

OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII

March 2018 PHOTOS from Curtis S. & Others



OGSH leader, Rodney K.



Chihiro Ishii from the Japanese Consulate General's Office discussed first emigrants, "Gannenmono".



March, 2018's Guest Speaker



Doreen Y, Nancy Y, Gloria K, Susan R, & Janice S. in Hilo



Connie N, Jackie T, Albert K, & Kisei T.



OGSH 25th Anniversary Tour Escort, Sumie C.



Member, Dorothy N.



Anniversary Celebrants at Kongou Sekirinzan Park, Okinawa - 20180402



New member, Jackie T.



New member David S.

Meeting Report

March

Attendance

Members: 43

New Members: 2

Visitors: 1

Treasurer's Report

Income: Membership Dues, Donation,

Short Stories and Guide books sales

Expense: HUOA annual dues, toner, news

Newsletter printing, postage,

2017 Okinawa Festival

Secretary's Report: Newsletter

Transcribed by David R.

Photo Gallery by Theresa T.

Photos by Curtis S.

Rodney's Word of the Month

"Atumasai gafu"

The best thing come to him/her who waits.

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii

c/o HUOC

94-587 Ukee Place

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

Membership Meeting Notice

Saturday, April 21, 2018

9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Serikaku Chaya

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Secretary and Treasurer's Report
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Announcements
- V. Reflections by members
- VI. Discussion: OGSB
- VII. Research and Committee Work

SAVE THE DATE

Okinawan Festival

Labor Day Weekend

September 1-2, 2018

New Location: Hawaii Convention Center

OGSH 25th Anniversary


Date: November 3, 2018

10 am, HOC Legacy Ballroom





Searching Your Japanese Roots

If you know the name  of your ancestor...

STEP 1: Get a copy of immigration cards at the Consulate-General of Japan!

Immigration card example

Surname		Domicile (in Japan)	
First Name	Relationship	Date of Arrival	Date of Birth
		Address in Japan	Residence (Municipality of Birth)

* Information reported and collected on voluntary basis; may only be partial.
 ** The Consulate-General office will also provide information about the municipal government in Japan where the family's permanent address is registered.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu keeps registration cards of Japanese citizens who immigrated to Hawaii and their family members spanning from the 1880s to 1970s (*).
 Get the application form from our website or through email. Fill out the form and submit it to the Consulate-General office. You need a proof of relationship between the applicant and the person on the immigration card (ex. birth certificate) at the time of application.
 Application: http://www.honolulu.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/issuancerequest.html
 Japanese Consulate Finding Roots: http://www.honolulu.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/findingroots.html
 Email: roots@hi.mofa.go.jp

Speaker: Chihiro Ishii, from the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu

OGSH meeting for March 17, 2018

Speaker: Chihiro Ishii from the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu

So, in 2018, we've already had a few events relating to Gannenmono. But the big one is coming June 6 and 7. The sixth will be the convention and the seventh will be the commemoration ceremony and we will have a symposium on the afternoon of the 7th. I hope you all can attend. Tickets are not yet available. You can check the home page for the list of events. When tickets are available for the ceremony, it will be posted on the site. (http://www.honolulu.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/gannenmono.html) We will also have lectures, seminars, and other activities about the history of Gannenmono throughout the year, as well as cultural events.

Of the two Gannenmono who stayed in Hawaii, the eldest being Mr. Sentaro Ishii. I am not actually sure when he came with the other Gannenmono. There is a theory that he came a few years prior on a whaling vessel. We're not really sure how he arrived here but we consider him one of the Gannenmono. He began working on a plantation on Maui. Since he knew Hawaiian, he became a luna on a plantation in Kipahulu, close to Hana. His dependents still live there. He was presented a gold cup by the Emperor. Mr. Ishii, aged 96, was honored by the president of the upper house of Japan when he visited Honolulu. He passed away at the age of 102. His grave is in Kipahulu.

His great-granddaughter married Edith Kanaka'ole's son. She is a leader in the preservation of Hawaiian culture through education. If you go on to their family ancestry, there are roots to the Gannenmono. They recently found out about this a few years ago. They have been doing a lot of research to find out about their Japanese side of their blood. They feel pretty proud that they have this side as well. Hopefully they will attend the convention and perform their hula.

Another Gannenmono was Mr. Tokujiro Sato. He lived on the Big Island and spoke Hawaiian as well. He did a lot of translation between Hawaiian and Japanese. He worked at Parker Ranch for 25 years. He married a Hawaiian woman and had 7 children. A few of them were adopted by other families and some did not survive. They have over 300 descendants now. Most live on the Big Island. They had a very big reunion last year and over 250 attended. They are very excited to discover their huge family. We had an event recently at JCCH and 50 or so of them came. They also plan to attend the June 7 event as well.

This is what drove us to our own finding roots project, to find the descendants of the Gannenmono. They found out that they have the Gannenmono blood in them. They were excited and now they want to find out more about their Japanese roots. They want to find families in Japan and we have been helping them. We want this to be the case for others in Hawaii. We hope that for the year 2018, the younger generation will be more interested in finding their lineage. We finally have our project on the web

If you go to our home page, click the "Tracing Your Family Roots" banner, it leads you to the project homepage. This is service we started offering this year. If you know the name of your ancestor, you can put it in and find out something about your ancestor and then you can work your way up. We only have records of those who reported them to us. We have over 70,000 cards of information. If we do find the information that you request, we will give you a copy of this card and whatever current information we have and a contact to the local municipal government. If you want more information, you can try JCCH and if they have the name of the person and permanent address in Japan, you can request the official family registry. This will be a record of your family members; their marriage, divorce, birth information, adoption (if applicable). This is a whole bunch of information about your family. The municipal governments keep this information and JCCH will help you attain the information. It will be in Japanese but JCCH will assist you in translation. This is collaboration between us and JCCH over the years. You need documents to prove you lineage to that person that you want to research. There will be a small fee from the Japanese municipal governments.

Some records are lost. Examples are records from the Fukushima earthquake, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Okinawa. Also, legally speaking, records do not need to be kept beyond a certain time. Only partial information is digitized. Detailed information will need to come from the statistic's bureau and not everything will be available. A lot of information that we used to have in the US is no longer available, as it has been turned over to Japan.

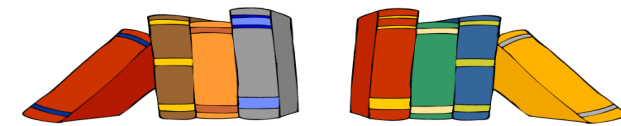
This is the service that JCCH and the consulate offer in your search of your ancestry. We also have been trying to compile research that would be helpful to you in your search. JCCH has a Hawaiian-Japanese directory from 1827 to 1941. You can check out these books. They also have brief biographies or interview transcripts. They also have a World War II internee data base. If you have relatives who were interned, you can search their paths during their internment. They also have an oral history collection. They have transcribed them. As of last year, they have transcribed over 200 people. JCCH's data base is in English. The Moiliili Japanese Cemetery is also on the data base, so you can research it if you know their name. Bishop Museum and Hawaii State Archives also keeps records. If you have any information that can be added to the website, please contact me. Ancestry.com may also have information. It is a hit and miss.

Just to let you know, we are also working with Nissei Veteran's Legacy and had an exhibition at the Honolulu Festival, which was well received. It will also be displayed at Honolulu Hale and there will be other exhibition.

Thank you very much for your time.



Notes from Donna



1. On Saturday, Apr 7, some of our members attended the "Honoring Our Ancestors" celebration at the Waipahu Plantation Village. There were speakers who spoke on various topics including Oral History, DNA, Portuguese and Chinese Genealogy and of course, our own, Okinawan Genealogy. Stan Uehara, Nancy Yogi, Terry Shinsato, Curtis Shinsato, Fred & Amy Shinsato, Rodney Kohagura and Donna Nakamura put up a display that featured our Genealogy Guidebook, Short Story books, Okinawan vegetables and various genealogy documents people have to trace their roots.

2. Our Library Committee continues the book mending journey as we learn various types and ways of taking care of our library resources. Most of the mending included loose pages, torn covers, detached spine and new labelling. The committee members continue their dedicated efforts to preserve our valuable resources.