

Next meeting:

-April 20, 2019

OKINAWAN FESTIVAL SCRIP SALE...2019.

“Members and Friends of OGS it is time to place your orders for the festival scrip. Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the April 20, 2019, meeting and I would appreciate your fantastic KOKUA in reaching our goal of \$6,000. Scrip will be available at the end of May 2019. Thank you for your support.”

Sally Matsumoto

Upcoming activities:

a. April 22 Leadership Workshop 7-9pm (HOC)

b. May 11 HUOA Community Service Picnic

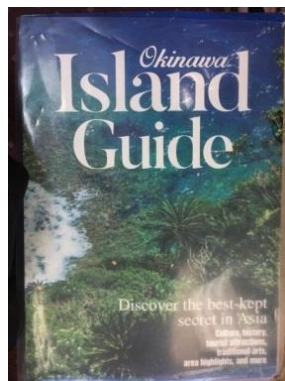
c. June 14 Senior Health & Fitness Fair

-August 31-September 1, 2019

Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center

-November 16, 2019, Saturday. 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

OGSH Bonenkai, Okinawan Center



“A completely revised version of Okinawa Island Guide offers everything you want to know about Okinawa... beautiful photos and introductions to the breathtaking nature, the local food, culture and its people.” [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

e-Newsletter

2019

APRIL



Donna’s Word of the Month

“chimujurasan”  
kind hearted

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii  
c/o HUOC  
95-587 Ukee Place  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

[OGSHnews@gmail.com](mailto:OGSHnews@gmail.com)

Meeting Report  
Saturday, March 16, 2019

Attendance: 35

New Members: 2

Visitors: 2

February’s Treasurer’s Report:

Income-Membership dues, donations,  
Short Story books

Expense – HUOA dues, Bonenkai

Secretary’s Report: Newsletter

Transcribed by: David R.

Photos by Curtis S.

Membership Meeting Notice  
Saturday, April 20, 2019  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Hawaii Okinawan Center Legacy Ballroom

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introduction of Guests
  - 1. Hilson Reidpath
  - 2. Ukwanshin Kabudan
  - 3. Yuichiro “Harry” Masuda
  - 4. Shiori Yamauchi
- III. Treasurer’s Report
- IV. Committee Reports
  - 1. Festival Update
  - 2. Library Update
  - 3. Other
- V. Update on Strategic Plan
- VI. Committee Work
  - 1. Bonenkai Planning (Chuzans)
  - 2. Festival Planning (Hokusans)

March 16, 2019



Message from Donna:

Good morning. I am so happy to be here because I am not sick. More importantly, it is such an exciting adventure for me to lead you folks for the rest of the year. I ask for your support and patience as I learn how to lead you in a meaningful way, so let's get down to business.

We normally start a meeting by introducing our new guests and hopefully they will become new members. I am going to turn it over to Kay who will introduce our new guests.

Kay: This is John and he came here because he knows Charlotte, Diane, and Roy.

John: I've done a lot of genealogy research for our family and I want to learn how to research better. I've gone back to Okinawa and talked to a lot of the family there. I've gone to city hall to get our koseki, which is harder than I thought. I've been there 3 times already. Maybe the next time, I'll get it. So, any help I can get from the group will be appreciated. My grandmother and grandfather came from Ishikawa. I can use any help, suggestions, or tips. Language is a barrier for me since I don't speak Japanese. When I go there, I only get 5% of what I'm being told. I might go to Okinawa this fall. If you can help, help me get my koseki. I was given a form to complete and told to go to the Japanese Consulate here to prove who I am. Thanks so much.



Shinye: This morning, Mr. Dean Hayashida is here today because he interviewed me a few weeks ago and he said he was researching a book and who knew something about the past. Please listen to him.

Dean Hayashida: I just spent 4 years on, 'The Okinawa Island Guide'. This is the publication I am working on. There should be a copy on file at HUOA. Basically, I learned a lot about Okinawa that I never knew. Hawaii people don't know anything people didn't know that Okinawa was a separate area. The experience of immigrants is an area of interest to me. That is what I am doing and to introduce myself. So right now, I am looking for local information on the Okinawan community, both present and especially the past. Thank you everybody.



he is interested in meeting people I told him OGSB is full of people him and you might be able to help

living and working in Okinawa. on, 'The Okinawa Island Guide'. HUOA. Basically, I learned a lot about Okinawa. A lot of Hawaii people didn't know that Okinawa was a separate area. The experience of immigrants is an area of interest to me. That is what I am doing and to introduce myself. So right now, I am looking for local information on the Okinawan community, both present and especially the past. Thank you everybody.

Shinye: During the break, if you feel like talking to him to give him ideas or some leads, please do so.

Donna: It is always nice to meet new people to add to our mixture. I think, even for just a day, brings a wealth of experiences, knowledge and even a perspective that the rest of us might not have. After hearing the Treasurer's report, what I would like to do is develop a budget, to make it easier for myself and the treasurer to move expenses along. Now we'll have the committee reports and start with the Festival report.

Anne: I attended the Festival Committee meeting, not knowing what I was getting into. What was overwhelming agreed on was to charge an admission fee to the Okinawan Festival. What they are discussing is how much and to who. They made a little profit, but for all the time and effort, it was a shame they did not make more. They would like to charge a dollar for everybody, including volunteers, kids, seniors. But a problem would be a back-up at the door if you need to verify who would need to pay. There is still a lot of discussion and it would help if we put in our feelings on having an admission charge. Remember Rodney mentioned that we might be located on the third floor. If you have any concerns, you've got to let us know. It is not set in stone, but it pretty much is. They did it with a lot of thought, pertaining to noise, traffic flow and where the group was situated. You couldn't hear anything after the music started. The third floor would have the groups like Healthy Living, Craft Gallery, Heiwa Dori, Cultural Village, We are HUOA, Okinawa Experience, us, and the bonsai (next to us). The room will be bigger with 2 doors for entrance and exit. Sounds like a good deal but concerns you may have may be brought up to me, Rodney, or David. The size of this room is bigger than the area we had last year. These plans are all tentative. A comment that was brought up is if you are going to charge an admission, than you shouldn't run out of food and other stuff. The food people need to come up with a better game plan so you would have a constant supply. The thinking needs to change because when it was at Kapiolani Park, it was okay to run out because there was no place for storage. But now, there is room for storage. It is okay to have overage. As long as boxes are not open, supplies may be returned. Another thing that was brought up is there a history of HUOA, like how the group started. According to Rodney, there is. HUOA was organized in 1950 and it is all recorded and available, depending on whom you ask. The biggest discussion is the amount of admission and who needs to pay, so put in your comments. The other concern for the group is foot traffic to the third floor because there were comments that people did not bother to go to the third floor. Another is bringing your own water but it should be okay. Water could not be consumed in the food booths. A point brought up is that the food comes from Jefferson Elementary School and it cannot be brought from McKinley High due to previous working agreements. Right now they use two vehicles and they will increase it to three, since a vehicle does not leave until it is full. A suggestion to make andagi on premise is not possible because cooking is not allowed at the Convention Center. Our concern is what we are going to do.



Donna: Thank you Anne for going to the meeting. Next on the agenda is the library update. I was hoping Mark Higa would be here to share with us what they are doing with the feasibility study because that is for the bigger library project where we could get a second floor. Hopefully by next meeting, I will be able to give you an update. On the internal side, with the help of Hara-san, he was able to identify 130 genealogy books that are mixed in the HUOA side. So, we will need to move it from HUOA inventory to OGS side. I am working with Charlene Nikomoto who represents the HUOA arm of the library. I want the Nanzan group to come up with a ballot of names for next year's officer's election. Previously, mixing the voting and Bonenkai made for confusion, so for the next election, it will be separate. Hopefully, the nominations will be done by October, so that when we have the Bonenkai in November, we can announce who the new officers are, so that in January they will be up and running. All of the paper work we are doing right now, like the bylaws and policy statements are all in an effort to be more specific in the duties and where we are going with those kinds of committees and policies.

Our Technology Committee has requested that members become part of the team because we want to develop an OGSH website and we want it to be a robust website. I have some commitment from Ron Miyashiro, who has agreed to be an advisor, along with Ellen Toma. I've yet to talk to Steve Miyashiro, but there may be others within this group who would like to be part of the technology committee as we design the website. See me if you would like to be a part of this committee. Next we have announcements.

I am Pat Miyashiro with Hawaii Taiko Kai and I would like to thank Rodney and Donna for allowing me to come



and give this short presentation to talk about this recital. The reason I came here is because you are a genealogical club interested in culture and your history. This recital coming April 14 will be part of that and I'm hoping you'll consider coming to this. This performance will be done by Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko. They are an organization in Okinawa which our club is affiliated with because we practice their style of taiko. The name of the performance is Hawaii Ni Hibiku Uchina Deku which translates to 'Echos of Uchina Deku in Hawaii'. There will be 49 performers coming from Okinawa. Some of them might be your relatives. Sixteen of them are shihan or top of the class in a

performer's ritual. Out of those 16 shihans, two are National Treasures. They are Morikatsu Kishaba and Satoshi Higa. In their cultural achievement, they rank so high that the Japanese government recognizes them as National Treasures. The performance is \$35 and the Aloha party is \$25 so spend the \$60 and spend a half day at the Okinawan Center. The performance is at 3 o'clock and the party follows. Derrick Ichiro sensei will perform at the party. He was one of the original organizers of Hawaii Taiko Kai. Frances Nakaji, our dance instructor has ties with the club and acted as the liaison to bring them over and Hawaii Taiko Club. There will be 3 clubs doing performances at the party. That alone is worth \$25 plus you get food. Doors open at 2:30 and performance is at 3pm at the Okinawan Center. There is no assigned seating except for the front that is reserved for the Okinawan performers. First come, first served and tickets are going fast. There will be bus service from Jikoen for those that don't drive. Notify Diane Kawaguchi at xxx-xxxx and let her know if you want to ride the bus. Your name will be on a list. You just cannot show up and expect to ride on the bus. Let me explain why the andagi at the festival was cold. There were 4 woks but there was a shortage of manpower to man those woks. So, we need help. Thank you.

Donna: At the Loochoo conference the Tamaki will be there Saturday evening to be an opportunity to meet with him on from 6:30 to 8:30pm. There will also be a of this month at the Okinawan Center by will be a preview of their performance For all you new comers, I want to welcome this morning, I thought of ourselves as all interested in our ancestors and treasures. So, I said, 'Okay...we're going to instead of researchers. It gives it a little the things that spoke to me is when you discover something, it becomes an adrenaline rush, so you become addicted to the whole process. When you make your discovery, you want others to feel the excitement as you look for your ancestors. So, welcome to the group. We are all treasure hunters. I was reading the transcribed message from Hiyane sensei and that particular session, I wished I was here. I was just moved by what he shared and what he appreciated over these years. I just wanted some feedback from his speaking to us. Did it



governor from Okinawa, Denny address the group. There will also Thursday evening at the Pagoda sanshin performance at the end Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii. This that they will do at Carnegie Hall. you. On my way to the center 'treasure hunters' because we are definitely our ancestors are call ourselves treasure hunters' flavor of loving adventure. One of

generate any new thoughts with you? When we think of our points of origin, whether it is Okinawa or somewhere else, the important thing is each place, each culture, each language has a place in history and has

a place in the universe. This is something I feel very strongly about and that is why I continue to engage with the genealogy group because I am passionate about it. It is an important treasure hunting we do as we help others find their roots and who their relatives are. The marching cry I would like to hear is: 'Name it and claim it'. So name your ancestors so that you can claim it. They in turn will be so happy that you claimed them because up until that point in time, they don't have a name, they're just a part of history. You want your ancestors to have a name. It makes you more rounded and appreciative of who you are as a person. Thank you for allowing me to share that perspective with you. You don't have to agree with me. You may not even know how to connect with what I'm saying. But I think if there is just a handful of you who can understand where I am coming from, it is one more person to add to the network. One last thing is to give you an update of the whole strategic planning process we went through in January with the help of Mr. Kamiya to flesh out and get input from everybody. So, we have actually prioritized all the things the members mentioned. I have to apologize. I was hoping you would have all this information before today's meeting, so that we could have some kind of dynamic dialogue because I know it can be boring listening to somebody else talk. So now, I'll just give you an overview on where we are in the process. I'll make sure that you get the list of prioritize items. We're going to pick and complete the 'low hanging fruit', the ones we can continue to support or the ones we haven't started we're going to start doing it. For instance, the board of directors, which is all the officers, have met twice and reviewed the by-laws that Rodney Kohagura, Dorothy Nakama, and Sally Tsuda have already created and just needed somebody to take a look at and approve it. The last time it was revised was in 2010. I wanted to get a vote on it to accept it, but will wait till next month. The policy statements for all the different committees will be the next thing to be worked on. I will be contacting those that are already working on certain committees and those that don't have enough support; I'll be sharing that with you too. You will be getting a copy of the by-laws and prioritized items. I was hoping to have them at today's meeting, but there was a mis-communication of what I wanted and what I needed. That's okay. Another month will not kill us. Since we will have these new governance issues to work on, we will probably have a speaker every other month because I know we enjoy these speakers. Speakers feed you new information and it feeds our spirit. It encourages us on our journey as other people share their knowledge. So...that being said, let's have our break and go into our committees.





**FREE ADMISSION / OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA  
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**SENIOR  
HEALTH & FITNESS FAIR**

**FRIDAY  
JUNE 14, 2019  
9AM - 1PM  
HAWAII  
OKINAWA  
CENTER**

**WIN A  
FREE TRIP  
TO  
LAS VEGAS**  
SPECIAL THANKS TO  
VACATIONS HAWAII

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FREE BLOOD  
PRESSURE TEST  
TONS OF FUN**

- +Educational & Wellness Workshops
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- +Valuable info for Caregivers & Families
- +Health, Safety, Financial, Cultural Booths

HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER | 94-587 UKEE ST., WAIPIO BUSINESS PARK  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL 676-5400 / [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org)



Donna presented a copy of Short Stories VII to Governor Tamaki.



Shigeko Nakasone shared how she survived the Battle of Okinawa when she was a child.



About 30 students and staff traveled from Okinawa to Hawaii to attend the 2019 Loochoo Identity Summit. They were from Hands On, graduates of Yaeyama High School, and the Okinawa Christian University. Pictured are the students, staff, and members of Ukwanshi Kabudan.

It is with great sadness and reluctance that I submit this letter of resignation as executive director. I am unable to continue in this position full-time and work to the best of my ability with the challenges I am facing. After several months' effort, I think it is better for me and for the organization to step down rather than later considering the year ahead and for 2020.

Please know that the time has passed in my life through which I have learned through wisdom on the 22nd of April.

My last day was an honor and very best.

Sincerely,  
Gwen Fujie

To: *Gwen Fujie*

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru*

*Wishing you health and happiness. Take care.*

From: *OGSH*



At the time I started, I was not prepared to continue full-time. I am submitting this resignation. Because of the challenges I am facing, I am particularly concerned about the Leadership training session on the 22nd of April.

My understanding. Though very brief, it was an honor and very best ways to fulfill the mission of HUOA. All the