

“We link our past to perpetuate our heritage.”

Zoom Meeting
Saturday, November 20, 2021
9AM

e-Newsletter
2021
November



Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
PO Box 8947
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

OGSHnews@gmail.com



November 20, 2021, 9AM

Agenda:

fUN tIme OGSB Meeting
sING aLONG, pRIZES, sCAVENGER hUNT,
kARII, and kACHASHI

Donna's Word of the Month

“umuin”

(vt.) – to hope, expect, anticipate

President Elect's Message

Haitai Everyone!

We find ourselves at yet another crossroads where we fast approach the end of another year and the beginning of a new year. This past year has been filled with many highlights under the leadership of Joy Schoonover! The most significant one is our featured story in Yuntaku Live! There were many hours of effort and collaboration that went into the final product and much of it was driven by the hard work and creativity of Joy! Congratulations for a job well done! During this critical time when many events went virtual, Joy possessed the talent to execute with fabulous results. The Mensore team under the leadership of Kay Ikei, also successfully reached out to our senior members during our UMUIGANASANA drive. I have heard positive feedback for this effort and that many seniors were touched with the contact.

Congratulations are also in store for honoring our Uchinanchu of the Year nominee, Allen Toma. It is a long overdue recognition for the countless hours of effort he has invested in refining and expanding our OGSB database and subsequently reaching all parts of the globe with this remote capability. Partnered with our research team, connecting Uchinanchu with their roots has been an ongoing effort with extraordinary results.

Welcome onboard for our newly elected Heidi Shimabuku and Jackie Toma. Their perspective and fresh eyes will definitely invigorate the OGSB BOD with new energy as we work towards creating a stronger membership to service each other and our greater community.

Let me end by giving thanks to all our members who have labored tirelessly and with commitment to ensure that future generations can appreciate their legacy with the reverence and joy that comes from being part of something that is greater than ourselves. I look forward to a new year filled with many opportunities to invest in our members, develop a collaborative message as an organization and having meaningful shared events with you.

Wishing you and your families a hearty Thanksgiving feast, a special Christmas celebration and a New Year that brings each of your contentment, hope, and renewed health!

Yutasuarugutu Unigeesabin,
Donna

Speaker: Reverend Shindo Nishiyama



I am very honored today to join the monthly meeting of OGS. I was asked to talk about Butsudan and Buddhist traditions. I am happy to be here today. My presentation will be less than 10 minutes, as no one likes to hear ministers talk long.

Buddhist Traditions – Altar

October 16, 2021

- Butsudan – The Family Altar
- Toumyo – Candle Light
- Ihai – The Memorial Tablet
- Oshoko – Offering of Incense
- Rin – Bells
- Gobuppan – Rice offering
- Bukka – Offering of Flowers
- Osonae – Offering of Foods

For Buddhist traditions, I will talk about the *Butsudan* or temple altar. Most of us know about Butsudan. ‘Butsu’ means Buddha and ‘dan’ means altar, so simply Butsudan means Buddhist altar, the family altar. *Toumyo* means candle lights. Most of you do not know this Japanese word, *toumyo*. *Ihai* means the Memorial Tablet. In Uchinanchu, you say *totomei*. *Totomei* means family altar, but also including sacred place for the ancestors. *Ihai* came from old time China. Originally it did not mean Memorial Tablet. In Chinese high society, the highest status of officers of the government, they received an honorable name from the emperor. They would carry the *Ihai* and stand in the front of the emperor and a name would then be given by the emperor. This is the original meaning of *Ihai*. When the official passed away, the family praised the *Ihai* and the honorable name given by the emperor and placed in a sacred place in the house and that became the *Ihai*. In the front of the *Ihai*, you would have the Buddhist name and on the backside, you would have the date of birth, date of death, and original first and last name. In the front, you have kanji characters of the Buddhist name given by the minister. That is his Buddhist name or Buddha Dharma Name or in Japanese *Homyo*. ‘HO’ means Dharma and

'MYO' means name. Next is *Oshoko*, the offering of incense. The offering of incense originally came from India. The incense powder were used by Indians to scatter upon a burning body. You may have seen Hindus scatter powder on the cremating body. They believe that the smoke goes up to heaven to join the Hindu god. Next is *Rin* or bells. You would ring the Rin two times before you go to pray. Actually, this is not a Buddhist tradition. It is a signal to begin chanting for ministers. As you come to the end of the chanting, it is rung again when there is mutual chanting. So, coming to an altar and ringing the rin twice is the wrong way. If you hit it two times, you need to start chanting. But I know it is a long time family tradition that you practiced, so I say OK, you just continue. *Gobuppan* or rice offering. Remember, Obaachan would offer the rice to the altar because rice is the main food for Asians. Also from India, when Shaka Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) was alive, Indian rice was the main offering to the Buddha. *Bukka* is the offering of flowers to the altar. *Osonae* is the offering of food. Simple food is preferred like manju or okashi (Japanese snack). So, these terms are in common use in Japan.

TENDAI SECT MT. HIEI IN KYOTO, JAPAN



Butsudan originally came from the Tendai Sect of Mt. Hiei in Kyoto, Japan. It was founded by Saicho. He was a disciple of Tendai Chigi, a Chinese monk almost 1400 years ago. Saicho learned about the Tendai Sect and returned to Japan and built this Tendai on Mt. Hiei. This is called a Konponchudo and it became a temple a family altar. The inside is all original. Inside is a statue of Buddha and three kikuto (lamps). When Saicho founded this Tendai Sect on Mt. Hiei, he lit the candles almost twelve hundred years ago and it has never been discontinued. Every morning and night the ministers add oil to the lamps. It has been going on for twelve hundred years.

IMMORTAL LIGHT – 不滅の灯



TEMPLE ALTAR



This is a typical Hongwanji temple altar. It originated from the Tendai Sect and it spread to other sects, such as all other sect of Japanese Buddhism. This is a golden colored temple in Japan. The golden color expresses the pureness of Buddha. The Shingon Mission or Soto Zen's altar area is greater than the sitting area because they still practice meditation. In a Hongwanji, the altar area is small and the audience area is large because it is more important to listen to the dharma. The audience area is more valuable.



This is a Butsudan in Japan. Nissei people used to keep this kind of altar in Hawaii and the mainland. After the chant, offering of food or rice, the doors are closed. This is a modern style butsudan. In the center is an image of Buddha, on one side is a bell and on the other is a bukka to hold flowers and in the center an incense burner.

BUTSUDAN-Family Altar





This is an Uchinanchu style altar. The one difference is there is a memorial tablet in the center instead of any object or image of Buddha because in Okinawan culture, it is important to respect the ancestors. In the Okinawan altar the Totomei is in the center and the pictures of the family is on the sides and greenery. In the front center, which is unique for Okinawa is the incense burner that is blue in color.



There are 3 different kinds of Ihai. The first is one given by the minister for the family that is used before and after the funeral service and kept by the family after the service. The next is a formal Ihai for a single person that has the deceased Buddhist name. The last is the family Ihai where the minister can write the Buddhist and given names of family members that have passed away. It is the same as the Okinawan Totomei, which also has the names of the deceased and their date of death.

HAKA- MEMORIAL STONES



An Okinawan Haka (memorial stone grave site) is where families get together each year (Shimi) for a memorial. They would put a goza in front and bring food, sake, beer, everything you would need for a wonderful time. They believed that their ancestors would join them to eat, drink, and talk story. This picture shows a typical tomb. The curved part represents a womb. The Okinawan people believe that they will return to their mother inside the womb. This is the original meaning of okasan, women's womb. There is a door where anyone may enter. I don't think my head can fit through my mom's womb...Too Big! That is why there is a huge entrance. In reference to the 2 memorial stones, the right side is the Japanese stone. It has the family names. On the left side is the Hongwanji style. You can see this style at Oahu Cemetery with these Kanji characters on the stone meaning, "We are going to be joined in the one place of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion." On the left memorial, if you see 4 characters, it means that it is for a Hongwanji member most likely from Hiroshima. Hiroshima Hongwanji members were exciting and active. Immigrants from Hiroshima area still keep these traditional grave stones, both 4 and 6 characters.

Buddhism is a very modern and friendly study. Buddhism includes science and medicine. In Japan, back then, Buddhism was a high educational system. So the emperor always tried to invite the Chinese monks to share their Buddhist teachings and other studies. The emperor and high status samurai families tried to send their sons to study at Mt. Hiei. Some of the seven major sects of Buddhism in Japan are Hongwanji, Jodoshu, Tendai, and Soto. Most founders studied here at Mt. Hiei, almost a thousand years ago. This is my presentation on Buddhist altar traditions and the origin of the Buddhist sect.

Inquiry on Buddhist Services

In Buddhist tradition, after the funeral service, we have the 49 days service, means seven weeks after the person pass away. After the 49 days service, we have the 1 year service. The next one will be the third year service (3 years). Next is the 7 year service, 13 years, 17 years, 25 years, 33 years, and the last one at 50 years. This originally came from China, a Chinese custom.

A Buddhist memorial service is not only for respecting the deceased but also for living people, for everyone. Hongwanji style, we emphasize, is to come to the temple in remembrance of your loved ones and listening to and sharing the teachings.



Jikoen Hongwanji

A Jodo Shin Buddhist temple



Jikoen is a welcoming Buddhist community that provides a place and opportunities for all to connect with each other socially, culturally, and spiritually with joy and gratitude. It is a place to hear, live, and share the teachings of the Buddha.

Jikoen Hongwanji
Telephone: 808-845-3422
Email: jikoen.info@gmail.com
www.jikoenhongwanji.org

Jikoen is following the CDC, State and Local guidelines to keep everyone safe. Any in-person appointments must be confirmed in advance and will require you to wear a face mask, have your temperature checked and complete a Jikoen Covid-19 Screening form upon arrival.

Office Hours

Jikoen's Office is staffed by volunteers and a part-time office assistant; therefore, regular office hours are not guaranteed. Please call the office before planning to visit the temple or to make an appointment. Leave your name and contact number and we'll be happy to get back to you.

Nokotsudo (Columbarium)

To visit the Nokotsudo, please call the office at least two days (48 hours) or email in advance to make arrangements to open the Nokotsudo for you.

Emergency Ministerial Services

For emergency ministerial services, please contact Rev. Shindo Nishiyama at 808-754-3737.



Participants are listed on the right.

<https://huoa.org/nuuzi/>



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In a separate attachment is our 16 page NOV / DEC specials.

The pens are great stocking stuffers. For those that still need PPE, we have Purell, Lysol wipes and disinfectant, Clorox wipes. I believe we still can order antigen test kits, 25 tests per kit. The kits are ordered upon demand.

Zippy's, Pizza Hut/Taco Bell, Young Bros, Y Hata are some of the customers that have purchased the kits. We also have toilet paper and towels. Please call or email me if you are interested or would like to check if there is something that is not listed.

Lot of the items on special are for business, but if anyone does their filing at home, this could be useful. Thank you and keep staying safe.

Thank you,

Cheryl

Phone 808-842-4467 infor@cehawaii.com

- 808 Craft and Gift Fairs
- A Family Affaire
- Aki's Herbal Treats
- Alison Kawata
- Angie Ige
- Beads & Things by Kori
- Bistro Blends of Hawaii
- Brigitte Kawakami
- Carol Y. Sakai Designs
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- Corey n Me
- Crafts By Carol
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- Decowoods
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- Gifted Hawaii
- Gloria Awakuni
- Hapa Girls
- Happy Wahine
- Healthy Trends Hawaii
- Hello Sushi Store
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- It's About Time
- Jan Nishitomi
- Jen-e
- Karen's Krafts
- Kawaii Hawaii
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- Little Craft Shack
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- Senjukai Hawaii
- Sum Ting Simpo
- Sumofish
- Sweetie Pie Honey Bunch
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- Unique Impressions
- Usborne Books & More with Joanne
- Wing Cheong Inc.



Upcoming Events

November 2021

27-28 HUOA Winter Modified Craft Fair
Hawaii Okinawan Center
Saturday and Sunday, 9AM-2PM

December 2021

No OGSB Meeting

January 2022

TBA United Okinawan of the Year
OGSB UOY Allen Toma

TBA OGSB Meeting

October 2022

7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival
Okinawa

2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$10 per member

On November 30, 2021, a Membership Dues email will be emailed to you. You will have three options to submit your membership application.

1.) SUBMIT AND PAYPAL

If you have Word on your computer, you will be able to fill-in the fillable form and press the submit button. When your application has been received you will be sent an invoice. It will be a link to pay with a credit or debit card through PayPal

2.) PRINT, SCAN, ATTACH DOCUMENT AND RETURN TO OGSB, AND PAYPAL

If you do not have Word or the fillable form is not functioning, print the application, fill-in, and email to:

OGSBnews@gmail.com

When your application has been received you will be sent an invoice. It will be a link to pay with a credit or debit card through PayPal

3.) PRINT, WRITE A CHECK, AND MAIL

You may also print the form, fill-in, write a check payable to: OGSB

Mail the form and your check to:

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Nifee Debiru

7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival Tour Okinawa's Largest International Event - Once in 5 Years!

