



Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii  
 c/o HUOA  
 94-587 Ukee Street  
 Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

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

Joy's Word of the Month

**Chimugakiin (Verb)**  
 to be ready to do something good

HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION  
**ANDAGI & ANDADOG DRIVE THRU**  
 PICK UP ON SUNDAY, APRIL 25 AT HDC

Online Orders only via HUOA website  
 April 1 - April 10, 2021

**ANDAGI**  
 \$12.00 per dozen  
 Minimum order: 1 dozen  
 Maximum order: 3 dozen

**ANDADOG**  
 \$12.00 for 4 andadogs  
 Minimum order: 4 andadogs  
 Maximum order: 12 andadogs

**PICK UP TIMES:**  
 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
 11:00 AM - 12 Noon  
 12 Noon - 1:00 PM

You can also order LooChooch Annual 2021!

e-Newsletter  
**2021**  
**April**

Membership Meeting  
 Saturday, April 17, 2021, 9AM

Zoom Meeting

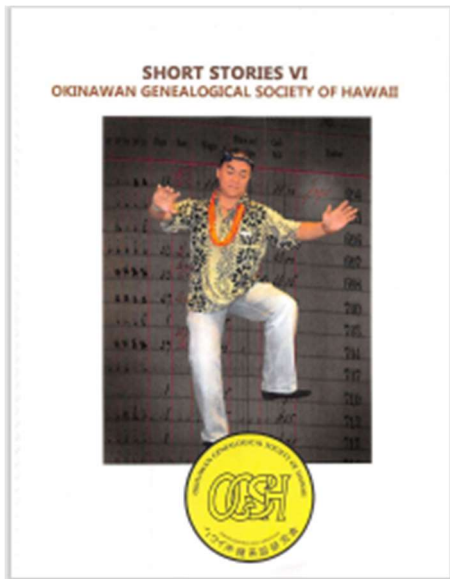


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If you paid in 2020, there is no membership due in 2021.

Please contact Clyde if you have any questions.

[clyde.higa@gmail.com](mailto:clyde.higa@gmail.com)



Eric Wada on the cover of OGS Short Stories VI.

Eric is an educator, kyoshi (certified instructor); artistic director of Ukwanshin Kabudan; LooChoo Identity Summit organizer; tour guide for a 20 person Ryukyu education tour; and does many other things to preserve the Uchinanchu culture through language and the arts.

“You lose the language; you lose the culture.”

March Reports

Treasurer's Report: Income-Dues and Donations;  
 Expense-none

Secretary's Report: Newsletter  
 April's Agenda

Guest Speaker:  
 Eric Wada, "Our Indigeneous Identity"

Treasurer's Report  
 Resource Center Project  
 Okinawan Festival 2021  
 Committee Reports

Upcoming Activities

2021  
 April 25 Sunday-Andagi & Andadog Pick Up  
 May 15 OGS Zoom Meeting  
 Speaker-Charlene Gima  
 Okinawan Literature  
 June 19 OGS Zoom Meeting  
 Kupuna Safe Falling Program

## Talk Story with OGSB

Joy: Before the meeting begins, I have an email from Theresa Tom. I would like to read it to you.

*Haitai President Joy, OGSB Board & Honorable Members,*

*After 10 years of serving as your OGSB Secretary; I regretfully announce that I must resign due to health issues. I thank you for this wonderful experience. It was both challenging and fulfilling at the same time, and so many of the acquaintances whom I've collaborated with, have become truly, treasured friends.*



*I congratulate and commend the next secretary who steps up into this position. I know you too, will surely have an extremely gratifying experience.*

*Aloha & Niffee Debiru,  
Theresa Kakazu Tom*

Theresa: I want to thank all the people in OGSB who have been lending me a hand. I really appreciate it. Penny, Gloria, Heidi, Donna, Sally. Thank you everyone for your help.

Joy: Theresa, thank you for all your help. The first item is the Treasurer's report by Clyde.

Clyde: I received 2 checks for \$145. We have 126 up to date members and 55 in arrears.

Some of the donations went to HUOA. Apparently, they have a separate account with \$924.90 that they are holding for OGSB.



There is one correction to February's minutes.

Nancy T. spotted a typo. Instead of 'indigenous', there was 'ingenious'. It should be indigenous. SSIf you could make that change, even though we are ingenious. It should be indigenous.

Also, from David: There is a reference in the minutes to Johnny Tamura that should be Jon Itomura. So, I was wondering who is Johnny Tamura? When you say his name really fast, it comes out as Johnny Tamura. So that is perfectly understandable.

Next is the Okinawan Festival.

Joy: The Festival committee meeting was canceled. So, I don't have a detailed report, except to say that the landscape is changing so rapidly so that I'm sure that committee is having a hard time to decide what to do. HUOA president Pat is present and is asked to comment.

Pat: The meeting was canceled and stated that the new meeting time is Sunday, April 21. What I want to



report is that we are having an andagi and andadog pop-up event sale on April 25. We will have online sales beginning April 1 to April 10. We will have approximately 800 dozen andagi with a 1 dozen minimum order at \$12 and 1,600 andadog at \$3 each with a minimum of 4 per order. So heads up, items sell out fast, so you will need to order early. This is so because we only have a limited amount of time. We are only doing about 10% of previous sales. Pickup will be at the Okinawan Center with 4 pickup times.

They are 9am to 10am, 10am to 11am, 11am to noon, and noon to 1pm. You will state what time you want to pick it up when you place your order. You are the first to know about this. Pass the word on. That's it. Thank you

Comments from David, Pat, and Joy: If in the future, if clubs can participate in sales and get a portion of the proceeds. This is something the Exec Committee can look at and work out. With respect to the festival, if Joy can send out the email from David Jones asking for volunteers for committees for the festival. If OGSB members can serve on these committees, it would be a great thing. We need all the help we can get. I'll have Sue send out the email to the membership.

Joy: Since we are not sure of exactly what is going to happen, I'm thinking there is a possibility of having an in-person genealogy tent. Is there any possibility?

Pat: I don't know where you could have it.

David: Anything could be possible, but right now it doesn't look probable with the current social distancing rules. But who knows. I think if OGSB helps in David Jones' festival committee, we might be able to work something out. The best bet would be for someone from OGSB to get involved in his committee.

Joy: We should have 1 person from OGSB involved in the committee, so that we can have input.

David: In fact, in both committees, even if it is virtual, there could be a side room for OGSB where people could sign-up.

Pat: When you open up your minds, the possibilities are endless. We have to explore all the avenues we can get.

Byrnes: David, when you brought up side rooms, are you referring to a special interest chat room? Something that would be interactive as part of the festival?

David: Patrick is smiling because it is wide open. Be it a virtual with interaction or a physical room. Other groups have virtual festivals with sidebars where you can click and get a presentation and not a chat room. You can click on a performance, lecture on how to find your family in Okinawa. The possibilities are endless. That's the kind of things the virtual committee will be talking about. We're thinking it could be more than a chat room or it could just be a chat room. Okinawans around the world would like a Hawaii experience.



Joy: This will wrap up the Okinawan Festival portion.

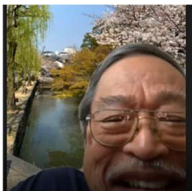


Additional comments from Rodney: Last year's festival, there was on the website a short presentation on how to get on the OGSB website. This is something we can expand on and make it much more presentable. This is something we can improve.

David: If Joy can set up 2 committees for virtual and blended or in-person, if we have that kind of thing. That committee can discuss exactly what Rodney talked about. Rodney and Byrnes have excellent ideas. We can make it a standing agenda item, so the committee can report, and we can have discussions. Please consider this, as we have lot of good ideas in this club.

Joy: I am planning on having a committee on the Festival for OGSB. So, I am going to ask for volunteers.

Pat: I have one more item I want to discuss. I am having a committee doing the Irei no Hi , 'The Battle for Okinawa'. It is going to be presented on June 22, virtual. We did it last year with Jon and Gwen. But this year they're starting early. This group of young up and coming people from Eric Nitta's group. They're working on it now with interviews today with some people from Okinawa to talk about the battle. I think for those of you who want to look forward to something in June, I think they will present a really nice Irei no Hi program. Be on the lookout for it.



Rodney: Concerning the battle on how Hawaii can relate to the program. The efforts that was made in Hawaii and what the people in Hawaii do to help the people in Okinawa, postwar, Battel of Okinawa. Not much has been reported, but it must be repeated and people reminded of Hawaii's vital part in the recovery of Okinawa. Something like that needs to be mentioned.

Pat: I will mention it to Amanda. She's the chairman and they have a theme this year about the young generation remembering the war because they know nothing about it. They're researching the program now. It's an eye opener for them. It's a really good program.

Gwen: I've been with them from the beginning, and they are working so hard, an amazing group of youngsters. I think Jacob Higa and Amanda are first year students at UH. They're planning their interviews today with someone in Okinawa. But we also have people here. Emma Smith who will talk about what she learned from her mother. I saw her bio today and it's a compelling story as a young girl. I understand what you mean. That is why Okinawans are so grateful of what we did in Hawaii. I remember when I was a young girl saving hand me down clothes. Putting them in boxes and taking them to Jikoen. We might be able to add that in at the end of somebody's interview. They'll have some really interesting people to interview, all by young people. So, we have a lot of hope for us to continue to do the Irei no Hi memorial service with those folks.



Joy: I did get an email from Curtis Shinsato suggesting for the Okinawan Festival, the Kupuna Safe Falling Program.

Curtis: Since most of us are older, there is the “Kupuna Aikido Safe Falling Program”. I think some of you are aware of it. I got involved in it because some of my friends grabbed my ear and pulled me in. It teaches people how to fall. If you look up Kupuna Aikido online, you’ll see the program and how talked about how the program saved them from injuries.



David: That is an excellent idea. HUOA used to have a Senior Health Fair. I think we’re going to talk about slowly bring back some of these things. If we decide to have a virtual health fair, that could be a part of it. Not just for OGSB, but statewide. Thanks for the suggestion.

Pat: We have some clubs assigned to the senior fair. We don’t know if we will have it in person or virtually. This is scheduled for the third Friday of June. That’s an excellent suggestion and the Senior Fair would be an excellent venue to actually promote that thing. They can do it. We will have an outdoor tent and they could fall on the grass.

Joy: Next item on the agenda is the Library Expansion Project. It should be the Resources Expansion Project and Rodney has graciously agreed to become chairman of that committee. He’s going to expand on that project.

Rodney: Before I go on, there is a couple of corrections to the newsletter that came out. It started that OGSB started in 1992 but it should be 1993 and it was not by me because I was not a part of OGSB in 1993. It also said that OGSB will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year but it should be 2023. So, we have a few more years to plan for the anniversary. Moving forward to the committee on this library project, it is still in its infancy. The best description is if you could read Mark Higa’s report that is in the current newsletter, it gives a good in depth overall picture of the library. It is still a thing in progress and much work to be done. So, initially my intention is to get some volunteers willing to join the committee and for those who were not at the meeting, I’ll be calling some people to have them join the committee. So, basically it is to brainstorm the idea because this has been going on for 5 years and we need to do some work on this. HUOA has many, many projects and one of the things we had to look at is what is the priority of the library project, library improvement, or resource center. We need to analyze the situation. Is more fundraising necessary and what are the requirements because technology has changed over the years and what we refer to a library maybe 5 or 6 years ago is way different. We need to determine what sort of resource center or library we’re thinking about for the HOC. Just a broad overview and hopefully ideas will come in and expand on them. In due course, we will meet with the HUOA committee responsible for projects like this. If you have any questions or ideas, please get a hold of me. Thank you

Joy: If you want to volunteer or if you have ideas for it, contact Rodney. I guess we’ll schedule some kind of meeting. Last item I have are committee reports. Any committees with a report? I’ll open the floor to any ideas.

Theresa: Can future meeting be held at the Chaya?

Pat: The fact we discovered Zoom and how effective it is and because of social distancing right now, I'm not sure we are going to open up. To be honest, because of the Zoom meeting we had, people like it. We may not have open meetings because the Board of Directors involve outer island people and join in on Zoom. It's so much convenient to chime in on Zoom. I really don't know. It will be Jon Itomura's decision. He's the executive director there. Just judging from what he told me and because of the renovations he did for the Chaya, they made it a little smaller. I don't know if you can get 50 people in that area right now.

Theresa: I'm mainly concerned about the OGSB board, which is about 10 members.

Pat: I think once it opens up, you should be able to meet there. It shouldn't be a problem.

Theresa: That sounds wonderful!

Joy: When do you think it will open up?

Pat: It depends on the government and their directive on how many people can actually meet in one room. Jon is following their directives. When the that is are all resolved, everybody will be notified that the HOC is open for business.

Mike: Do we know when the HOC banquet ... will it get started again?

Pat: That's a good question. It won't be in April because we'll be having an andagi/andadog sale. The whole month of April, it will be closed, no events. Maybe they might start in May. We cannot have an event there if there is the sale. They said we cannot reserve it. Maybe they might start in May with all the graduations that are being planned there. They're anxiously waiting for the go-ahead to have events there. Right now, we're not sure.

Joy: It's encouraging that they're thinking about reducing the social distance 6 ft. to 3 ft. I just got my first vaccination shot, so I'm hoping everybody gets immune. We've got to develop herd immunity. Then maybe we can get back to normal.



from

Ken: Did you solve the grant proposal request criteria?

Joy: The grant request was withdrawn.

Ken: But for future grant request, you might want to create a criteria grid, so that any grant that comes in, you can judge it by that criteria. Then it will be very easy to do.

Joy: Do you have a list of criteria?

Ken: No. It has to be fitted to the organization. Does it meet our vision? Does it meet our purpose? Does it meet whatever? That it has to be developed. Once you have that, it is done. You don't have to do anymore.

Joy: OK, I'll put that on our to-do list of things we should get done this year. If we have a meeting, can you attend? Ken says 'yes'.

David: You might want to contact HUOA because they have a format for a form, not necessarily for grants but for certain requests to sponsor or endorse certain Okinawan initiative programs, books, things like that. At least they have a template of information that will be important for HOUA to consider when the HOUA board decides to support something. Ken and your committee could look at that template to see if that information applies to OGS. Since Pat is a member of OGS, maybe we can put that as a standing agenda item, where Pat can report on what is going on at HUOA.

Rodney: I just want to make a comment about HOC reopening. I understand the positioning of when to reopening. But one of the important criteria for OGS is the Friday group that assist people one on one to do their genealogy research. This is an important service to the community. This is a small working group and hopefully they can be accommodated in a few more months. But, the researchers are eager to return to work to help people to do their family research. So, anyway, this is a comment that they are eagerly awaiting the reopening of HOC, especially for the Friday group.

Pat: Good point Rodney. We can discuss it with Jon.

David: I would recommend OGS send an email at least or something in writing to Jon and Pat and CC the members of OGS that are on the executive council because it will probably come up to the executive council and the board on when to reopen the Chaya and HOC. So, send it in writing, Joy. CC people like Cyrus, Pat, Mark, and David S. and anybody else on the executive committee. It will be good to let them know that OGS is interested in restarting those types of genealogical search activities at the center.

Joy: If the people make reservations, then we can control the number of people in there at one time.

David: Maybe in the future, we can learn how to do it online. So, we can help people online.

Joy: How far is the remodeling of the Higa Building?

Pat: I would say it is more than 60% complete. They are working every day, trying to make the display permanent. It is really nice now. I don't have a target date for completion, but they will try to finish it ASAP. Jon actually has only 2 or 3 workers there. The rest of the thing is being done by volunteers.

Joy: I want you to know that Charlene Gima for our May meeting. I believe she teaches a course in Okinawan literature. So, she'll talk about something along that line. I am still working on April. I hope to have a guest speaker, so stay tuned. As I said in my president's message, we did participate in Kariyushi Family Pack drive. I want to thank Jan Kobayashi, Kay Ikei, Jackie Toma, and Mike Schoonover for helping me pick up the noodles

and deliver it to or members. So, thank you very much. I appreciate it. Also, thank you Heidi for volunteering to help as corresponding secretary. On that note, I will adjourn the meeting.







# 2021 OGSB MEMBER APPLICATION/Update

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Current Member \*\*\*If your membership is paid thru 2020, there is no charge for the 2021 membership.  
Not sure about your membership status, email: clyde.higa@gmail.com

\_\_\_\_\_ Updates – contact information or other; email your update to: ogshnews@gmail.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print:      Last Name                                      First Name                                      Middle Initial

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an email address. Email is used by OGSB to send the newsletters and updates.

Family’s Okinawa name(s)/ hometown/ Club Affiliation(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Family name you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency contact  
\_\_\_\_\_

Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the projects that you are interested in participating:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Short Story Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bookmarks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese/ English Translation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Library
- \_\_\_\_\_ Information Technology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership

The OGSB members are divided into three groups by last names. They are the Hokusan, Chuzan, and Nanzan. Each year OGSB has two big events. The Okinawan Festival OGSB Booth and the bonenkai. The groups rotate every year to plan the events. One group is assigned a miscellaneous project or has a year of rest. Due to COVID-19 all are on rest.

Mail the membership form and dues to:

Clyde Higa  
95-719 Paikauhale Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Make check payable to: OGSB

Membership Dues                                      \$10.00

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For OGSB: Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_