



Thanks to quick thinking on the part of people who were there when I got to the escalator, and losing my grip on the panels as I tried to negotiate the escalator, I fell head-forward, and was headed for a broken neck when I came to the bottom; somebody (I wish I knew who) had the presence of mind to push the "Emergency Stop" button. As a result, I suffered skin abrasions on leg and arm but no concussion, and no broken bones! I am sorry for the incident; I realize I am fortunate in that things could have turned out much worse, but did not, thanks to quick thinking of that person who stopped the escalator, and the help of Convention Center and medical personnel at Queen`s Emergency. Aloha, Shinye Gima. (2019 Okinawan Festival)

2019 Upcoming activities:
 -September 21, 2019
 OGSB Meeting
 Volunteer Appreciation
 -October 19, 2019,
 OGSB Meeting
 -November 16, 2019
 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 OGSB Bonenkai
 Okinawan Center
 "Kashiragawai"-Transition
 -December 2019,
 No meeting

e-Newsletter
 2019
 September



Donna's Word of the Month
 "uuwee/yuuwee"
 celebration

Membership Meeting Notice
 Saturday, September 21, 9 am—12 pm
 Serikaku Chaya
 AGENDA
 I. Call to Order
 II. Treasurer's Report-
 III. Announcements
 IV. Ippee Niffee Debiru
 V. Committee Reports
 a. Bonenkai
 b. Bylaws/ Board of Directors
 c. Library
 d. Okinawan Festival
 VI. Discussion
 VII. Committee Work



Friday, August 30, 2019, 5pm



Sunday, September 1, 2019, 5pm

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

OGSHnews@gmail.com

Meeting Report
 Saturday, August 17, 2019

Attendance: 51
 Visitors: 4
 August Treasurer's Report:
 Income-Membership dues, Donation, Sale of bookmarks,
 and Short Stories
 Expense – Computers, Software, Ancestry.com, Okinawan
 Festival Scrips, Newsletter printing, Bonenkai, Bookmarks
 Speakers: Lee Tonouchi , Laura Kina, Allen Toma, and
 Shigeru Yoshimoto
 Secretary's Report: Newsletter
 Transcribed by: David R.,
 Photos by Curtis S., Anne O., and Theresa T.

Funeral Services for OGSB Members

Our condolences to the family.



Charter Member **Kiyoshi Taira**- Passed away on August 12, 2019. Service will be held on September 21, 2019, Saturday, 5pm, at Hosoi Mortuary. Interment is at 10am, September 23, 2019, Monday at the National Cemetary of the Pacific.

Mary Miyashiro – Passed away on September 13, 2019. Service will be held on October 17, 2019, Thursday, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Stake Center, 46-117 Halaulani Street, Kaneohe. Viewing at 4pm and service at 6:30pm. Burial will be October 18, Friday, 10am, at the Hawai'i Veteran's Cemetary, Kanehoe.



OGSH Meeting for August 17, 2019

Speakers: Guest Laura Kina and Lee Tonouchi

“Okinawan Princess: Da Legend of the Hajichi Tattoos”

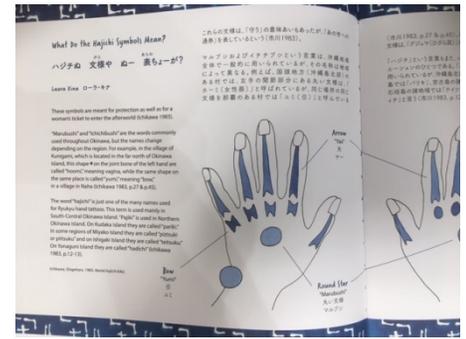
Lee: I would like to thank you for having us here today. The last time I was here, I was only able to show you a picture of the book. Now we actually have the book. How awesome is that? It's like having a baby, the book is finally born. First question people ask is, “When is the next one?” Basically, this project started out because I have children and there is not too many children Okinawan picture books out there. I had done a series for the Hawaiian Herald where I reviewed all the Okinawan children picture books I could find and there is not too many. I thought somebody should write one. “Hey, I'm a writer, I should write one.” Just so happened, my last book ‘Significant Moments in Da Life of Oriental Faddah and Son: One Hawai'i Okinawan Journal’ had just won the Association of Asian-American Studies Book Award and they had the conference in Seattle. I was supposed to get my award there but I didn't want to fly all the way to Seattle to get my award. But then, Laura was at that conference and she had wanted to meet me there. Just so happened at that time, I wanted to write a children's picture book. So, I sent her an email out of the blue because she is an Okinawan-American artist actually doing Okinawan themed things. There are not too many Okinawan-American artists, necessarily focusing on things related to Okinawa. She had done portraits of plantation workers. She had done hajichi series so I knew it was an interest to her. I sent her an email because I wanted to meet her. We connected and that was when we started the book. My interest in this is because my great-grandma had hajichi tattoos. I remember, I was very afraid of her because I didn't know what they were. I thought she had some kind of disease. I thought it was kind of weird because she gave my grandma instructions that when she died, she had to have gloves. She didn't want anyone to see her tattoos. That's how embarrassed she was of her tattoos. Whenever she took pictures, she would hide her hands. But there are a few candid pictures of her hands of when she is so happy carrying me.

Laura: Good morning. So nice to be here. He stole the story of how we met. I heard about his book ‘Oriental Faddah and Son’ and it is written in Pidgin English. My father is from Hilo and his first language was Pidgin and he worked really hard to speak Standard English. When I heard about that book, I thought, I had to meet him and he contacted me that same week, so I knew that was fate. When he first asked me to illustrate a book...I'm a painter...I've never illustrated anything before so I thought I'm not sure, but it seems too much of a coincidence. The universe put us together. The first draft he sent was from a little boy's point of view. I told him, “No, thank you.” I told him if he rewrote it from a girl's point of view I might be interested and he rewrote the whole thing. So, I felt I had to do it. I did some draft sketches of what the grandmother, little girl would look like. I sent it to him and he said it looked like his grandmother. So, maybe we all look alike. Then I came out here and a lot of scenes, we'd act it out. So, a lot of scenes were of our family members. This project in a way, started when I visited here many years ago and I saw a display of plantation workers and that got me inspired to learn about plantation closings. So, I went back to my dad's community and started to do oral history projects. Initially, I thought I was going to gather ghost stories because I heard stories of the plantation's cemetery where there would be fireballs popping up at night and float around. I wanted to get these ghost stories but every time I went out into the community asking for ghost stories, they would reminisce about how much fun they had riding the cane flumes, playing in the water falls, and they had all great stories about boxing. When I asked about clothing, hajichi started to come up and I never heard about hajichi, but I later learned about it in a cookbook that OGSB put together. I started returning back to Okinawa wanting to find my extended family and I reconnected with them. From them, I started learning about hajichi tattoos.

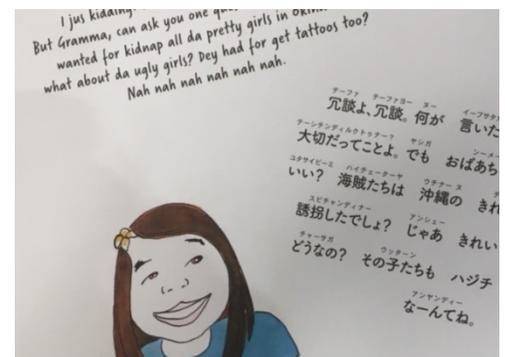


Almost everything about hajichi was written in Japanese, except the cookbook you published, not English. I realized there was a big need to have something in English. So, I was really excited to work with Lee on this project because it is not going to be another of my academic books that hardly anybody reads. This is for the community here.

Lee: The coolest part about of our book is that not only is it in Pidgin and Japanese, but it has Uchinaaguchi in it. Do you want to talk about that?



Laura: Dr. Masashi Sakihara of Ryukyu University does Okinawan studies and he was able to help in the translation into Uchinaaguchi, which is a severely endangered language. There's many things that we talk about that there are no words for it in Uchinaaguchi. So it took a lot of people to help with the translation. Another thing we came to learn is that every island in Okinawa has a different tradition of Hajichi. Even on the same island, you would see different designs that are from the north on the main island of Okinawa, the center, and the south and the meaning of these things changes. One of the things we learned is that on the hand of a typical design you would see on the main island of Okinawa has these long arrows on the finger and on the knuckles there is a shape like a bowl. On the back of the hand is a round circle that's a moon and stars on the wrist. That's a typical pattern. We came to learn, on some islands, the bowl shape on the knuckle is actually a vagina. We thought, "My goodness, we just written a children's book about this!" If you read about the history about hajichi, it has a couple of different meanings. One was to protect women from rape by samurai and another way for mothers to pass along their history, at different ages, about the stages of their lives. One meaning of hajichi on an island may have a different meaning with a change of symbols. Do you want to talk about Pidgin? There is a whole section of it.



Lee: The Pidgin part is mostly for non-Pidgin talkers, so they know, "What is up with this?" I'll talk about the ladies references. When I first wrote about this, I wrote it from the point of boy, since I am a boy. I based this on my conversations with my grandma. But she said to make the main protagonist a girl. Okay, that was good. I have two girls. I'd rather write a story about a girl. So, I changed it to a girl. But we had a problem. If we tell it in the present day, the main character, the child wouldn't have seen a hajichi tattoo. It would have had to be the great-great grandmother. It kind of loses its importance to the child because she would have only seen pictures and she would have never met her great-great grandmother. So Laura had the idea to just set it when it happened in the 80's. We had all these 80's references to put in the book.

Laura: Lee makes an appearance in the book.

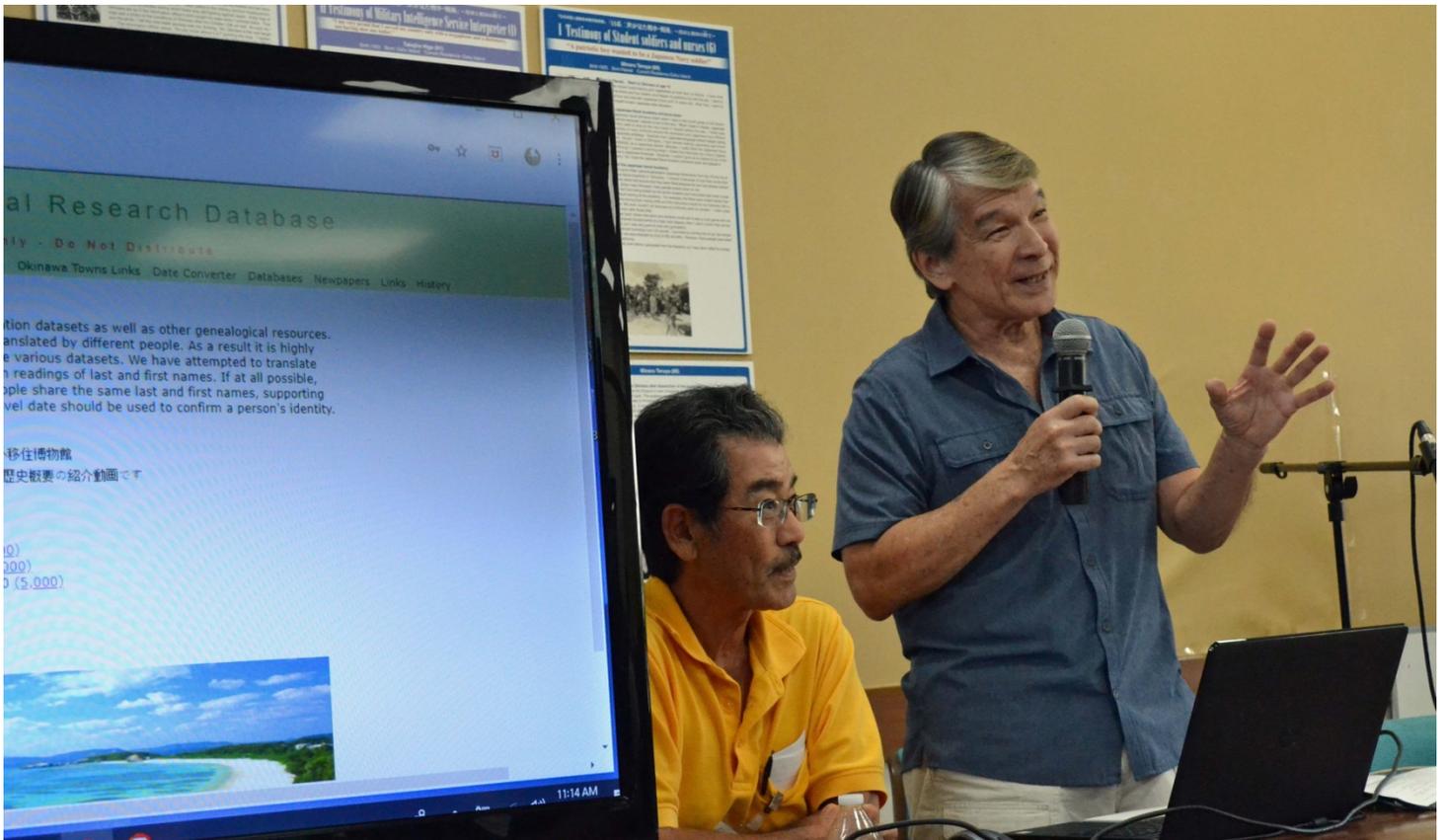
Lee: That was your idea. This is a caricature of He Man, Master of the Universe. Instead of He Man in battle cap, we have Lee Man in battle Shisa.

Laura: With signature moustache and aviator glasses. You have Karate Kids references in there.

Lee: You have the princess doing here karate crane kick pose.

Laura: Cindy Crawford makes an appearance here. This is based on a true story of a princess of Okinawa during Ryukyu Kingdom times. The story being she was kidnapped by the Lord of Satsuma. If you've ever been to Sefa Utaki or Shuri Castle. This are the places where this story happened.





My name is Allen and this is Shigeru. We primarily are the ones who did the database. For me, it started about three years ago when my dad became a hundred years old. I decided to find out about my family. My family is really big. I have in total, 20 aunts and uncles. Ten on each side. Some of my uncles, I've never met until I was 20, 25 because I was in the military, so I never got to see them. When I first started doing this, I came to OGS. I talked to Sally. Sally helped me out with researching my ancestors. From that, I saw the database they were using. My background is in database, so I asked if I could help out and she said, "Sure." That's how I got started with OGS. Last year, I took my first trip to Okinawa and there, Hira Akihara found my relatives in Nakagusuku. That started the whole thing. Then last summer, Hira Akihara came to Hawaii, University of Hawaii to do his Masters in Library Science.

The initial database that you are familiar with was translated name by name all the people that came to Hawaii. What Hira brought to Hawaii was that four volume book that was digitized. What the problem with that database is that it is all in Kanji. What I want to do is surf that database easily for English speaking people. The database basically contains names, birthdates, when they travelled, why they came. I'm a programmer. I have no knowledge of Kanji or Japanese. So, I have Shigeru here, the other half. He's the one who translated the database for me. So what we did, instead of translating one name at a time, I surfed through the database and here are all these Kanji names. Give me the translation. I took that list and went back into the database and when I saw a Kanji character sequence, I'd replace it with the English translation that Shigeru provided. This database we have now has 51,000 names and it's from people who emigrated from Okinawa from 1900 to 1938.

Shigeru: This database, not only has names and when they came but also passport numbers. All kinds of information. There were 27 columns of information. It's going to take me a year to translate. We do it little by

little. So if I work 1 hour a day it'll take me 1 year to complete 50,000 names. But it took about 5 months. It is not 100% accurate but it is good enough to guide you in your research.

Allen: What you see on the screen is what the database looks like. On databases, what you're trying to basically is trying to find a needle in haystack. You have all these names and you try to narrow it down to a certain person. I type in Ohya and I get 305 Ohyas in this database. You see the listing here. You have the legend on the top in English and Kanji. Then English we have here is what we translated. On the bottom is the Kanji that was in the original database. We're translating it but there is a chance there is an error. That is why there is the original Kanji in the database. If you click on this record, here is the Kanji that exist in the original database and here is the English translation. That's what we have. I started off with this database that contained 51,000 but along the way, I started looking around at different datasets that were available. I started looking around for more. I found 21,000 Japanese immigrants to Peru, 18,000 Okinawans to Brazil, 5,000 Japanese immigrants to Brazil. Some of these records are from the Brazilian and Peruvian governments. Others are from Centennial publications. So, we have all these different data sources and I started looking around for more. I found World War 2 veterans, internees, Nisei soldiers, military intelligence, 442th and Arizona memorial casualties, and Hawaii Hawaiian internees. On the Peru dataset, it has people from all over Japan that came to Peru. These people came from Osaka. It has their full name, English name, date of birth, age, departure date, arrival date, prefecture, their town in Osaka. This is their destination town in Peru and the ship they arrived on. Here I have all the Ohyas that went to Peru. That's the Peruvian database that came from Peru itself. The next one is Brazil and it shows immigrants that came till 1983. I selected Ohya and I have departure date, what ship, and the town in Brazil they settled in. (did an audience search for Nakaima)

Let me go back to the 51,000. This is how I usually go about searching for somebody. In this case, this is my maternal grandparents Kama and Nabe Ohya and these are their birthdates. I went to the cemetery and found their names and birthdates. That's easy enough to do. (demo of database) Starting with that in this database, I would type in Ohya and I would find 305 Ohyas. But the 305, if you scroll down, you'll see its Ohyadamari, Ohyakawa, whatever. I don't want all those names but I can get specific Ohya names and here I have 21 names. If you look at my grandfather, he was born in 1894 and if you go back and enter his date of birth, you get 3 Kama Ohyas. I narrowed down my ancestor, Kama Ohya. He's from Nakagusuku.

I went on the internet and started looking for Okinawan or Japanese associations. I found a Japanese association in Peru. They said they didn't have information about the Ohyas I was asking about. They referred me to the Okinawan association. I was given a contact at the Peru Okinawan association and I wrote to him and he contacted me back and he said that at the next Nakagusuku meeting he'll ask. Two or three weeks ago he said he found my relatives and they will be contacting me. So this is how you can research and make your connections. There are so many datasets to use to research for your relatives. But what I did was to search all the datasets in this database. The Latter Day Saints (Mormons) have a really good database. You can use our database. It's free. You will need to register to login and have a password. This database will give you census information, date of birth, date of death, immigration records. The best records are the census records. The next best thing to census records are obituaries. In the database, I downloaded Hawaii cemeteries. Hawaii has so many cemeteries. This is another resource. There's another website, 'Findagrave'. The database because it has both English and Kanji, you can search on both sides. It's best to have all the information you can gather before searching like date of birth, town, house number.

Bonenkai 2019 Announcements

Please register for Bonenkai 2019 by:

Saturday, October 19 Last day – early bird discount (\$ 25 for adult)

Monday, October 28 Last day – regular price (\$ 28 for adult)

Tookachi Birthday

Members who were born in 1931 will be recognized. Please let Jim Higa or Kay Ikei know. If you were not recognized last year on your 88th birthday, we apologize and let Jim or Kay know.

Prize Donations

The prize committee is seeking donations. Let Jan Kobashigawa or Sandi Hino know if you would like to make a donation.

Jan's phone numbers: 488-8125 or 228-6574

If she does not answer, please leave a message.

Jan's e-mail: hawnhulagal145@yahoo.com

Pupu and Dessert Donations

Pupu and desserts are also welcome on November 16, Bonenkai Day.

Donna Kakazu is coordinating these donations.

Ipppee niffee deebiru!

**Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
2019 Bonenkai - Kashiragawai (Transitions)**

Date: **Saturday November 16, 2019**
 Time: **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
 Place: **Hawaii Okinawa Center - Legacy II Ballroom**

Adult (8 and Older)	\$28.00
Adult (8 and Older)--Early Bird Registration (postmarked or submitted by October 19, 2019)	\$25.00
Child (3-7 years)	\$13.00
Toddler (2 and under)	Free

Name: _____ Phone/email: _____

Number attending:	Adult--submitted by Oct. 19, 2019	\$25.00 _____
	Adult--submitted after Oct. 19, 2019	\$28.00 _____
	Child (3-7 years)	\$13.00
	Toddler (2 and under)	Free _____
	Monetary donations are welcomed	_____
	OGSH Annual Dues (\$10/person/year)	_____
	Total (Cash or check payable to: OGSH)	_____

Final Registration Deadline--October 28, 2019

Submit forms and payment at monthly meetings to: **Gloria Dugay or Jay Higa**

Or mail form and payment to: **Gloria Dugay
94-1031 Akihiloa Street
Waipahu, HI 96797**

Name(s) of attendees (Include additional names on back):

August 17, 2019

