for our enjoyable exploration of similarities between our languages.

Okinawa as a Cultural Hub: Through these experiences, I've come to realize that Okinawa is not merely a southern island of Japan, but a "hub" connecting Asian cultures. Geographically positioned between China, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Southeast Asia, Okinawa has served for centuries as a place where people, cultures, languages, and foods have intermingled.

I feel proud to have this special connection that international students from other regions of Japan don't share. As an Okinawan studying in America, perhaps I am becoming a small bridge connecting Okinawan culture with the cultures of various Asian countries.

The Importance of Finding Commonalities: What's particularly interesting is that I only realized this after coming to America. When you're in Okinawa, it's difficult to notice Okinawa's positive attributes. Such blindness diminishes the significance of Okinawa's true value as a "hub." In other words, what I want to emphasize most is that searching for "what makes us different" isn't as important as finding "what makes us the same." By finding similarities, we deepen mutual understanding, which then allows us to appreciate our differences. This approach helps suppress exclusionary thinking and promotes the value of diversity.

I wonder if many of you had similar experiences when you came to America decades ago. The connections between Okinawa and various Asian countries continue to live within us, transcending time and place. I hope to pass on this important connection to the next generation.



Immigration and Name Change *Dedicated to Teruko Canty*

by Ted Teruo Canty

Introduction: It's so ironic and poetic that another NCOKK member (Judge Richard K. Sueyoshi, Superior Court of Sacramento County) signed my legal name change, fulfilling my mother's dream and extraordinary effort to bring me, a biracial child, to this country for a chance, post-World War II.

A person's motivation for a legal name change could include such things as marriage, family or business needs. For immigrants, a voluntary name change could include ease of assimilation, ease of pronunciation and possibly a perception of better job opportunities.

First generation Asian immigrants, upon entry into the US, often experienced names being misspelled or reversed (i.e., first and last names). This involuntary name change can often present identity issues in the future. My adoption of a legal name change signed by a federal judge of the court in 2024, comes with a little different immigration nuance. To explain, I'll need to start back to my immigration in 1952.



I know that the Uechi family was close knit and supportive. With few jobs in post war Okinawa, except for jobs somehow connected to the US military or their bases. I am told that my mother did laundry for US troops on Okinawa to help support the family. Over time, my mother met and later married a US soldier and they had a child . . . me.

Due to US limitations and federal restrictions on Japanese immigration, it took several years to navigate approval to come to the US through the congressional passage of the WAR BRIDES ACT of 1945 (amended 1952).

Leaving her family and the only home she had known must have been very difficult, but I am now aware that a big part of my mother's decision was the knowledge that the US could provide a significantly better opportunity for success for her Asian/Black child. I also feel it was an opportunity for her to send money to family back home.

Three days before my 4th birthday, I remember sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge in a military transport/passenger ship. You don't forget the thrill and drama of that visual! Then after another three days by train from coast to coast, I ended my trip to my father's home in Jim Crow segregated Jacksonville, Florida. That's a whole different chapter not detailed here, but we were very welcomed by my father's family. I had not yet learned to speak English and had to be counseled on the rules of segregation. We tried to avoid instances where my mother and I would be separated. On one occasion, my mother refused our separation on a public bus. Again, that's a future chapter.

What about the name???

It was there, upon arriving in the South, at my father's home and being introduced, that they all found it difficult to pronounce the hard "ru" in Teruo. So, I was given a new name – "Teddy," later shortened to Ted.

Due to my father's frequent military reassignments, we traveled to bases and cities around the world. Most notably, I attended 2nd grade in Salzburg, Austria, and 6th grade in Junction City Kansas, near Fort Riley. I don't recall staying in one school for any two-year period. The frequent movement is not conducive to family stability.

Years later, my mom and I moved to Berkeley, California, where I attended high school, and my mom worked as a waitress at a Chinese restaurant, Eastern City Cafe in Oakland. She was so thrilled to discover and become a member of the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OKINAWA KENJINKAI!

In 1986, however, my mother tragically lost her life to gun violence during a botched robbery attempt in the restaurant where she worked. True to my mother's character, she acted spontaneously to secure the children of the restaurant's owner in a safe room before returning to the floor. There was evidence that the restaurant was targeted due to ethnicity. This was a tragic loss for me and to so many who knew her. It was now clear that my mother gave her all for me to for the opportunity to pursue the American dream.

I always manage a smile recalling her laughter, her excitement in receiving her citizenship just several years before her passing, and the happy tears she shed when I received my degree from UC Berkeley and started my own family.

Well... what about the "Name Change?" The name change application to the courts were for two reasons. First, it was to assure that there was no question of consistency between the names Ted or Teruo. Lastly, it was to honor my mother. When I received the decree in Sacramento in 2024, I was surprised and delighted that the Superior Court judge signing the decree was a NCOKK member. I pondered how proud his family must have been for him to achieve such a high honor to become a federal judge! Well done!

My name is Ted TERUO Canty, my wife is Jane, my two sons are Sean Akio and Matthew Teruo.

ARIGATO Okāsan お母さん, TERUKO!





Master Kinuko Mototake Honored

by Ayano Nagaoka, Cupertino Cherry Blossom Committee, Indoor Stage Coordinator

The Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival Committee is proud to announce Master Kinuko Mototake as our Featured Artist of 2025. She serves as a community leader teaching and promoting the customs and arts associated with Okinawa with her dedication and devoted mentoring of the traditional Okinawan dance and *eisa* Taiko drums. After decades of teaching students and performing around the world, she continues to be passionate and displays high energy in all that she does. Those who encounter her have been on the receiving end of her kindness, thoughtfulness, open-mindedness, and hard work. If you speak to anyone who knows her, one of the words that constantly comes up is "family." She is a pillar of the community and a "keeper of the flame," sharing the amazing heritage and customs of Okinawa. It has been our pleasure and honor to have her and her dedicated team at our Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival every year for the past 15 years. We look forward to their presence at Cupertino for many more years to come.



WORDS OF WISDOM

WHAT IF . . .

We played the cards that fate dealt us. Then some 40 years later, when we bumped into each other, it made me wonder: what if we took that extra step to *pick up the phone* or *make the drive*? How would our lives have changed?

YOUR MORNING RITUAL

Your morning ritual is a daily habit of prioritizing yourself starting when you first wake up in the morning. It's a time to *feed your soul and energize your spirit* before beginning your day. While many people wake up in a reactive state, rushing to social media or responding to emails, your morning ritual is your chance to soak up the stillness of the morning and start your day in a proactive way.



Publication of "The Legacy of the Ryukyu Kingdom"

The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) published a book entitled, "The Legacy of the Ryukyu Kingdom." This book describes the history of

Okinawa from ancient times to the present in an interesting and easy-to-understand way. Their aim is to share its contents with the Okinawa Prefectural Association kenjinkais overseas.

On March 20, 2025, we received an email from JIIA Research Fellow, Mr. Kotaro Tsukahara, announcing the completion of the translation and publication of the 190-page book. He attached the link to the electronic version of the eBook for all our members to read. It is their hope that it will be an opportunity for us to renew and deepen our connection with Okinawa.

The link is password protected so if you are interested in getting the password, please info us at ncokk.org:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tGkl_IKktL50yLX4_PBqjvqqn_HPT7nS8/view?usp=sharing

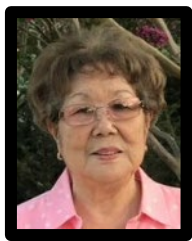
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Currently, there is no Japanese PDF version, however, you may be able to purchase the original Japanese edition from Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=isbn978-4-00-430261-2&crd=IKAHCO7SQ0Jl&sprefix=isbn978-4-00-430261-2%2Caps%2C153&ref=nb_sb_noss

Here is the link to purchase the Kindle and hardcover version of the book on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Legacy-Ryukyu-Kingdom-Okinawan-History-ebook/dp/B0F2MBLHPX/ref=sr_1_1?crd=20B7VLB2ELZ2C&di_b=eyJ2IjoiaMSJ9.f515aQWAD36WvoCyyvJ1Nj8BEkXXWw_zouyx_Pv7GjHj071QN20LucGBJIEps.USTf83snr4ddRpUVBYNkXQQWJ-day-BLx1ZDB4QE5j0&dib_tag=se&keywords=The+Legacy+of+The+Ryukyu+Kingdom&qid=1744935775&sprefix=the+Legacy+of+the+ryukyu+kingdom%2Caps%2C137&sr=8-1



**IN MEMORIAM****Fumiko Leach 1931 – 2025**

by Anna Schweitzer

Fumiko Leach passed away peacefully on April 10, 2025, at the age of 93. She was born in Naha City to Shokichi and Kiyono Toubaru Momohara. She was a professional seamstress by trade as well as a phenomenal wife, mother, and Grandmother who dedicated her life to her family and community.

In 1958, she married the love of her life, Ruben Leach and together they built a beautiful life, raising their two daughters, Rita Chevalier and Anna Schweitzer and celebrating the joys of being grandparents to Elena Nicholson and Ashley Magaña.

Fumiko was known for her many talents and passions. She loved sewing, dancing, and playing the piano. Her appreciation for beauty extended to the art of Ikebana, love of bingo, picnics, and peaceful walks in the park. She found joy in the simple pleasures of spending time with friends and family and held a special place in her heart for the ocean.

She was a proud and active member of the 19th Avenue Japanese Baptist Church in San Francisco, the Northern California Okinawa Kenjin-Kai, and the McBride Senior Center in Vacaville, where she built lasting friendships and contributed her joyful spirit to the community.

Fumiko is survived by her devoted husband Ruben, daughter Anna Schweitzer, and granddaughters Elena Nicholson and Ashley Magaña. She is preceded in death by her parents, Shokichi and Kiyono, and her beloved daughter, Rita Chevalier. In honor of her generous and community-oriented spirit, memorial donations may be made to the McBride Senior Center in Vacaville, California. The funeral and graveside services have now been concluded.

**IN MEMORIAM****Toshiko A. Slagle 1940 – 2025**

by Lewis Slagle

Toshiko Slagle passed away on January 4, 2025 in Sacramento. She was born in Iejima, Okinawa on February 5, 1940.

To Toshiko with Love, from Lewis: After 65 years being with Toshi, there is a lot to miss. Toshi was a loving and caring mate and will be greatly missed. Being a waitress for 30 or more years, she made many good customers and friends. One of her best deeds was when she returned to get her high school diploma and prove her ability to become a good citizen and to make her family very proud! We love you very much!

Toshiko is survived by her husband, Lewis Slagle, sons Tim (Antonia) and Chad (Jackie), grandsons Rowan, Kirby, Desmond and Marley, and her brothers, sisters, and other family members on Okinawa.



Irei no Hi 2020 at J-Sei

Editor's Note: Toshiko Slagle always spoke at our *Irei no Hi* (Anniversary of the End of the Battle of Okinawa) events, sharing her wartime experiences as a survivor. 5 years-old at the time, Toshiko spoke of her mother's efforts to protect her children. She fervently expressed her wish: "no more war." Lewis Slagle shared Toshiko's typed 15-page testimonial from 2003, *My Memories of the War*. Her story is on our website:

<https://www.ncokk.org/irei-no-hi>

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.

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

PayPal:
ncokk2020@gmail.com

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

**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。

POSTAGE INCREASES

Each year, the Postal Service makes changes to its offerings and prices. On January 19 of this year, the price of some services increased: Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express by 3.2%, USPS Ground Advantage by 3.9% and Parcel Select by 9.2%. Forever stamps may go up again. USPS raised the cost to mail a 1-ounce letter, twice in 2024, from 66 cents to 68 cents in January and up to 73 cents in July. Fortunately, the cost will remain 73 cents — at least through the first half of 2025. The price of a Forever stamp, which cost 41 cents when it was introduced in 2007, has increased nine times in the past eight years alone!

In 2017 when we raised our Membership Dues from \$20 to \$25, the price of a first-class stamp was 49 cents. The price increased to 66 cents in January 2024, then to 73 cents in July 2024. That is a 50.5% increase from 2017! The price will remain at 73 cents for the first half of 2025. **The USPS plans to implement a rate increase in July 2025, and outlined a plan for twice-yearly increases in January and July of 2026 and 2027.**

On March 24, 2025, the 75th Postmaster General Louis DeJoy retired after 5 years and Deputy Postmaster General, Doug Tulino took over until the Governors name a permanent successor.



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



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UYEHARA TRAVEL Celebrating 40th Anniversary in 2025

Providing comfortable, safe and affordable travel experiences with professional service and customized packages to suit your needs! Following tour highlights:

- **Celebrity Cruise Adventure to the Netherlands & Belgium**, 8/19 – 8/25 (ask for price) includes 1 night in London with optional extensions before and after, including Paris
- **Discover the Fall Foliage in Hokkaido**, 10/17 – 10/21, 5 nights/6 days at 4-star hotel including meals; \$2,500 per person (double occupancy) – Airfare is additional.
- **Tropical Bliss on Okinawa**, 10/22 – 10/26, 5 nights/6 days at 4-star hotel including meals; \$2,150 per person (double occupancy) – Airfare is additional.
- **Experience the Allure of Taiwan**, 10/29 – 11/3, 5 nights/6 days at 4-star hotel including meals; \$2,200 per person (double occupancy) – Airfare is additional.
- **Make Merry in Palm Springs**, 12/2 – 12/4, 2 nights/3 days at 4-star hotel (ask for price)

For more information: **Tamiko Uyehara**

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