

“We link our past to perpetuate our heritage.”



Okinawan Genealogical Society of
Hawaii

c/o HUOA
94-587 Ukee Street

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

OGSHnews@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting
Saturday, October 16, 2021
9AM



JikoenHongwanji.usaeducaion.worldorgs.com

e-Newsletter
2021
October

Agenda:

- Speaker: Reverend Shindo Nishiyama, Jikoen Hongwanji Mission
- Treasurer’s Report:
- Income – Donations
- OGSH Taikai 2022 Tour
- Bonekai on Zoom
- HUOA Updates:
 - Serikaku/Yonamine Projects
 - Uchinanchu No Hi
 - OGSH Uchinanchu of the Year
 - Election

Upcoming Events:

- October 16 OGSB Zoom Meeting, 9AM
- 30 Uchinanchu No Hi
Global Kachashii Video
- November 20 OGSB Bonenkai on Zoom
- 27&28 HUOA 2021 Craft Fair
Modified Winter Craft Fair



Reverend Shindo Nishiyama became Jikoen’s 6th resident minister in 2005. He was born and raised in Fukuoka, Japan. His father was the head minister of

Zenpuku ji Temple. He attended Ryukoku University and in 1987 graduated with a BA degree in General Buddhism and Jodo Mahayana Shin Buddhism. His desire to learn English motivated him to travel to the US and attend Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado in 1987. After a year, he enrolled in Hawaii Pacific University to continue his English studies. It was at Hawaii Pacific University that the best thing that ever happened to him in his life occurred. He met his future wife, Suzue. They were married in 1990 in Fukuoka. She currently serves as the Lumbini Preschool Director. They have two children, Shanna and Skyler-Shinji.

<https://jikoenhongwanji.org/leadership-team/>

Joy’s Word of the Month
“Chimumagisan”
(adj.) – Broadminded; tolerant; open-minded.

President’s Message:

Haitai OGSB Members,

We are fortunate to have Reverend Shindo Nishiyama of Jikoen Hongwanji Mission as guest speaker this month. He will be addressing the many questions so many of us have concerning family cemetery plots, urns and butsudan. So if you have any specific questions on these issues, please bring them to the meeting.

A reminder that the November meeting will be our last meeting for the year. And our Bonenkai Committee is planning a virtual end of year celebration. So be sure to join us to celebrate the passing of another productive year. Thank you all for your support and participation despite the challenges that COVID restrictions have placed on our activities.

Ippee Niffee Deebiru,
Joy Schoonover



Writing Muliwai Lane: Fiction as Remembrance

By Jeffrey J. Higa

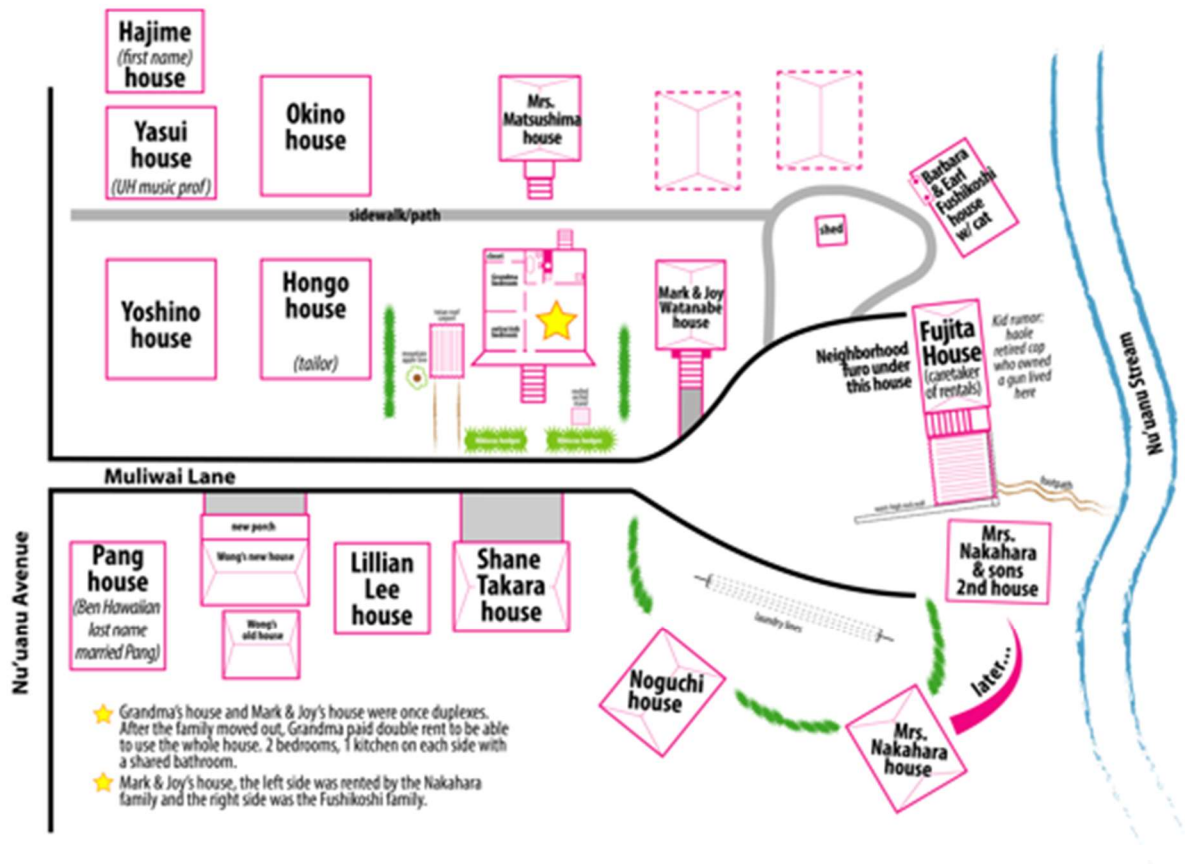
Author of “*Calabash Stories*”

In thinking about fiction and genealogy, I realized that I don’t really know what genealogy is. I guess I see genealogists as searchers for truth, not unlike historians, except family-centered. All my training has been in literature and writing, and as a fiction writer, what the literal truth is, matters much less to me than what will drive a story, keep an audience’s attention. In that way, fiction might be more like ethnology, which is defined as, “the study of the characteristics of various peoples and the differences and relationships between them.” Which is a pretty good description of my own writing.

Much of my fiction is based on my family and my community. In reading the stories, many of them are centered on Muliwai Lane, a real neighborhood in Liliha. What is left of the lane is located across the street from Kawanānakoā Park across from the baseball diamonds. If you remember the park, where the water fountain used to be, across the street from that is where the lane starts. In other words, if you are going up Nu’uanu *mauka*, you’ll pass the Soto Mission on the left, then after that, the Japanese consulate. Right across from the consulate is the 7-11 at the corner of Kuakini and Nuuanu. Crossing this intersection, will be Kawanānakoā park on your right and the very next left will be Muliwai Lane. There used to be a medical office next door to the lane at 1882 Nuuanu which was torn down just this year.



One of my stories in the collection, “The Relievers” centers on this 7-Eleven. If you remember, there used to be a family-owned gas station here, the kind with the old cigarette machine outside the building. When this 7-Eleven came up, my grandmother hated it so much. So I wanted to preserve that, so the short story “The Relievers” grew partly out of that.



By virtue of writing about this place, now gone, I have managed to preserve it, a by-product of my fiction writing. The house that is central to the book is my maternal grandmother's house. The story that addresses the lane the most would be "The Icebox Stay Coming" and "The Summer of Miracles and Lies".



My maternal grandmother, Grace Umeko Matsuyoshi, came from Fukuoka, so she is my *naichi* grandmother. She was a nurse at the Japanese Imperial Hospital, now known as Kuakini Hospital. She was married to my grandfather, Ernest Matsuyoshi, who was the first head of surgery there. However, he died when my mother was seven and so my grandmother was a single parent raising two kids on her own at a time when that wasn't common. The grandmother character and her grandson are the two main characters in the short story, "The Icebox Stay Coming."

Later in the story and other stories, I talk about Uptown Hardware and Chun Hoon Supermarket if you remember those. Also the Lion Coffee Shop which was the beautiful Longs that had that glass enclosure for the tree that stood in the middle of the store. I see that the coffee shop is now a Starbucks, but the tree is still there, just covered up by drywall.



I've also written stories about my father's side, the Higa side. My grandfather, Masanobu Higa owned the Palama Inn. It was located next to the Palama Theater.

This remarkable picture shows Masa when he was young with the tools of his trade. One leg was quite a bit shorter than the other, so although he was born on Ewa Plantation, he was unsuited for plantation work. So he learned to cook eventually opening The Palama Inn where he was the cook for the restaurant. The right side shows him sitting in this restaurant, where you can see the homemade wood booths and just a piece of the fan at the top of the picture. *No more this 'kine restaurants nowadays, where no more AC, only the fans mounted close to the ceiling where gotta pull the string to change the speed or turn 'em on and off. Also the restaurant opened up to the street. No more front windows with a formal door, li'dat, just the entire front opened.* Somehow, I remember the restaurant very well, with the counter and booths and everything.



So this is all the generations that proceed me in Hawaii. On the left is my maternal grandmother and my mother, June Higa. The guy in the black suit is my dad, James Higa. Next to him are my grandparents Fumiko and Masanobu Higa, and next to them are Fumiko's parents, my great-grandparents, Kama and Shuichi Higa. But I only knew them as *obasan* and *ojisan*. They didn't speak much English, so we really couldn't communicate but they were always prepared when we great-grandkids came over. They always gave us packages of crackseed or candy when we arrived. Once we must have caught them by surprise because they didn't have anything to give us. So they went searching through the kitchen and pulled out these little boxes to give us.



My sister and I were so confused because what they had given us were actually boxes of toothpicks, but they thought they were candy or something because of the pictures of food on the boxes.

Anyway, that immigrant experience and the plantation experience of going back and forth to the plantation, is what I tried to capture in my story, "Christmas Stories"

So, for me, writing fiction is a way of ordering my own past, preserving and remembering it, and if I'm successful, passing a little of it along to the readers.



My short story collection won a contest in 2020 called the Robert C. Jones prize and the prize included publication. The cover (on the left) is drawn by a local boy from the Big Island, I think, Edwin Ushiro, who now lives in California. The picture on the right is me at Da Shop in Kaimuki, where you can purchase the book if you need to find a copy. I've signed the books at Da Shop, so if you buy there the copies will be autographed. I'm hoping when things get back to normal, I'll be able to do some signings for the Kinawan community sometime.



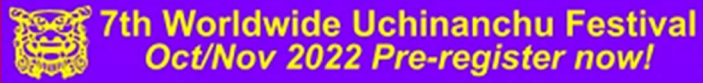
Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to speak this morning.

Jeffrey Higa was the speaker for OGSH's September Meeting.

Go to: <https://www.jtbusa.com/Branch.aspx?city=Honolulu>

7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa!

Taikai is coming!



Once every 5 years Okinawans and friends of Okinawans return to Okinawa for a grand celebration. For this special event we will be working with Sumie Consillio (Oshiro), formerly of Naka's Travel Service, to create and escort tour packages to the Taikai, and we hope that you will consider joining us for this once in five years event!

In past years tours to the Taikai have filled up quite quickly, so reserve your space now to guarantee you place in our tours. [Download the PDF format application form here.](#)





7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival Okinawa 2022 - Chibariyo!

**First-come-first-served: applications processed in the order received or postmarked.
Please submit this application form no earlier than June 12th 2021.**

Please choose your preferred tour (dates and schedule subject to change, you may change at a later time):

- Oct 27 - Nov 7 (10 nights) with Sumie Consillio (Oshiro) and Chris Li - formerly Naka's Travel Service
- Oct 27 - Nov 6 (9 nights) with Linda Okabe
- Oct 27 - Nov 7 (10 nights) with Linda Okabe

Please write names exactly as they appear on your passports:

Primary Contact: _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE (EXACTLY AS APPEARS ON PASSPORT)

HOME STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY STATE ZIP

HOME PHONE NUMBER _____ CELL OR WORK PHONE NUMBER _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Names of other travelers in your party (as they appear on passports, use second page if needed):

- 1) _____ 2) _____
- 3) _____ 4) _____
- 5) _____ 6) _____

Notes (traveling with other parties, etc.):

TOUR DEPOSIT DUE: \$500.00 PER PERSON: Fully refundable for any reason until 6 months prior to departure

Credit Card (circle one):		MasterCard	Visa	Amex	Diners	Discover	JCB
Name of Credit Card holder:		_____					
Credit Card Number:		_____			Expiration Date _____		
CV code (3 or 4 digit security code on back of credit card)		_____		Name of Issuing Bank _____			
Card Holder's Billing Address: _____							
City _____		State _____		Zip (Required) _____		Phone # _____	
Total amount \$ _____		Cardholder's Signature: _____				Date: _____	



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