

OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII

APRIL 2018 PHOTOS by Curtis Shinsato + others

Norman Oyakawa's photos of our tour is on YouTube?



<https://youtu.be/bNEihyoSfms>



Norman's sister, Amy T.



All ears as Cindy U. discusses her project



Coverage in Ryukyu Shimpo



Translation by Sumie C.



James H. covered Identity Conference



Penny S. is The Golden Princess



Theresa T. wrote a story about it



Bukubuku, anyone?



OPL Gifts OGSH with Okinawa Scroll



Mark H. reflects on Mac Yonamine



With Misaki Hokama of Naha History Museum

Ayako, Hiroaki, Tadashi & Mayuko of OPL

OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha

September 1 & 2, 2018 at Hawaii Convention Center

sponsored by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

OKINAWA FESTIVAL SCRIP SALE

This year the Okinawa Festival will be held at the HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER. Scrip for this event will be available at the end of May 2018. This is the only fund raiser for OGS, therefore I would appreciate your participation in purchasing your scrip from our Club.

I will be passing around sign up sheets at the May 2018 meeting. If you are not planning to attend this meeting, could you please call me, Sally Matsumoto @ 486-8866 to place your order. Your cooperation and assistance in calling in your order will make my task easier. Festival Scrip Chair, Sally M.

Rodney's Word of the Month

"te ge", pronounced: "tay gay", easy going, laidback.

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
c/o HUOC
94-587 Ukee Place
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

Membership Meeting Notice
Saturday, May 19, 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. Speaker: Rika Inamine, Obuchi Scholar, (Master of Science in Nursing, UH Manoa)
- VI. Discussion: OGS
- VII. Research and Committee Work

SAVE THE DATE

Okinawan Festival
Labor Day Weekend - September 1-2, 2018

OGS 25th Anniversary
Date: November 3, 2018
10 am, HOC Legacy Ballroom

**Meeting Report
April 21, 2018**

Attendance
Members: 42
New Members: 3
Visitors: 0
Treasurer's Report
Income: Membership Dues, Donation, Guide book and Uchinanchu Annual sale.
Expense: Newsletter printing.
Secretary's Report: Newsletter
Transcription by: David R.
Photo Gallery by Theresa T.
Photos by Curtis S.

From:



OGSH Meeting April 21, 2018

Relax and Enjoy Life

“Te-Ge”

One of the things that make a place like Okinawa so attractive to the many tourist who visit here is the carefree lifestyle of the inhabitants. While people up in mainland Japan hustle and bustle about at breakneck speed cramming themselves like sardines into steel boxes that scoot them about the mega-metropolises they call home. Here in Okinawa it's the polar opposite. The people here have a philosophy that life was meant to be enjoyed. Who knows, maybe that's one of the reasons they live so long.

Up in mainland Japan, everyone seems to be in such a hurry. And why do they do it? To make a few extra yen so they can spend it on things they don't really need. Everyone has a cell phone or is looking to acquire the latest fad in gadgets or fashion wear. Even when they come down here in pursuit of a little rest and relaxation, they're in such a hurry to see it all in one visit that it's a wonder if they ever really get a change to enjoy it. Part of the problem these days is people tend to take themselves and things in general far too seriously.

I think the Okinawan people are on to something that maybe we all could benefit from in the local Hogen dialect they call it, “Te-ge”, pronounced Tay-gay. It simply means “life in the slow lane” or “don't sweat the small stuff because when you get right down to it, it's all small stuff.” Te-ge means taking a step back from life's little troubles and learning how to laugh, first at yourself and then at your circumstances. People here believe that life's little tragedies will soon turn into comedies if you'll only let them.

Te-ge also manifests itself in a thing the locals know as “Okinawa Time!” While folks up in mainland Japan are always in a hurry and never late for anything, in Okinawa you can rest assured that it is a very rare and auspicious occasion should anything be on time. Waiting for that 2 o'clock bus? It'll be here eventually if you're willing to wait long enough. Give it a day, a week, a month or even a year, eventually one of these times it will be on time, just don't hold your breath.

Here nobody really stresses about the clock. So what if you're late for work one morning. Chances are better than good that your boss will be too. It matters not whether it's a couple of seconds, minutes, or even a couple of days. Are you going to a special event like a “Kekkonshiki,” Japanese wedding party? Don't worry if you're late for the one you're supposed to be at. You can always hang around and party with the next group using the banquet room. Chances are better than fair that there will be plenty of seats available as a good number of those people will be running on Okinawa time too. You might even make a few new friends in the process.

So my advice to all of you folks mired in the rate race is to come to Okinawa for a little Te-ge. Leave your troubles behind and please try to relax a little. Don't be in such a rush to see everything in one visit that when you return home and go back to work you're more harried than when you left. A better way is to do it a little at a time. Treat yourself to some life in the slow lane, but be sure to spend lots of money. We want you to enjoy your stay so you'll come back to visit again and again.



Below are excerpts from members who shared their time with Mac Yonamine, attended the OIST conference, their discovery in Okinawa, and went to the Big Island and attended the 4th LooChoo Identity Summit.

*Mark H. on Mac Yonamine

My wife Hanae and I got to know Mac, as he we lived close to each other. Mack always had big ideas. He would invite us to Craigside for breakfast or lunch to share his new ideas. He wanted to make a big impact on people.

He felt the best way to connect young people to their Okinawan heritage was to go to Okinawa. He made it possible for them by paying for half of their trip.

He was a very educated man, but a humble man. He always had time to talk story. He was always willing to share with people his life experiences. He was generous with what he had.

Mac had a saying, “Your wants are many, but your needs are few.” By this he meant, you might need to drive but you don't need a Mercedes, when a Toyota will do. He lived by that and he tried to teach people that.

*Bob N. on OIST

The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology University (OIST) was created by the Japanese government. It is a graduate research university. The whole idea of the university was to increase the level of science and technology in Japan. This is only a PhD program and they graduated their first class this year.

*Theresa T. on OGSH Tour to Okinawa

I went on this trip to Okinawa not expecting great expectations. I really wanted to go to Japan to see the cherry blossoms. But, I'm glad I did.

I met relatives whose names I don't remember. I was overwhelmed by the information I received.

Penny, the “Golden Princess” made a great discovery while going back to the pages of her genealogy. It was the discovered that the daughter of a relative was one of the top 3 advisors to King San Shin Kan, married the fifth king of Ryukyu, Shoken.

So, again, I am glad I did not go to Japan to view the cherry blossoms, but instead went to Okinawa.

*James H. on Ukwanshin Kabudan's LooChoo Identity Summit, “E Ala E! Kataibusan”, sustaining the breath of our native language.

This year the conference was held on the Big Island at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hale 'Olelo, Ka Haka 'Ula Ke'elikolani, Center for Hawaiian Language.

“I think I need to give you a synopsis of the welcome message to provide the necessary depth of the conference.

The purpose of the conference remains the same as previous conferences and that is to create and reinforce connections to our heritage, our ancestral homeland, our communities, and to each other. The hope is for participants to develop a sense of self and place and to come up with a new perspective on their identity. The idea is to plant seeds that will convert minds and consciousness to one of knowing and understanding their background and culture and to remind them that understanding your part in it and how it shapes you, your mind as well as your life and the importance of it.

The focus this year was on the language and its role in maintaining identity and community. The theme for the conference was E Ala E! Kataibusan. The Hawaiian part is a call to wake up and to be open to new learning or challenges. The Okinawan part means I want to express myself.”

25th



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. OGS Member Application & Update Form

Because of outdated and missing member info, we are sending out revised member application forms. Please try to provide all requested information and return it promptly to ogshnews@gmail.com. The plan is, after verifying that your 2018 membership dues have been paid, your name will then be printed in the 25th Bonenkai program. Thank you all for your cooperation. Submit to Susan R. or Theresa T.

2. OGS Talent Search

If you possess a special talent that you would like to showcase at our 208 Bonenkai, please contact **John T.** by May 19, 2018, at jtasato@gmail.com or 808-398-3343. Tell him:

- 1) The title of your performance;
- 2) The approximated length of time of your performance;
- 3) And if possible, a back-up performance with length of time, in case of duplicities.

3. Bonenkai Donation Solicitation

If you, your pal, your coworkers, your uncles or your aunts know of a business from which you could solicit a prize, a gift certificate, or some cash, please ask them! It could make for a better Anniversary Celebration and, they could get an "Okinawan sanctioned" promo for their business in return. Contact **Stan U.** with your donation details at the next meeting, or at suehara001@hawaii.rr.com or 455-2442.

June 2018 upcoming events:

1. June 5th to 8th, Tuesday - Friday
Summer Okinawan Children's Day Camp @ HOC, "Warabi Ashibi" Children at Play, for children ages 8-13.
2. June 10th, Sunday
Pan Pacific Festival & Parade, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., begins at Fort DeRussey Park and finishes at Kapiolani Park.
3. June 15th, Friday,
HUOA Senior's Health and Fitness Fair @ HOC, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4. June 23rd, Saturday
Irei no Hi, Okinawa Memorial Day @ HOC



OGSH MEMBER APPLICATION / Update

Application /Update
For OGS/HUOA use only.
Info will remain confidential.

Name: _____
PRINT: Last First M.I / Maiden

- New Member Month/Year Joined: _____
- Current Member Month/Year Joined: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like a Newsletter sent via: Mail Email No Newsletter required

Club Affiliation(s) / Family's Okinawa home town: _____

Family Name(s) you are researching: _____

In Case of Emergency, please contact: _____

PRINT: Full Name Phone Relationship

I would enjoy participating in the following activities:

- Group Projects: Short Stories; Library; Bookmarks; Presentations; Fundraising)
- Committees: Food; Aloha; Bonenkai; Okinawan Festival
- Information Technology (Computer; Data Base; Graphic Arts)
- Japanese/English Translation
- Leadership (OGSH Officers)
- Other: _____

	Initial & Date
Aloha Committee	_____
Treasurer/Payment	_____
Recording Secretary	_____
Corresponding Secretary	_____

SUBMIT TO OGS SECRETARY: ogshnews@gmail.com; OGS 94-587 Ukee St. Waiolahu, HI 96797; OR AT NEXT MEETING.

OGSH 25th Anniversary Tour

A group of members and non-members of OGSH went on a tour to Okinawa in March 2018. Organized by Sumie (from Naka's Travel) and Rodney, OGSH visited many sites and a couple of non-tourist destinations. OGSH were greeted at the airport by a few employees from the Okinawa Prefectural Library (OPL) upon their arrival with "Welcome" banner. OGSH were also greeted with a banner at Ryukyu University.

Some of the OGSH were able to accomplish their mission to find ancestry information at the OPL. The research efforts of "Golden Princess", aka Penny and Theresa, were very successful.

On departure day, some of the employees from OPL were at the airport to say goodbye to OGSH.

Amy T.'s brother Norman O. took lots of pictures. He created a powerpoint filled with lots of memories for the OGSH travelers. Some of the comments he received were, "This is the best souvenir ever!; That was great; and Much Mahalo for capturing the many highlights of our OGSH trip."

Norman O. uploaded the powerpoint on YouTube for all to see. If you will be visiting Okinawa for the first time, this is a good introductory to Okinawa. If you have been to Okinawa, this will bring back lots of memories. It is 28 minutes long with Okinawan music in the background to enjoy. The first song is "Ashibina" and the last is "Sanshin no Hana" by Begin.

YouTube link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNEihyoSbns>

2018 Okinawa Genealogy Tour

Or google, "Youtube 2018 Okinawa Genealogy Tour"

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Norman Oyakawa
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SUBSCRIBE 6

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii Okinawa Genealogy Tour March 26th - April 6th 2018. Photos from Norman Oyakawa, Glenn Kogachi, and anyone who uploaded their photos to the Naka's Travel website.