

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii

Celebrating 25 years

March 10, 1993, at the Higa Buidling, a group of people had their first meeting as the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii.

March 1993, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton; Hawaii U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka; U.S. House of Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Patsy Mink; Governor of Hawaii, John Waihee, III; Lieutenant Governor, Ben Cayetano.

25 years later, the meetings are held at the Serikaku Chaya, the third Saturday of the month, at 9 a.m. The 2018 OGSN president is Rodney Kohagura.

A powerpoint slide show created for the 20th Anniversary of OGSN was shown during the January 2018 meeting. Pictures of members 25 years younger and of people who have passed were seen. The pictures were filled with lots of memories and good times.

Announcements

Rodney announced that this year will be the 70th Anniversary of 'Pigs from the Sea' in Okinawa. "Is there anyone here with any recollection of your parents assisting in relief efforts? Not too many! Ask your siblings if they have any recollections. It is very interesting. When I was president elect in 2014, Cheryl Okuma and myself met in Okinawa someone who wanted to donate marble (stone) pigs as a gift from Okinawa to Hawaii. Our thought was, "Where will we put them?" Since Cheryl worked for the city, maybe they could go to the zoo, but nothing happened. Maybe we could put it on our grounds, but that did not materialize."

Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro contributed to Rodney's story.

"This is a little background on the pigs on Okinawa. Mr. Yamashiro, a veterinarian, wanted to contact his professor in Nebraska, to send over Yorkshire 'white' pigs. They were able to get the pigs and when they put it on the transport, but because of the weather, the crates broke and the pigs ran free on the deck of the ship. They gathered the pigs and returned to San Pedro, where the army was eventually able to transport the pigs to Okinawa, which took 30 days.

The pigs that were from Nebraska were Yorkshire pigs and were delivered to various villages in Okinawa. In fact, one pig was delivered to the village I lived in. When the Okinawans saw the white pigs they said, "This like hakujin." "They all white like the American soldiers." But that was the basis for the pork industry in Okinawa. The meat did not have much fat and was lean. So when you appreciate the ham and bacon from Okinawa, that is the story of the pigs sent to Okinawa."

This is part of an article from the Japan Times, October 19, 2015, "Hawaii pig shipment after the war to be memorialized in Okinawa."

NAHA, OKINAWA PREF. – To remember the story about Japanese immigrants in Hawaii sending a cargo of pigs to Okinawa to help alleviate a food crisis after World War II, a stone monument of porkers will be built in the city of Uruma in March.

As Okinawa and Hawaii marks the 30th anniversary of their sister-state partnership this year, the prefecture hopes that the statue will become an enduring symbol of their friendship.

Many Japanese from Okinawa emigrated to Hawaii, where they found work on sugar cane farms.

In September 1948, the immigrants shipped 550 White pigs back to Okinawa to help the island, which had been devastated a few years earlier by the Battle of Okinawa, deal with severe food shortages.

The pigs, which are easy to breed because of their high fertility rate, are believed to have helped ward off starvation for many Okinawans.

SAVE THE DATE

November 17, 2018

OGSN 25th Anniversary

10am, HOC Legacy Ballroom

Membership Meeting Notice

Saturday, February 24, 2018

9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Serikaku Chaya

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Guest Speaker:
Masato Ishida, PhD,
Center for Okinawan Studies
Topic: Ifa Fuyu
Father of Okinawan Studies
- III. Secretary and Treasurer's Report
- IV. Committee Reports
- V. Announcements
- VI. Discussion: OGSN
- VII. Research and Committee Work

Attendance Report: 36

25 members

5 new members

6 visitors

Treasurer's Report:

Reported in January's newsletter.

No additional activity to add.

Secretary's Report:

Newsletter delayed. Susan

Photo Gallery by Theresa T.

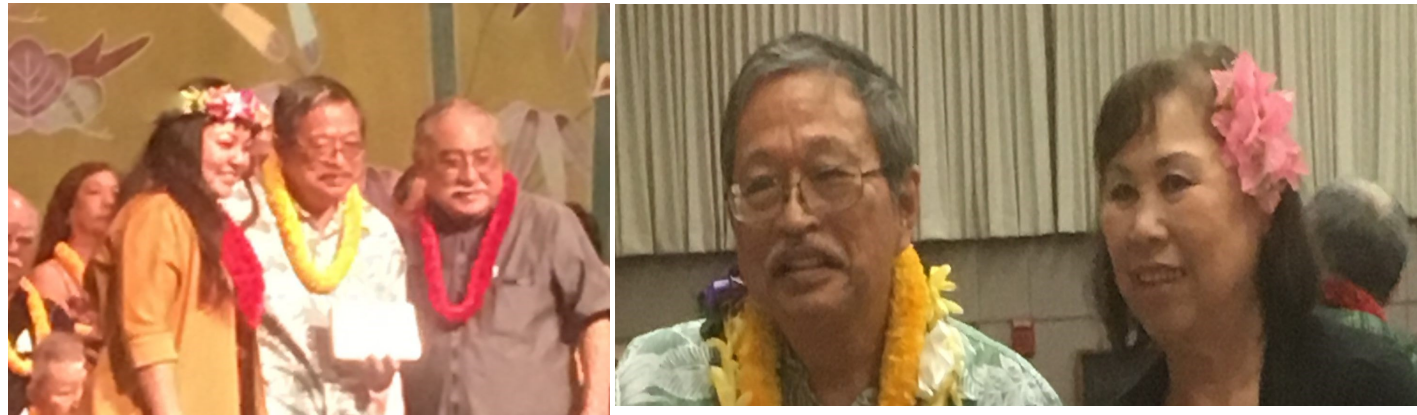
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OGSH 2018 UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR

Rodney Kohagura

Congratulations to Rodney Kohagura. The 68th Installation and Uchinanchu of Year celebration was held on January 20, 2018. HUOA 's 2018 President Courtney Takara and past President Vince Watabu presented Rodney with his award.

We are very thankful to Rodney for his time and dedication to OGSH. His commitment to continue to serve as OGSH President is much appreciated. We would also like to thank Rodney's wife Carol for her support.

Some of our members were able to attend and enjoy the camaraderie, good food, and great entertainment. As the month of February was approaching, love was in the air.



JANUARY, 2018 OGSH PHOTO GALLERY

Courtesy of Curtis Shinsato



Fearless leader, OGSH President Rodney K.



OGSH Founding Member & Advisor, John T.



Mark H., HUOA leader



OGSH Founding Member & Advisor, Nancy T.



OGSH Living Treasure, Yoshinobu O.



New Member, Mark Iha



Sharing insider info, VIP member, Sachiko I.



OGSH Miss Aloha, Kay I.