



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

OGSHnews@gmail.com



e-Newsletter
 2020
 OCTOBER

Donna's Word of the Month
 "grateful"
 nifee



Membership Meeting
 Saturday, October 17, 10AM
 Zoom Meeting



October's Report

Treasurer's Report: Expense-none
 Income-dues, donations, books
 Secretary's Report: Newsletter

September's Speakers: Dr. Ann Yabusaki & Jennifer Kumura

OGSH Photos: Curtis S., members and friends



Donna's Gratitude Message for Oct 2020

Hi everyone! It is always a delight and a pleasure to talk story with you month to month. And, this month is very special for two reasons: the first and foremost is to celebrate all of you as wonderful members and fabulously committed volunteers who have served and continue to serve in whatever capacity makes your heart sing! To date, the generosity of our donors has also surpassed last year's and all these donations help OGS to further the boundaries of our stated mission . . . The second reason is a bittersweet announcement that I must step down from being your president as my husband's medical journey is demanding more time and brain space. The club deserves to have leadership that is unfettered with concerns that distract from the focus needed to lead successfully. Joy Schoonover has graciously accepted to step into the role of leading you effective Nov 1, 2020. My presidential journey has been an honor, privilege and a very special time for birthing new initiatives and making memories with you over the years. I will remain plugged into the revision of our OGS webpage and the library and reflooring project until completion. I am thanking you in advance for making this transition as smooth as possible and for supporting her with the same energy that you showed me!



I want to also take this opportunity to thank the members of our OGS BOD (Ken Kamiya, Joy Schoonover, Clyde Higa, Dorothy Nakama, Susan Ramelb, Theresa Tom, Rodney Kohagura) and the many champions we have for the various committees. The resurrection of the BOD meetings has been instrumental in navigating uncharted waters for us. Their full support and endless source of ideas has made all the difference.

Listed below are the champions for the various committees:

- Bookmarks: Anne Oshiro
- Bylaws: Rodney Kohagura
- IT Equipment/Procurement: Steve Miyashiro/Dorothy Nakama/Stan Uehara
- Mensore: Kay Ikei, Jan Kobashigawa, Naomi Tome, Heidi Shimabukuro, Jackie Toma, Pearl Toma
- Officer Nominations: Stan Uehara
- Photography and Videography: Curtis Shinsato, Ron Miyashiro, Clyde Uchima, Joy Schoonover
- Policies and Procedures: Dorothy Nakama (overall lead)
- Library Cataloging: Naomi Tome, Nancy Yogi, Anne Oshiro
- Library Reference Files: Agnes Haraguchi, Dorothy Nakama, Connie Nakasone
- Research: Sally Tsuda and Shigeru Yoshimoto
- Refreshments: Amy and Fred Shinsato, Bessie Nitahara
- Short Story: Florence Teruya
- Uchinanchu of the Year: Amy Tsuru
- Web page/Database Development: Allen Toma, Clyde Uchima, Jennifer Kumura



Kay



Theresa



Cindy and Guy

Haisai!

The way “Umuiganasa” (Thinking of you) got started was Donna wanted members know that we stand with them as they face various challenges. I had suggested earlier that we call members via phone to encourage them to join our OGSB meeting and to find out how they are doing. Heidi said it best that it was a “Relationship Builder” concept. Calling members by phone is a personal contact and helped the morale due to lack of camaraderie. Everyone did an awesome job. Theresa was a terrific advisor on this project. She referred the callers—Jan Kobashigawa, Dorothy Nakama, Jackie Toma, Heidi Shimabuku, Cindy & Guy Ujimori, Donna Kakazu, and me, Kay Ikei as OGSB angels. The positive results were members were able to watch the Okinawan Festival on-line through Facebook & You Tube, members wanted membership forms, updated information—change of email addresses, moved, correct or new cell & land-line phone numbers etc.

More communication is needed if we are to accomplish our goals for OGSB.

Committee Chair, Kay



Jackie



Jan



Dorothy

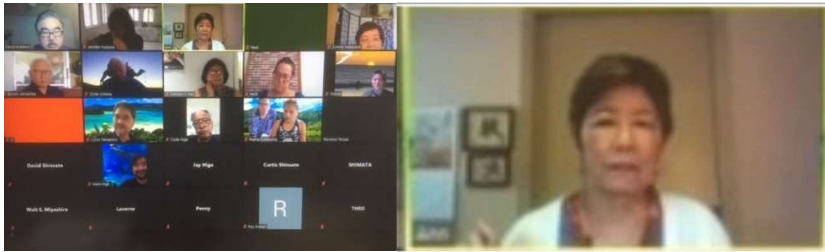


Heidi



Donna K.

Notes from Donna



Dr. Ann Yabusaki

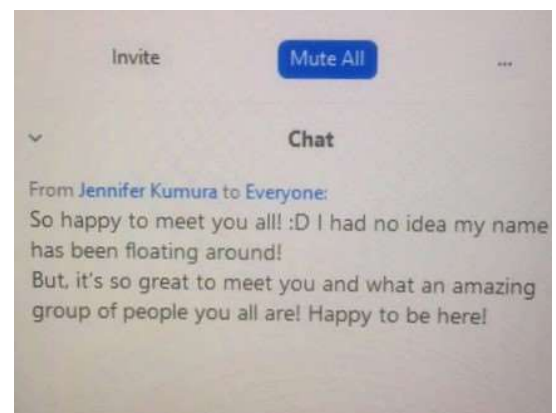
The most significant highlight from Dr. Ann’s discussion regarding the family legacies that are handed down from generation to generation was the establishment of “normal” behavior that we manifest in life. It is the modeling of the “acceptable” behavior that is internalized and demonstrated as we live our lives as adults. A most telling experience of hers was in Seattle where she and her fiancée visited a restaurant but were not waited on even after having been there for more than 20 minutes. Ann abruptly picked up her bag, told her fiancée “we are leaving now” and stormed out of the restaurant. Her bewildered fiancée ran after her and asked what was the matter and she blurted out, “Waiting for more than 20 minutes is not acceptable! This would never happen back in Hawaii.” To which he replied “well this is normal for us living on the mainland”. She was shocked to discover that what was normal for him, was unheard of for her. And this is where sensitivity to time, place and background becomes critical in developing an understanding of others who may have grown up in different environments with different life experiences. It was certainly eye-opening for me.

Organizing the packing with post-it notes.



Jenn

I initiated the project of redesigning the HUOA and OGSB website because I truly believe that in order to preserve the knowledge and legacy of our culture the use technology is necessary. Technology has the potential to make the discovery and learning of our own Okinawan heritage more accessible and optimized, especially for our future generations. Carrying on our historic stories holds deep in my heart; I'm so excited and grateful to be involved with this continued growth and development of HUOA and OGSB in the digital age. dn



What is Balsam? (Tinsagu)

Balsam (*Impatiens balsamina*) is native to India and Southeast Asia. It was brought to England during Victorian times by the intrepid plant hunters of that era. Their colorful flowers and neat, upright habit made them perfect as a bedding plant.



Tinsagu

Their nickname, Touch-Me-Not, refers to their method of spreading their seeds. When touched, the seed pods literally explode spraying seed all over your garden. Thanks to the ease with which the seeds germinate, balsam can become invasive in your garden. I often find myself pulling out seedlings in my garden.

The plants grow to 12" to 18" high. The flowers are double, resembling double impatiens and camellias. Flower colors are pink, white, rose, purple and red with many bicolors. Flowering will continue until frost kills the plants. Unlike their hybrid impatiens cousins, balsam will come true from seed meaning the offspring will look like the parents which is usually not the case with hybrid plants.

Are Balsam Considered Medicinal Plants?

In traditional Asian medicine, balsam plants are used to treat skin diseases, warts and snake bites. The flowers are used to treat burns.

<http://www.ryukyu.biz/indexEng.html> <https://dengarden.com/gardening/Cottage-Garden-Favorites-Balsam>

Tinsagu nu Hana

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tinsagu_nu_Hana

The title of the song can be translated as "The [Balsam Flowers](#)".^[3] The song is an Okinawan [children's song](#); Okinawan children would squeeze the sap from balsam flowers to stain their fingernails as a way to ward off evil.^{[4][5][6]} The lyrics of the song are Confucian teachings. Of the first six verses, the first three relate to [filial piety](#), while the latter three refer to respecting one's body and one's goals. Each verse has exactly the same number of notes using language and meter devices that are uniquely Okinawan, called [Ryuka](#).^[7]

Tinsagu nu Hana

Tinsagu nu hana ya chimi sachi ni sumiti
Uyanu yushi gutu ya chimu ni sumiri
Uyanu yushi gutu ya chimu ni sumiri

Balsam Flowers

Just as my fingernails are stained with the pigment
from balsam flowers,
my heart is dyed with the teachings of my parents.

Tin nuburi bushi ya yumiba yuma rishiga
Uyanu yushi gutu ya yumin naran
Uyanu yushi gutu ya yumin naran

Although one may be able to count the galaxies in
the sky, the teachings of my parents cannot.

Yuruha rasu funi ya ninu fua bushi miati
Wan na cheru uyaya wandu miati
Wan na cheru uyaya wandu miati

Just as ships that run in the night are guided to
safety by the north star,
I am guided by my parents who birthed me and
watch over me.

Takaradama yatin migaka niba sabisu
Asayu chimu migachi ychiyu watara
Asayu chimu migachi ychiyu watara

Just as there is no point in owning splendid jewelry
If you will not maintain it,
human beings who maintain their bodies-mind will
live life wonderfully.

Makutu suru hitu ya atuya ichi madin
Umuku tun kanati chiyu nu sakai
Umuku tun kanati chiyu nu sakai

The wishes of those who live sincerely always come
true and they prosper.

Nashiba nani gutun naiuru gutu yashiga
Nasan yui karadu naran sadami
Nasan yui karadu naran sadami

You can do anything If you try,
but you cannot If you do not.

This version is arranged by the great Ryuichi Sakamoto.
<https://ainoko.wordpress.com/2010/07/17/chinsagu-nu-h>