



Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
 c/o HUOA
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 Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

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e-Newsletter
2020
DECEMBER

Next Zoom Meeting
 Fourth Saturday
 January 23, 2021, 10AM

Word of the Month
 "isoos(h)an"
 Joyful; delightful; glad; pleased.

Reprint from the HUOA website:

Uchinanchu of the Year and 71st HUOA Installation

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association will present its **71st Installation Celebration to honor the Uchinanchu of the Year** from each member club and to install its officers for 2021.

Incoming president, Mr. Patrick Miyashiro has chosen "**Chimugukuru Tiichi**" (**All hearts unite as one**) as his theme for the 2021 year.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, this Celebration will be presented virtually to a worldwide audience via YouTube and Facebook. It is scheduled to air on **Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 2:00 pm (HST)**.

The organizing committee will be selling celebration packages to offset some of the costs incurred by this celebration. Even though we won't be able to gather at the Hawaii Okinawa Center like every year, we feel that enjoying the "same" meal might bring a sense of togetherness among all virtual participants. We hope you can contribute to our efforts.

Package price: \$20 ea.
 - limited supplies -

Includes bento, favor and one program booklet per family.

2 BENTO OPTIONS

Bento A: Shoyu Pork, Mochiko Chicken, Fish & Vegetable Tempura, Chicken Nishime, Rice w/Furikake, Takuan.

Bento B: Tofu & Goya Champuru, Shoyu Pork, Okinawan Yakisoba, Rice w/Furikake, Okinawan Sweet Potato.

Pickup date: Saturday January 16, 2021

2 PICKUP TIMES - 10AM -11AM or 11AM - 12PM

2 PICKUP LOCATIONS - Hawaii Okinawa Center or Jikoen Hongwanji - Orders will be taken EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE.

Visit <https://andagi.wufoo.com/forms/z14uv5uw0nogjmm/> through 1/5/2021.

Extra program booklets can be purchased for \$5.00.

November's Report
 Treasurer's Report: Income – Membership dues, donations; Expense – boxes, printers, Tookachi Celebration
 Secretary's Report: Newsletter
 Transcribed by: David R.
 OGSB Photos: Zoom., members and friends

Activities
 2020 November 15 -2021 January 15
 Virtual Craft Fair
<https://huoa.org/nuuzi/virtualcraftfair.html>
 2020 December 26 #Uchina 1000, 1 p.m.
 2021 January 16 Virtual Okinawan of the Year Award
 2PM, HUOA Facebook or YouTube
 23 OGSB Zoom Meeting, 10AM

2020 President's Message

Hai tai,

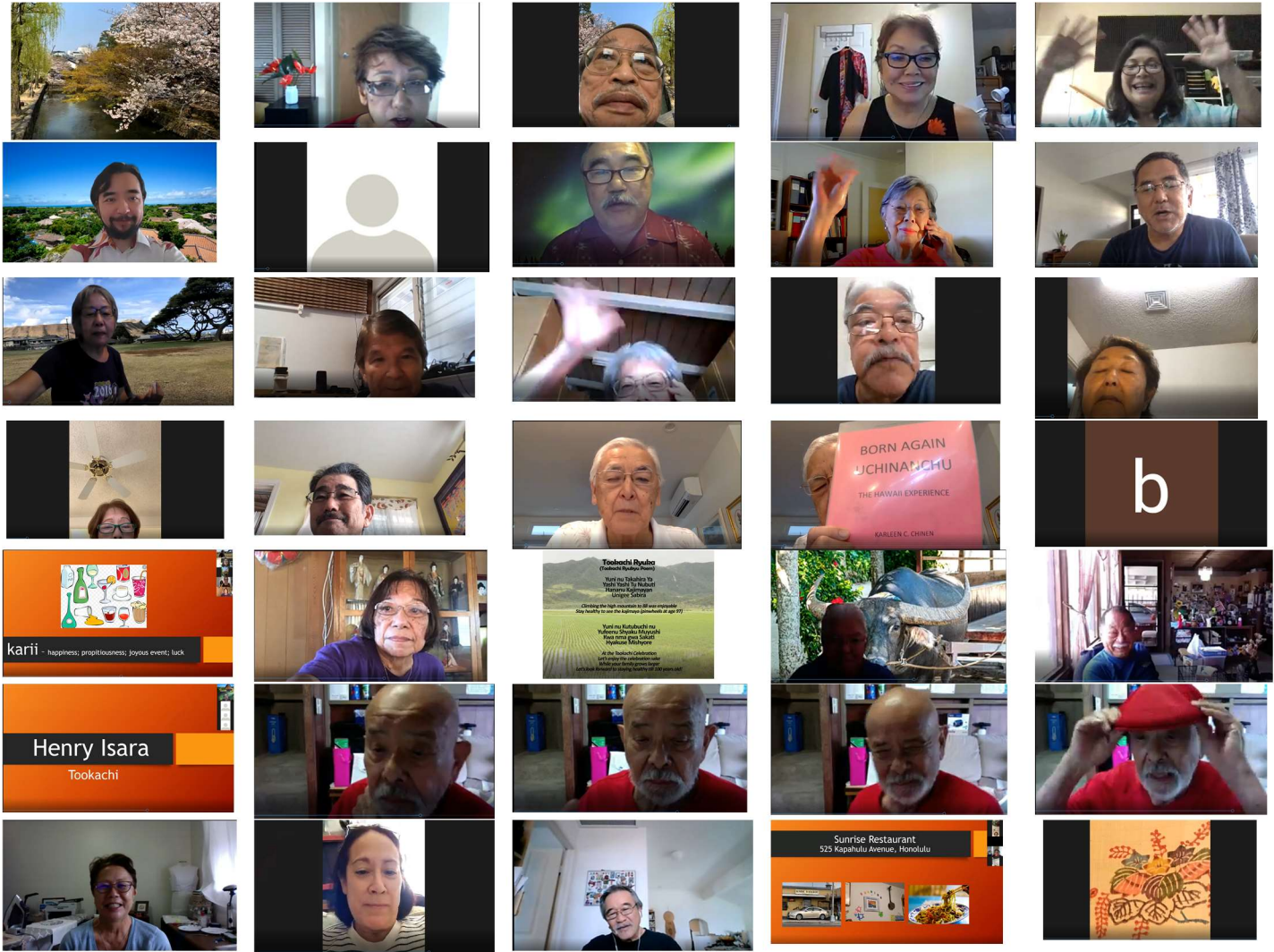
What a year this has been. Who would have thought that this year we would be experiencing one of the worst pandemics in recent history. But how resilient we are. In spite of it all, OGSB found a way to continue having monthly meetings. We even managed to get a few projects done.

I want to thank Kay Ikei, Susan Ramelb, David Arakawa, and Mark Higa for planning a great end-of-year celebration. We had sanshin music, kachaashii, Okinawan poetry, kari, Henry Isara's tookachi and door prizes. A good time was had by all.

I also want to thank all of you for making OGSB the organization that it is today. I'm confident that the new year will bring good things. Till we meet again, enjoy the holiday season and stay safe.

Ippee niffee deebiru

Joy

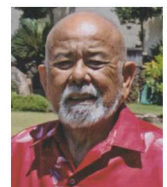


TOOKACHI CELEBRATION

Eight years ago, 2012 President Warren Higa started **TOOKACHI** (88th Birthday) Celebration during our OGSB Bonnenkai. In 1959 Warren Higa broke the record in the State’s Championship Boys 100 yards Track and Field Event and his time was 10.2 seconds. He received a trophy for his achievement. Warren wanted our OGSB members who reached 88 years of age to feel the same honor, satisfaction, and glory of reaching this milestone, **TOOKACHI**.

In the past, many immigrants did not reach that age for they faced much struggles and hardships. As the years passed, the idea of a trophy faded and the symbols of rice, bamboo, and the color “red” were initiated. Robert Kishaba started the display of a container wrapped in red, filled with rice and a bamboo in the middle. He mentioned that in the past, the host would give honored guests a bamboo filled with rice for “good luck”. Today, James Higa carries on this auspicious event by coordinating or giving advice for OGSB **TOOKACHI**.

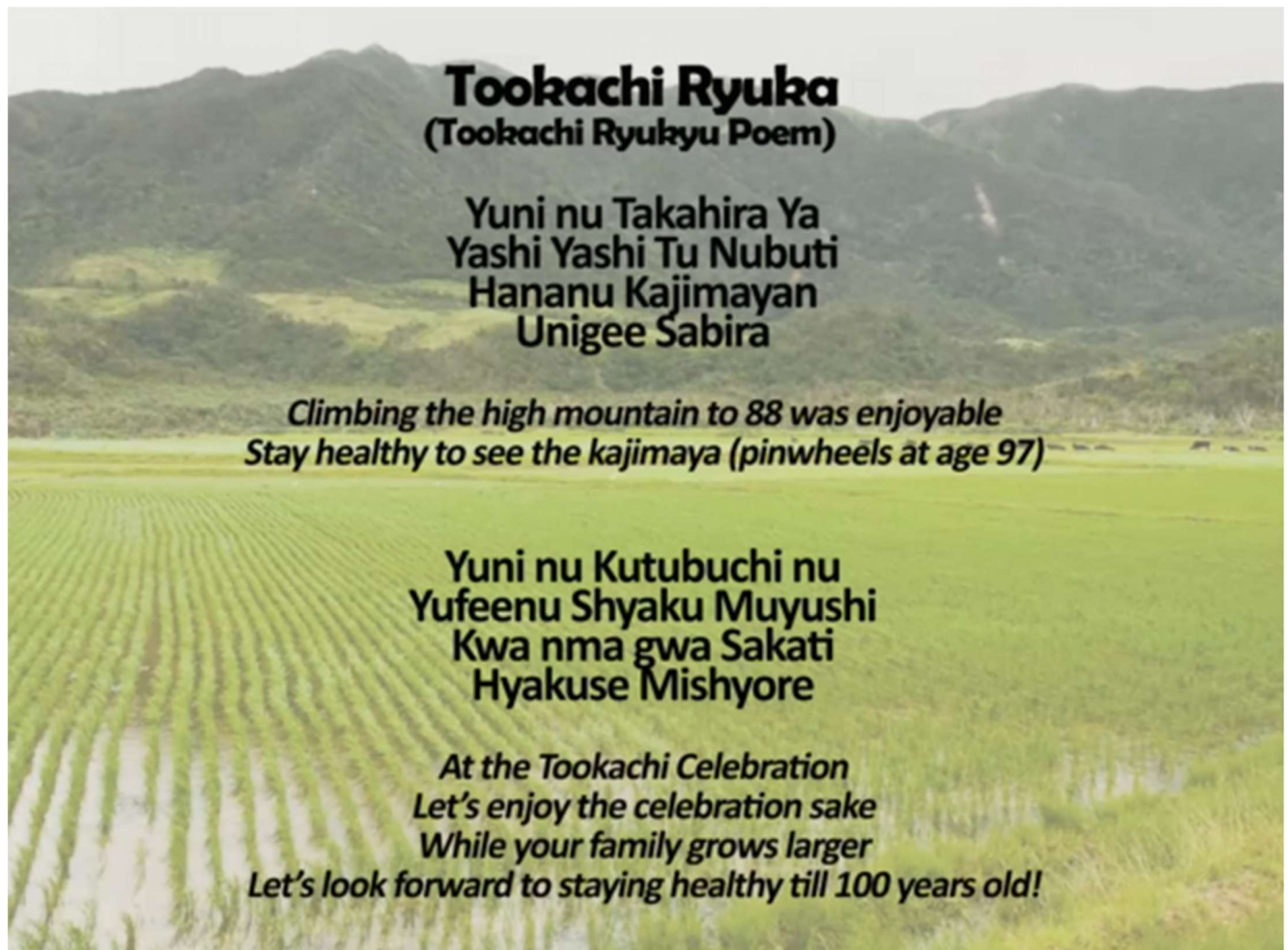
2020 **TOOKACHI** Celebration was approved by OGSB BOD and we thank them to be able to sing, “Happy **TOOKACHI** to you, Happy **TOOKACHI** to you!” to Henry Isara and to other members who were inadvertently not mentioned. Henry’s Message was “Be happy!” and was well received during these COVID-19 times.



Thank you Ron Miyashiro for the picture, videoclip, and Legacy Award article about Henry. Mahalo to Susan for the Zoom Production—songs, video input, creative signs, and ideas to produce TOOKACHI Celebration. David and Mark, you two did a terrific job as MC's and you folks are pros.

Thank you, David for the many emails and suggestions and the last-minute decisions on the gift certificates give-away. David and Mark learned some information about the kariii toast from Cyrus Tamashiro. They shared that water is not the drink of choice. There are different reasons, but one of them is that water is the drink before passing. Like the kamikaze pilots who drank water and not sake on their last flight. It is said that the toast "kariii" started from the head of Orion beer. On a trip to Brazil, he was asked what do the Okinawans say? Kariii is from the word kariyushi, happiness. Thank you to Mark for the poem and the help of from his wife, Hanae; and Hanae's mom and uncle. Hanae's uncle is a performer and usually performs this poem at a Tookachi. The poetry style is like a haiku or tanka.

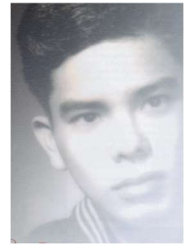
OGSH will continue to celebrate TOOKACHI and continue the legacies of our past members who graciously respected those who lived to the age of 88 years old. *Kay Ikei*



Henry Isara
Born in 1932

Henry's Secrets to a Long, Healthy, and Prosperous Life

The most important thing is to be happy in your life. Do things that make you happy. When you do things to make yourself happy and you do that to others, you make them happy. So, the first thing to do is make yourself happy and others will be happy too. To do volunteer work, you need to feel like you're doing good and that is why I've been volunteering. Don't do anything that doesn't make you happy.



There were occasions where I wasn't happy doing things. So, I avoided those situations. When I do happy things, I can relate my happiness with others. Doing this, you can be doing this for many years. Love everybody and be happy. Being happy with yourself, shows others that you are happy for them. That is the most important thing. Do good things and be happy and let it be contagious.

I want to thank you all for this celebration. It is good to see all of you and some of you look different.

Ipee nifee deebiru
Henry

Henry's Q&A Session

What are your plans and what do you hope to accomplish in your next 88 years?

I'm going to be realistic and live to only 120 years! I will continue to do the things I am doing right now, at least till I'm 100. After I am 100, I will think about retiring and do other things till I am 120. I want to be involved with HUOA till I am 100.

What are the secrets to good health?

My medications...just my high blood pressure medicine and some vitamins. And in spite of myself, two glasses of red wine. And I really believe that keeps me healthy. When I was young, I drank a lot of beer. So for a while, I was on the 'wagon' for many years. I stopped drinking for 15 to 20 years. When I heard wine was O.K. for the heart, I started having wine. First it was white, but now it is red. I've been doing this for many years.

What is your workout regimen?

When I was a little younger, I used to go to Ala Moana Park and exercise. I used to go at 5 in the morning and swim for about 45 minutes. But after the sewage spill at the Ala Wai canal, I stopped. The water was already polluted. I am fortunate because I can feel the pollution. I get itchy and as soon as I get itchy, I get out and take a shower. After the sewage spill, I started to walk. But walking itself was not really what I wanted to do. So, I joined the 'Y' (YMCA) in 2007 and swim there 5 to 6 times a day. But after my knee replacement surgery, I started on the bicycle 4 or 5 times a day. Since the virus thing started, I haven't been going. But about a month ago, I started to exercise every morning for half an hour. Nothing strenuous. To me, exercise is the most important thing. I really believe it. It is more important than eating. I like to eat good food, but fortunately, I am not into food that is not good for you, like potato chips. But the important thing is that I have may glass of wine. And, the most important thing is that I am going back to exercising. Exercise and have your 2 glasses of wine.



How do you maintain your mental acuity (awareness)?

Always do something. Your mind needs to work. I started doing yard work. You need to think of what you need to do because you don't want to get hurt. Let your mind work...don't fall, run. Whatever you do, try not to fall. When I was young, 55, I used to run all the time. I fell down twice, but fortunately I stopped my fall with my hands. I told myself, "there ain't gonna be a third time." After that I don't run, I walk. You've got to be careful. I'm not getting any younger. You have to adjust. If you cannot run, walk. So I haven't run in a long time because I don't want to fall. I have arthritis, so I need a cane that I use in case I have pain in my legs when I walk. I use it to prevent me from falling.

Why Red???

Rodney to Harry: Congratulations and thank you for your words of wisdom. But in Okinawa, the color of 'Tookachi' is red, which is your favorite color.



Harry: Do you know why I wear red? When I was young, I was told to wear grey because it matches anything else. But grey made me a dull person! So I said, "I ain't gonna wear no grey." So, I started to wear red. I started with red socks. Then later on, I started to wear my red shirts. So that is all I wear, red shirts. What I found out about red shirts is that they keep me warm. I also have red underwear, hat, and socks. Before, the only time I didn't wear red socks is to a funeral. But now, since I am wearing all red, I now wear red to funerals. When wahines ask me if I am wearing red underwear, I now show them. If you think you see me out there but not wearing red, it is not me.

In conclusion: There is only one thing I gotta say, "If you got to grumble or not be happy with it and scream or yell, there is only one person you can do that with and don't do it that often, is your spouse." "Be around people who make you happy."

Happy Tookachi Henry



Pictures from the 2013 Legacy Award Program



**BORN AGAIN
UCHINANCHU (BAU)
BOOK ORDER**

We've gotten 100 orders from California, Maui, and Oahu. We had a total of 100 book orders but 7 were from out-of-town. We were informed them that we couldn't take their orders because we were only taking orders from members on Oahu. So the total to date is 93.

Ed Kuba informed me that he was going to contact the Maui Kenjinkai for book orders. He is also putting an order form in the HUOA newsletter next year to allow for out-of-state orders.

The book is scheduled to be available October 2021. Ed would like the total pre-order number by the end of December. *Jackie Toma and Jan Kobashigawa*

kibei – (*kibei* (帰米, literally "go home to America") was a term often used in the 1940s to describe Japanese Americans born in the United States who returned to America after receiving their education in Japan. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibei#:~:>

This is a message from Karen C. Oshiro, Yomitan Club:

Hello fellow Uchinanchu, my name is Karen C. Oshiro, with Yomitan Club. I'm a retired educator, former instructor at KCC, Occupational Therapy Asst. Program.

I'm trying to find Kibei women in Hawaii for an Oral History project (short interview, videotape, and transcript).

I'm looking for women who are American, in their 90s or 100s, raised in Okinawa, then returned to Hawaii.

My mother is 102, alert, told her story and inspired me. Our family created a video for her as a legacy for the grandchildren.

If you know of any ladies willing to be interviewed, please contact me. I really wanted to hear the women's stories first.

Mahalo,

Karen C. Oshiro

phone: 808 753-2107 email: oshirokc@gmail.com

WUB International Event #Uchina 1000 Zoom Call – Save the Date-December 26, 2020, 1 p.m.

Haisai all;

Tony Sakuda, our good friend from Okinawa invites all of you for this fourth #Uchina1000 ZOOM call. The goal has always been to have 1,000 Uchinanchu from around the world be on a single call. Meeting lasts only 1 hour and you get hear and meet Uchinanchu from all over the world during a brief break out session. Hope you can join and share this with your friends.

Nifwe Debiru!
Jon Itomura
HUOA Executive Director

Next #UCHINA1000 is coming soon!
Please save your date!

As previous #UCHINA1000, we are going to have a speaker, ice breakers, *Yuntaku* Room (Breakout session) and more!
Please share with us your moment of holiday season.

We are going to have Zuleika Arashiro as our speaker. She is Nisei from Brazil and living in Melbourne, Australia. She said that only as an adult and after migrating, she started to connect her identity as Uchinanchu. She will share with us her stories of her professions, first visit to Okinawa, and hope toward 2021.

We will add more info about Zuleika and #UCHINA1000;
<http://www.wubpedia.org/2020/08/09/uchina1000>

Date&Time:

Saturday December 26,

20:00 Brazil, Argentina,

19:00 Bolivia,

18:00 Lima, Atlanta, New York, Miami,

17:00 Mexico City, Chicago

15:00 San Francisco, Los Angeles

13:00 Hawaii

Sunday December 27,

08:00 Japan

07:00 Taiwan, Singapore

06:00 Thailand, Indonesia

Please do introduce more Uchinanchu around you and encourage them to join!

*Invitation link will be informed you later.

WUB Network
Team #UCHINA1000

Tony Sakuda
Mariko Kuniyoshi

One of many stories on KFC and Japan. Happy Holidays
Why Japan celebrates Christmas with KFC?



<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/japan/articles/how-kfc-hijacked-christmas-in-japan/>

By Eric Barton 19th December 2016

How a fast-food marketing campaign turned into a widespread Yuletide tradition for millions.

E

very Christmas, Ryohei Ando gathers his family together for a holiday tradition. Just like their father did as a child, his two children will reach deep into a red-and-white bucket and pick out the best piece of fried chicken they can find.

Every Christmas season, an estimated 3.6 million Japanese families treat themselves to Kentucky Fried Chicken, in what has become a nationwide tradition

Yes, it's a Merry KFC Christmas for the Ando family. It may seem odd anywhere outside Japan, but Ando's family and millions of others would never let a Christmas go by without Kentucky Fried Chicken. Every Christmas season an estimated 3.6 million Japanese families treat themselves to fried chicken from the American fast-food chain, in what has become a nationwide tradition.

"My kids, they think it's natural," says Ando, a 40-year-old in the marketing department of a Tokyo sporting goods company.

While millions do celebrate Christmas with KFC, others in Japan treat it as a romantic holiday similar to Valentine's Day, and couples mark the occasion with dinner in upscale restaurants. For other Japanese families, Christmas is acknowledged but not celebrated in any particular way.

But for those who do partake, it's not as simple as walking in and ordering. December is a busy month for KFC in Japan – daily sales at some restaurants during the Christmas period can be 10 times their usual take. Getting the **KFC special Christmas dinner** often requires ordering it weeks in advance, and those who didn't will wait in line, sometimes for hours.

The genesis of Japan's KFC tradition is a tale of corporate promotion that any business heading to Japan ought to study, one that sounds almost like a holiday parable.

'Kentucky for Christmas'

According to KFC Japan spokeswoman Motoichi Nakatani, it started thanks to Takeshi Okawara, the manager of the first KFC in the country. Shortly after it opened in 1970, Okawara woke up at midnight and jotted down an idea that came to him in a dream: a "party barrel" to be sold on Christmas.

Okawara dreamed up the idea after overhearing a couple of foreigners in his store talk about how they missed having turkey for Christmas, according to Nakatani. Okawara hoped a Christmas dinner of fried chicken could be a fine substitute, and so he began marketing his Party Barrel as a way to celebrate the holiday.

In 1974, KFC took the marketing plan national, calling it Kurisumasu ni wa Kentakkii, or Kentucky for Christmas

In 1974, KFC took the marketing plan national, calling it Kurisumasu ni wa Kentakkii, or Kentucky for Christmas. It took off quickly, and so did the Harvard-educated Okawara, who climbed through the company ranks and served as president and CEO of Kentucky Fried Chicken Japan from 1984 to 2002.

The Party Barrel for Christmas became almost immediately a national phenomenon, says Joonas Rokka, associate professor of marketing at Emlyon Business School in France. He has studied the KFC Christmas in Japan as a model promotions campaign.

“It filled a void,” Rokka says. “There was no tradition of Christmas in Japan, and so KFC came in and said, this is what you should do on Christmas.”

Advertisements for the company’s Christmas meals show happy Japanese families crowding around barrels of fried chicken. But it’s not just breasts and thighs – the meals have morphed into special family meal-sized boxes filled with chicken, cake, and wine. This year, the company is selling **Kentucky Christmas dinner packages** that range from a box of chicken for 3,780 yen, (\$32), up to a “premium” whole-roasted chicken and sides for 5,800 yen. According to KFC, the packages account for about a third of the chain’s yearly sales in Japan.

It also helped that the stores dressed up the company mascot, the smiling white-haired Colonel Sanders, in Santa outfits. In a country that puts high value on its elders, the red satin-suited Sanders soon became a symbol of a holiday.

‘One of the strangest things I’ve heard’

This phenomenon is unique to Japan – and can seem strange to some outside the country. The idea is unlikely to take off in the home of KFC, says Kevin Gillespie, chef of two restaurants in Atlanta, Georgia.

If you brought a bucket of fried chicken to Christmas dinner, honestly, I’d be mad at you

“KFC on Christmas. It’s one of the strangest things I’ve heard,” Gillespie says. “If you brought a bucket of fried chicken to Christmas dinner, honestly, I’d be mad at you.”

It isn’t a crack on KFC’s products necessarily, says Gillespie. The general idea of bringing fast food to Christmas dinner “would be viewed as rude by most anyone,” Gillespie says.

In Japan, however, where around 1% of the population is Christian, Christmas isn't an official holiday, Rokka says. So the idea that families are going to spend all day cooking a ham or turkey and side dishes just isn't practical. Instead, they show up with a bucket of chicken.

This is another sign of globalisation, where rituals spread to other countries and get translated in different ways

“This is another sign of globalisation, where consumer rituals spread to other countries and often get translated in different ways,” Rokka says. “It's not abnormal now to have an Ikea store everywhere in the world. This KFC for Christmas is just taking our consumerism and turning it into a holiday.”

An excuse for a reunion

Having done some travelling abroad, Ando knows that his country might be alone in celebrating Christmas with a bucket of KFC. But for him, he sees the tradition as more than just a company promotion.

It's not about the chicken. It's about getting the family together

For Ando, he's still planning to get KFC for his kids this year. But he goes to a bakery for the Christmas cake. On Christmas night, the family will gather around the KFC bucket, just as Ando once did as a child, and just as his children will do in another generation.

“It's kind of a symbol of family reunion,” Ando says. “It's not about the chicken. It's about getting the family together, and then there just happens to be chicken as part of it.”

<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20161216-why-japan-celebrates-christmas-with-kfc>



KFC opens all-you-can-eat-and-drink ...
japantoday.com