



**OKINAWA FESTIVAL SCRIP SALE
HURRAY! HURRAY! HURRAY!**

A great big MAHALO to all members and friends who made the Okinawa Festival Scrip Sale a GREAT success! To Joan/Herbert Nakamatsu and Cheryl Sasaki (daughter of James Serikaku) for checking with family and purchasing \$500 each of scrip.

Ippei Nihei Deibiru !!!*
Sally M.

Rodney's Word of the Month

hara hachi bu

Eat only until you are 80% full, Okinawan secret to increase your life span.

SAVE THE DATE

August 3, 2018 –Mr. Hara 's Welcoming, Chaya, 9am

September 1-2, 2018 -Okinawan Festival

November 3, 2018, 9am –"Keishoo" OGSB 25h Anniversary

**Membership Meeting Notice
Saturday, July 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. Speaker: Cheryl Nakasone,
Jimpu Kai USA Ryosho Ryukyu
Geino Kenkyusho
- VI. Discussion: OGSB
- VII. Research and Committee Work

e-Newsletter

JULY 2018



Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
c/o HUOC
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Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
OGSHnews@gmail.com

Jane Fujie Serikaku, executive director of HUOA passed away peacefully on July 6, 2018, at 79 years old. She was surrounded by close family and friends. Services will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018, at HOC. Visitation begins at 4pm with memorial services at 6pm.

**Meeting Report
June 16, 2018**

Attendance

Members: 57

New Members: 0

Visitors: 3

Treasurer's Report

Income: Membership Dues, Donation,
and Guide book sale

Expense: Newsletter printing and Bookmarks

Secretary's Report: Newsletter

Transcription by: David R.

Photo Gallery by Theresa T.

Photos by Members

BIOGRAPHY on Speaker Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone

Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone a third generation sansei started Okinawan dance lessons at an early age. After graduating from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, she continued her studies in Okinawa under the tutelage of Ryosho Kin, a designated National Living Treasure of Japan. She is the first foreigner to pass all three levels of the Ryukyu Shimpo Konkuru proficiency dance examinations, and she received her master's certification from Kin-sensei in 1976. She is Director of Jimpu Kai USA, Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Shibu. www.outreach.hawaii.edu

Speaker: Shinye Gima

Modern Day Madame Butterfly

Shinye Gima shared two “Madame Butterfly Mothers” stories. Below is a reprint of one of his stories found in the Washington Post, by Kathryn Tolbert.

Inspired Life

His Japanese birth mother gave him a slip of paper with his father’s name. He didn’t intend to search for him.
by Kathryn Tolbert May 15. The Washington Post

Retired Air Force Col. Bruce Hollywood was done searching. As an adult, he had found his Japanese birth mother and thanked her. He didn’t feel a need to find his father, who had been in the U.S. Air Force.

Hollywood was grateful for the new relationship he had with his mother, Nobue Ouchi, and her devotion to him. He learned that after she placed him for adoption with an American couple, she named her restaurant for him, believing he would come back to her one day — even if it took decades.

She was right. When they reunited in 2006 — when Hollywood was 46 — she told him the story of his birth father. They had met, she said, when Hollywood’s father was stationed in Japan in 1959. They fell in love and planned to marry. They did not know she was pregnant when he was ordered to return to the United States.

He promised to call her right away but did not. When he finally did, months later, she refused to take his call, thinking he could not be trusted. He never learned he was to be a father. That was the last she knew of him. But Nobue gave Hollywood a slip of paper, in case he ever wanted to find his father. She had carefully written in all caps: LOIS BAZAL.

[He searched for his Japanese birth mother. He found her — and the restaurant she had named after him.]

Back in Washington, Hollywood had no plans to contact the man who didn’t know he existed, but was curious enough to check military records. He found no mention of him, even trying Louis instead of Lois. He thought it odd but let it go, and focused on spending time with his Japanese mother.

His adoptive parents, who always encouraged him to find her, had passed away. He knew they would have been happy for him. Hollywood and his mother had three years together, with visits back and forth, before she died of a heart attack in 2009.

Hollywood, 57, of Vienna, Va., cherished the story of finding his birth mother and shared it with friends. He loved telling the part about how she didn’t want to let him out of her sight, and bicycled after him when he went on his daily run. They often stopped and just sat on a sea wall side by side, looking at the ocean, not talking. Finding her also gave him an identity as a Japanese American, something that he didn’t grow up with as his family moved among military bases.

What more could he ask for, he thought. But a couple years ago, curious about his Caucasian half, Hollywood had his DNA tested with an Ancestry.com kit. The results were clear: Half his ancestors were from East Asia, and the rest from Ireland, Spain and other parts of Western Europe. As he clicked through the results, it also said there’s a 100 percent chance this person is your cousin — and the last name was Bazar, one letter off from the family name his mother gave him.

A wave of comprehension swept through him. Japanese often confuse R's and L's — that's why his mother had written Bazal instead of Bazar.

He emailed the cousin and explained who he was, why he was reaching out. When the cousin's wife responded, he asked whether any relatives served in Japan. She said yes, there was an uncle.

"I said, 'Okay, I think that's my father,'" Hollywood recalled. She said he had passed away. "But he has a son," she added.

When Hollywood got the number, he immediately dialed. No answer. He couldn't leave a message, too complicated. But a few minutes later, Louis Bazar Jr. called back.

Hollywood asked him, "Was your father named Louis Bazar?"

"Yes, he was Louis Sr., and I'm Louis Jr." Hollywood said, "I have a story to tell you, and you might not believe it."

But then he found out something he did not expect at all. Louis Jr. was older than he was. He was born before the father went to Japan.

For a moment, Hollywood feared that his father was already married when he met Nobue, that his mother had been misled. Louis Jr., 63, who lives in Gulf Breeze, Fla., told him that his mother died in childbirth.

Hollywood was both sad for Louis and deeply relieved, reassured that his father's offer of marriage to Nobue had been sincere. Louis Jr. was 5 years old when his father was sent to Japan. His aunt cared for him while his father was away, when he fell in love with Nobue.

But why did it take him so long to call her when he left Japan? That lapse is what made Nobue not trust him and shut him out. Says Hollywood: "I'm sure it was a couple of things. That he was trying to prepare this South Carolina family for bringing a Japanese national over. Then he also, I'm sure, was being reacquainted with his son."

Louis Sr. remained single, just as Nobue did. His son thinks his father gave up on love after his wife died in childbirth and the second woman he wanted to marry rejected him by refusing to take his call.

His father had a difficult childhood — he lost his parents at a young age, and his older sister who helped raise him was murdered while she was working at the family store.

I think he had this thing that every woman in his life that he cared about, he lost," Louis Jr. said. "So he never got close to anyone. He never brought anyone home."

When Louis Sr. was dying in hospice care in 2005, he gave his son photo albums, including one that he hadn't shown him before. It had pages of photographs of a young Japanese woman — but his father wouldn't talk about it.

All of a sudden, Louis Jr. understood. The pieces fit together.

But he didn't hesitate when Hollywood asked him, "How would you like to have a younger brother?" "I always wanted a sibling," Louis replied.

Tolbert is telling the stories of Japanese women who married American servicemen after World War II on Instagram @kathryn.tolbert and in an oral history archive, www.warbrideproject.com.

Speaker: Dan Nakasone
Battle of Okinawa Relief Efforts

I was here last month and received a request for an oral history because Momoto Magazine is looking for stories, photos, etc. of post Battle of Okinawa relief efforts. They are dedicating their entire July issue to Hawaii and the post battle relief effort will be the lead story. I just found out that your organization will be mentioned in the issue. They will be doing a story on the Okinawa Prefecture Library and their Genealogy Service. So you guys will be in this publication. The magazine will only be in Japanese. There is a little bit of English that I had to rewrite for them.

It was a struggle to get people to give an oral history. I've got to thank John Tasato who gave an interview. Also, Dorothy Hoe, Shiroma Hoe, and Helen Higa, Akira Sakima's daughter. They were pretty interesting and enlightening interviews. Let me get started on my talk.

When Tommy Higa came back from Okinawa, Sagawa Tasato arranged a meeting of forty-eight Okinawa business men. In that meeting, Futaro brought this leaflet that was dropped from planes in Okinawa. It was part of General McArthur's psychological warfare strategy. They used to call these "paper bullets". This one in particular asked soldiers and civilians to surrender and men were to appear in shorts or loin cloths and women with just the clothes on their backs. So in that meeting, Futaro felt that a clothing drive was a priority because of this leaflet. I've researched and about 6 million leaflets with different messages were dropped in Okinawa. In the Philippines, it was like 17 million leaflets. It was a strategy applied throughout the Pacific.

So what that clothing drive did do was to mobilize the Okinawan community. To me, the clothing drive was the key to everything else that was to follow. The clothing drive caused everything to be in place, the logistics, transportation by the Navy, 2 warehouses near White Beach. So, there was a place to store, sort, and distribute to all the islands, as well as the mainland. If you think about it, HUOA and the outer island clubs are the results of this relief effort.

So, we got some good oral history, Gary Mijo, Chloe, Yoshinae Majikina sensei. Majikina sensei evacuated to Kyushu, just before the battle started. The community wanted to make sure her father didn't get killed in the war. He was a national treasure. Doctors were able to falsify his health records and he was able to get on the last ship to escape the battle. They did return to Okinawa and she did help unpack boxes of clothing which gave her an overwhelming feeling of gratefulness. They organized in late November 1945, and by early February, 151 tons of clothing was gathered from all islands. When I was there in October and mentioned that other ethnicities gave, they were touched that other ethnicities gave besides Okinawans.

There is evidence that besides clothes, other goods were also collected. A group of ladies, supposedly collected loose change from grocery shopping. Between 1946 and 1949, they sent 3 shipments of miscellaneous goods. You can't do that with loose change, so these ladies were movers and shakers. Bicycles, school supplies, books, and other items were sent. A Kiro Kadena, aged 12, who lived on Akajima, an outer island, did her school work with stones written on the dirt. After that, they got paper from the bags that flour came in. They would cut the bag into pieces to use as writing paper. Later they received paper tablets, pencils, and chalk from Hawaii. That's how bad the situation was on Okinawa.

One of the reasons why we are doing this is because September is the 70th anniversary of the "Pigs from the Sea" arriving in Okinawa. This was a good reason to bring up this story, not just the pigs, but the entire relief effort. This all started with the clothing drive. We were able to find this list of how the pigs were distributed. On October 29, 1948, Uruma Shimpo article listed how the pigs were distributed to the villages and towns.

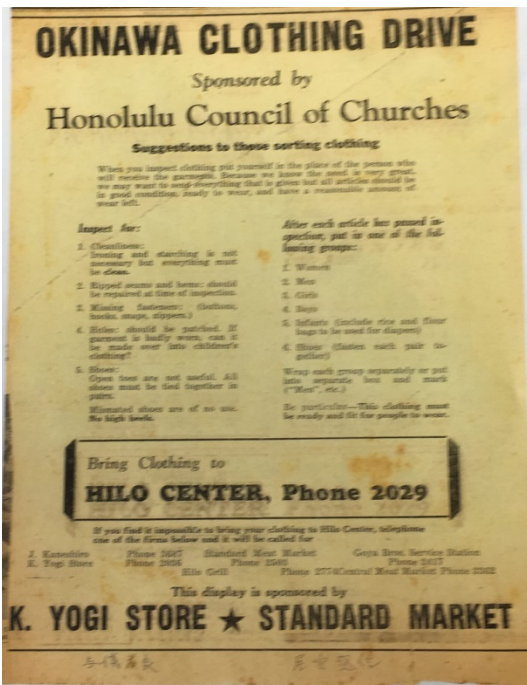
Right after the war, everything is in disarray and chaotic, they had the wherewithal to document all these things. They were able to put out a newspaper right after the war. They were able to organize and put out this material.

When I was there in October, I was able to talk to a 94 year old farmer who received a pig. They couldn't believe that the pigs could travel from Oregon and survive. The first ship returned to port because of a storm because they thought the pigs would not survive. The people in Okinawa knew of that because there were radioed by relatives on the ship. He was one of fifteen in Itoman that received a pig, a Chester White sow. He got to keep 10 piglets and one bore and forced to sell the rest of the piglets at half price to repopulate the farms. He was in good health and mentally sharp. I asked him the secret to his good health and he said, "Buta abura". He said he cooks everything in lard, so I started making lard at home. Somebody asked about the 750 goats. We hear all kinds of stories. They could have ended up on the black market and whatnot. That was a huge effort. Close to \$40,000 was raised. Helen Higa's father used to go around to collect donations and he felt bad because a lot of these people had poor living conditions. He asked the people to give what they could. My grandfather and his friends put their money together to donate for the pigs. They would collect 50 cents, dollar, two dollars, five dollars. So, how do you collect \$50,000, a phenomenal feat!

There is a perception that Okinawans here were well off, so that's why we give. They couldn't be more wrong. Helen Higa relayed a story of her 2 sisters, 12 and 13 who wore makeup to look older and get a job as a waitress. Older kids worked to support the family. This issue will help to change that perception. So this gift giving will be more meaningful, as they will understand that people here were struggling.

A full report on our findings will probably be released in September. What we want to do besides being published in Okinawa is to have media outreach locally, so that we can share this story here in Hawaii. We are targeting August, in time for the Okinawan festival.

One last comment, the magazine, as of now, will not be published in English due to budget constraints.



Notes

Think about it...

Have a favorite recipe? Food memories? Submit your favs to: ogshnews@gmail.com

The Chuzan Group is currently collecting recipes and memories to be part of our 25th Keishoo celebration.

Something to watch.

Subject: NHK Japanese in Hawaii

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/vod/seasoning/3004499/>

Rodney & Gloria Kishi hosted the OGSB informational table at the recent Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday at the Honolulu Museum of Art.



OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII

JUNE 2018 PHOTOS by Susan R., Penny S. & Theresa T.



Shinye G., Admiral Harry Harris' acquaintance.



Visitors from the past, Marsha Tamashiro, left, & Pat Taira, right with Barbara S. & Florence T., middles.



Gwen F. Irei no Hi chairW



Coffee Lady Bessy N.



Mark H.



Kisei T. & Hatsuko M.



Cheryl S. & James S.



Bob N.



Kamiya Papayas, best in the world!!



"Pres", Rodney K.



Penny S. & Theresa T.



Guy & Cindy U.



Dorothy N.



Louise T.



Kay I. & Jan K.



Sachiko I., Nancyann, & Al A.



Joyce & Thom L.