



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

OGSHnews@gmail.com

Donna's Word of the Month

"Umuiganasa"
 (thinking of you)

OGSH will be starting an Umuiganasa Committee. The purpose for this committee is to reach out to any of our members who may have fallen out of sight or contact.

If you know of any member that you would like us to contact or know of why a member is unable to join us at our Saturday meetings, please email a note to OGSHnews@gmail.com.

Nifee Debiru

Upcoming Activity

2020
 September 4-6 Virtual Okinawan Festival

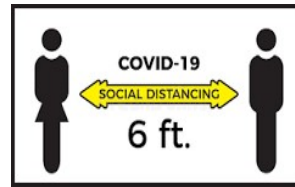
What is a virtual festival?

Virtual events are growing in popularity, especially as the world continues to deal with the novel coronavirus. Fortunately, modern technology has made it possible for companies to host amazing online events that rival in-person versions, leading to many benefits for both event planners and attendees alike.

A virtual event, also known as an online event, is an interactive gathering that happens on the internet. Unlike in-person events, virtual ones aren't restricted to a single location. A remote attendee can join and participate from anywhere in the world, given he or she has access to the web.

Some events are completely virtual and every guest attends sessions from the comfort of their own home, favorite coffee shop, or wherever they might be. Others have both in-person and virtual components, which is also known as a hybrid event.

<https://blog.bizzabo.com/virtual-event-ideas>



e-Newsletter
 2020
 AUGUST

Membership Meeting
 Saturday, August 22, 2020



August Report

Treasurer's Report: No activity
 Secretary's Report: Newsletter
 OGSF Photos: Curtis S., members and friends

<https://www.okinawanfestival.com/>



SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2020
 OKINAWANFESTIVAL.COM

OGSH Video Clips for the Virtual Okinawan Festival

The HUOA clubs were asked to create a video based on answering five (5) HUOA questions in the time allotted.

Questions to Answer

1. Provide a brief history of your club (2-3 minutes)
 - a. Name of your club
 - b. Your name and (club officer/member)
 - c. When was the club founded?
 - d. How many members do you have?
2. What is unique about your club? That is, what are you known for (2-3 minutes) (examples: Fashion Show, Scholarship Fundraisers for Students, etc)
3. What does your club do at the Okinawan Festival? (2-3 Seconds/2-3 Words)
4. What is your favorite part of Okinawan Festival? (2-3 Seconds/2-3 Words)
5. What is your favorite Okinawan Festival Food? (2-3 Seconds/2-3 Words)

Ippee Nefee Debiru to Producer, Director Joy Schoonover, Cameraman, Editor Clyde Uchima, and the HOC for the use of their facility for filming.



- Q1: <https://vimeo.com/449093127/ad553b22ae>
 Q2: <https://vimeo.com/449092133/12f1e40150>
 Q3: <https://vimeo.com/449092985/84c56b2e5d>
 Q4: <https://vimeo.com/449094297/4c2994b1f0>
 Q4a: <https://vimeo.com/449093049/7c17f884c0>
 Q5: <https://vimeo.com/449093104/f7cba5c17b>

Q1



Q2



Q2



Q2



Q2



Q2, Q5



Q4



Q4



Q4a



Note from HUOA:

PLEASE NOTE: All videos will be going onto our [HUOA YouTube](#) channel for the WORLD to see! However, we won't be able to include them all during our live stream. Again, ALL videos will be posted on our HUOA Youtube channel to share, view and enjoy!

We will be sharing more information about the festival so please SUBSCRIBE to our [HUOA YouTube](#) channel for more details! Help reach our goal of 1000 subscribers.



In the address bar on your web browser type in "HUOA YouTube". It will take you to the HUOA YouTube page. Currently posted are past the Yuntaku videos and a 24 second Virtual Okinawan Festival Teaser.

Click SUBSCRIBE



SUBSCRIBE

If you hit the subscribe button, it just means you are interested in watching this youtuber's videos in the future. It is completely free.

What happens when you subscribe to a YouTube channel?

You can **subscribe** to **channels** you like to see more content from those **channels**. **You** can find a **Subscribe** button under any **YouTube** video or on a **channel's** page. Once **you subscribe** to a **channel**, any new videos it publishes will show up in your Subscriptions feed.

What happens when you subscribe to a YouTube channel?

This is the exact reason, **youtubers** asks **you to subscribe** their channel. So that they know exactly how big their audience group are. And they can easily reach out with them whenever they come up a with a new video. I **would** call it as promoting rather than begging.

https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS880US880&sxsrf=ALeKk01-n_hHwI4D76ScGbMTNe5jrvMqBQ:1598088091690&q=How+much+does+it+cost+to+subscribe+to+a+YouTube+channel%3F&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjxiZmlvq7rAhXH3J4KHQExC-oQzmd6BAgLEAw&iw=1263&bih=936

They Strengthened Their Bond as Brothers After Serving Opposing Sides in the Battle of Okinawa

By Byrnes Yamashita

Special to The Hawai'i Herald

Do you sometimes think about how a simple twist of fate changed your life and the lives of others? As the world commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2020, the people of Okinawa observe *Irei no Hi* or "Okinawa's Memorial Day" on June 23 (June 22 in Hawai'i), to reflect on a life-changing wartime experience.

"Irei no Hi," which translates to "the day to console the dead," is an annual remembrance observed in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture to memorialize the lives lost during the Battle of Okinawa.

The Battle of Okinawa was the only ground engagement of the Pacific War fought on Japanese soil. The Japanese Imperial Army and U.S. military forces clashed upon Okinawan land and water. Over 240,000 lives were lost (about half of those Okinawan civilians); numerous buildings on the island were destroyed along with countless historical documents, artifacts and cultural treasures. This destruction included many family registries or *kōseki*, which now makes it difficult for Okinawan descendants living outside of Okinawa to connect with their relatives who live there.



Noboru and Shinye are standing 4th and 5th from the left in this Gima Family photo taken in 2006. (Photo courtesy of Shinye Gima)

The names of the over 240,000 people who lost their lives are inscribed on the Cornerstone of Peace Monument in the Mabuni area of southern Okinawa where the Irei no Hi ceremony is held each year.

On that historic day, April 29, 1945, Shinye Gima, a nisei from Hawai'i, landed in Yomitan, Okinawa, with U.S. troops. What twist of fate had brought him to his parents' homeland?

Shinye was born in 1925 in Pu'uloa, Ewa Plantation, O'ahu, but grew up on Maui. He was the second of 10 children of Shinyu and Ushi Gima, immigrants from Tamagusuku-son, Okinawa.

He grew up in Kahului, the son of a stevedore who, despite his small frame, proved strong enough to haul 96-lb. bags of raw sugar into the holds of ships. His mother made tofu to sell to the neighbors.

In the book, "The Japanese American Historical Experience in Hawai'i" by Jonathan Y. Okamura, Yukiko Kimura quotes Mrs. Ushi Gima: "For 15 years, I made tofu. Every morning, I got up at 2 [a.m.] to start making it. I also raised hogs. In the afternoon, I washed clothes of single men in the camp. I also taught dressmaking to young girls."

Today, Dr. Shinye Gima is a healthy and spry 95-year-old blessed with his parents' genes and work ethic. When Shinye was eight years old, his family received a letter from his paternal grandparents in Okinawa. He recalls that they had no blood relatives to live with them, so they asked his father to send them one of his sons.

Shinye says, "Naturally with Ralph being the oldest sibling, my father wouldn't send him, so my father asked me, 'Eh you want to go to Okinawa to live with your grandparents?' I said, 'Oh no, I have a lot of friends in school. I don't want to leave my friends.' My younger brother Noboru said, 'Oh, I'll go.' He was 5 years old. He had no idea what he was getting into. My father took him to Okinawa, [it was] about 1933."

These two young boys were unaware of how this decision would change the arc of their lives. On Dec. 7, 1941, Shinye was a junior at Baldwin High School. He remembers that the school was immediately closed after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and then re-opened a few months later.

As a senior, Shinye was among hundreds of nisei that went to Wailuku Gym to volunteer for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in February 1943. However, he was rejected due to his poor eyesight.

In the fall, he enrolled at the University of Hawai'i. Later that year, recruiters for the Military Intelligence Service visited the campus seeking AJA volunteers. He took the qualification exam and was accepted.

In February 1944, he and 300 other volunteers from Hawai'i arrived at Camp Savage, Minn., to attend the MIS Language School. The school was moved to Fort Snelling in the spring of 1944. After completing nine months of language training, he attended basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., and returned to Fort Snelling to await his assignment.

The Army had approved the formation of a special group of linguists who could speak the Okinawan dialect; Shinye was selected as part of the 10-man 308th Intelligence Detachment sent to Okinawa while the battle, also known as the "Typhoon of Steel," was raging.

The other members of the group were Tom Ige, Jiro Arakaki, Leslie Higa, Seiyu Higashi, Hiroshi Kobashigawa, Kenzo Miyashiro, Kazuo Nakamura, Kosei Oshiro and Seikichi Sakihara. Lt. Wallace Amioka was in charge of the team.

Upon their arrival on Okinawa, individual unit members were assigned to other units on temporary duty. While the Army and Marines were fighting the land battle against the Japanese army, the Navy was assigned to control the Okinawan civilian community, having completed its bombardment and landing operations for the most part.

Initially assigned to a Navy medical unit on the island of Kumejima, Shinye was impressed by the Navy's humanitarian efforts in support of the Okinawan citizens amidst the war. He was later transferred to an Army unit that attempted to persuade a "hold-out" Japanese naval detachment to surrender.

After the Japanese surrendered in September 1945, Shinye returned to the main island of Okinawa from Kumejima to search for his relatives. He was able to find his grandparents who had been relocated from their home in Tamagusuku to an evacuation center further north.

Eventually, Shinye's relatives in Okinawa could return to their home, but they did not know what had happened to Noboru; Shinye continued his search for his brother. Noboru was about 16 or 17 years old when the U.S. military attack on Okinawa began. Noboru had volunteered for a high-school group called *Tekketsu Kinnotai* — "Blood-and-Steel Imperial Corps." These groups of high-school students provided logistical support to the Japanese army. Noboru was captured by the Americans.

Shinye learned that Noboru had been sent to a POW camp in Hawai'i. He notified his parents of Noboru's plight and advised them to pursue his release, since he was an American citizen.

It took a year, but Noboru was released in 1946 and allowed to return home to Maui. Homesick for Okinawa, he took English lessons and enlisted in the U.S. Army, which still needed linguists. He also worked for military intelligence while serving in the Army in Okinawa for many years. After retiring from the Army, he then found civilian work, in Okinawa, employed by the U.S. Army and Navy. He married an Okinawan girl; they had a son, David, who currently lives in Hawai'i.

After service to both countries in his lifetime, Noboru passed away in 2017 at the age of 89.

In the spring of 1946, Noboru's brother Shinye returned to Hawai'i upon his discharge from the Army. He completed a teaching degree from the University of Hawai'i and instructed public-school students for several years. He then earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology and worked as faculty in audio-visual technology and instructional design at the UH College of Education until his retirement.

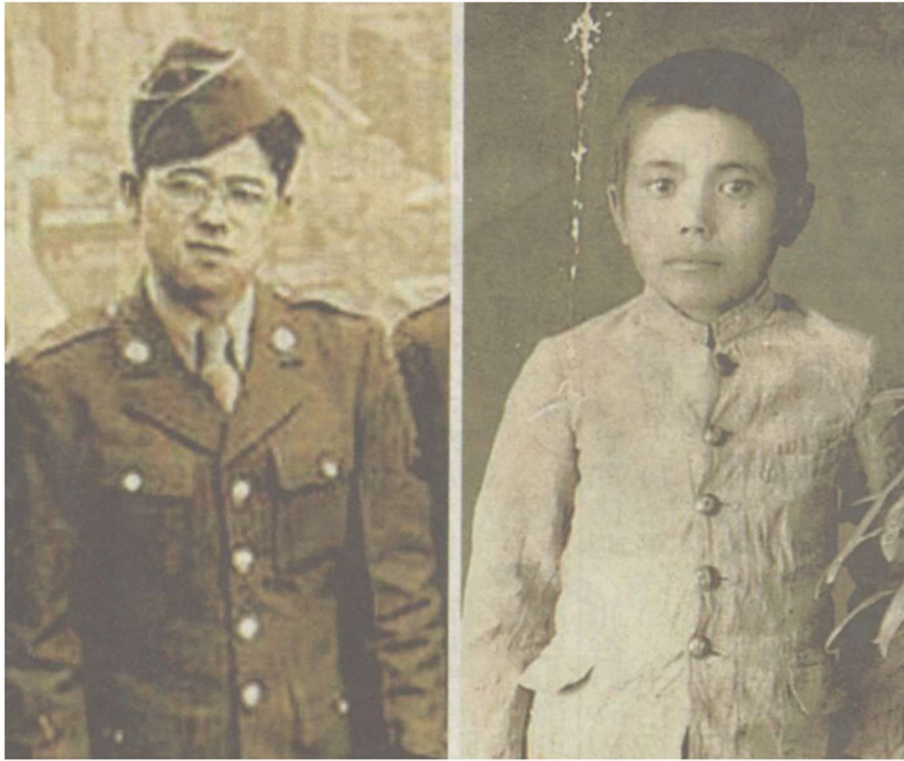
As we honor the memory of the many people who lost their lives during the Battle of Okinawa on both sides of the war, we can marvel at this story of one family with roots in Hawai'i and Okinawa; how a simple decision changed the lives of two brothers who had very different experiences during the Battle.

Dr. Shinye Gima thinks that if he had accepted his father's offer to go to Okinawa, being three years older than Noboru, he would have been of draft age and probably would have entered the Japanese Imperial Army and probably been killed. And Hawai'i would have lost an educator who spent almost 40 years serving the community. Something to ponder, isn't it?

Byrnes Yamashita is a retired engineer and volunteers for the Nisei Veterans Legacy, a non-profit organization that preserves and promulgates the contributions of the Nisei soldiers of World War II.



From left: Byrnes Yamashita, Dr. Shinye Gima, Ms. Nao Fukuoka, Ray Sekiya at the Nisei Veterans Legacy office. From Hiroshima, Ms. Fukuoka visited Hawai'i in 2019 to research the experience of Nikkei during WWII. (Photo courtesy of Byrnes Yamashita)



Shinye and Noboru at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio in 2015. (Photo courtesy of Ryukyu Shimpo)