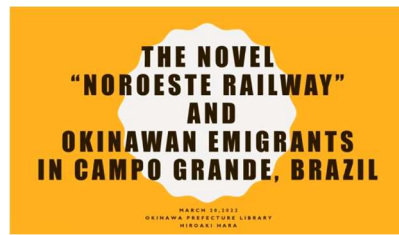




Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
 PO Box 894779
 Mililani, Hawaii 96789
 OGSNews@gmail.com

e-Newsletter
 2022
 April



Donna's Word of the Month
 yunusachi – n
 The future, the time to come

Membership Meeting
 Saturday, April 16, 2022

AGENDA

- I. Honoring Patsy K. Miyahira Young
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Committee Updates
 - a. Bonenkai
 - b. Okinawan Festival
 - c. Research
 - d. Mensore
 - e. Education
- IV. May 2022 Meeting in Chaya
 - a. Speaker-Shigeru Yoshimoto

Upcoming Events 2022

- April 16 OGS Zoom Meeting, 9 AM
- May 21 OGS Meeting
- 28&29 Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament
- June 17 Senior Health and Fitness Fair
Hawaii Okinawan Center
- July 24 Legacy Banquet
Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Summer 2022
Jikoen Bon Dance -Virtual



Haitai OGS Members!



Another month has passed since we last saw each other on ZOOM and here we are looking to have another ZOOM meeting as we are not quite ready to meet face-to-face for multiple reasons. Fred and Amy Shinsato have enthusiastically endorsed running the coffee table for us and I am so thankful for them. Initially we will be offering simple snacks until we can determine what our membership is comfortable with. We have a final version of the Education Committee Policy and Procedures and are also actively reviewing the Mensore Committee Policy and Procedures and we are almost there. Establishing these policies will ensure that future members will have something in writing to guide them as the baton is passed to the next group. It's amazing how 2 years of inactivity and ZOOM meetings has altered our way of doing "business". We can discuss more at our meeting this Saturday.

I chose the word "yunusachi" as our word for the month as we look forward to the future and a time to come. We are greeting the future with deliberate intention to make it better for us and those we serve.

While keeping one eye on the future, I will be asking to have a moment of silence to remember Patsy Young who I understand contributed a lot to our Okinawan community.

John Tasato remembers that "Patsy (senate majority chair) always remembered her Okinawan ancestry. (She Coordinated with other Okinawans and colleagues during our 90th Anniversary Celebration by nursing our request for fundings and programming throughout the year. Keeping an eye in the legislature for Okinawan support. Also always happy to assist with OGS events..."

Rodney Kohagura remembers that "She contributed at least two articles in our short story series."

And, lastly, Nancy Yogi shared a fond memory where "My mother told me that back in the 1940's, she used to see Patsy with one of her younger sibs secured on her back ("opa") with the long and wide cloth sash, (obi) ...walking up and down the neighborhood unpaved road, with a book in hand, intent on reading. What she was to accomplish and leave as her legacy must have had early beginnings."

I will be asking if there are others who may have a memory to share.

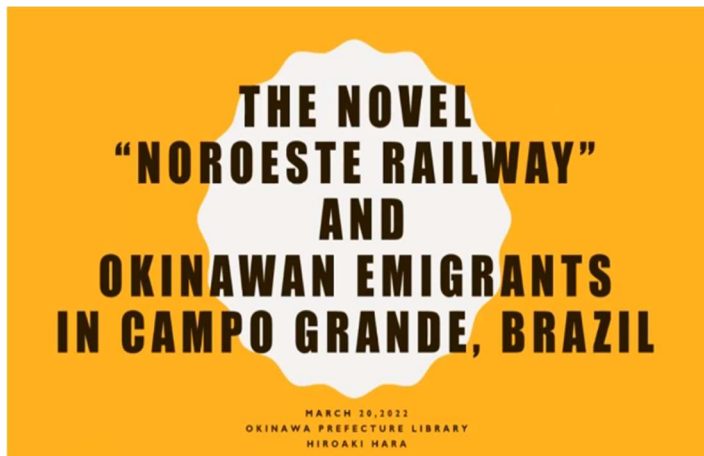
Have a great Easter celebration with friends and family!

Donna Nakamura

FULL OF APPRECIATION



First of all, I would like to thank all of you for this opportunity. It was 2 years since I returned to Okinawa and thanks to your help, I was able to get my Master of Science degree from University of Hawaii. My family and I have great memories. Arigato gozaimasu and I was very sad that I was not able to thank you personally, but I am happy to see you again online.



EXHIBITION

The Novel "Noroeste Railway and Okinawan Emigrants in Campo Grande, Brazil"

- At OPL in Japanese
Held in October, 2021
Pre-Event of the 7th WUT
- Online in JP, ENG, PORT
Open in March, 2022

<https://www.noroeste-brazil.okinawa/en/>

小説『ノロエステ鉄道』と
ブラジル・カンボグランデの沖縄県系人



This was held last October and is now available online translated in Portuguese and English since last week. The web address is: <https://www.noroeste-brazil.okinawa/en/>. This novel was written by Tatsuhiro Oshiro, a famous Okinawan novelist. He won the 1967 Akutagawa Literature Prize for "Cocktail Party." In 1973 and 1978 he visited foreign Okinawan Associations to gather materials, books, and to conduct interviews with Nissei immigrants.

In 1989, he published “Noroeste Railway”, which includes 6 short stories about Okinawan immigrants in Latin American countries. He donated a lot of books for our library. In 2010, we opened the “Tatsuhiko Oshiro Collection” at OKINAWA Prefectural Library (OPL). At our web site, you can see his handwritten manuscript of “Noroeste Railway”. In his interviews, he interviewed 6 Hawaii Uchinanchu people. Three of them were Okinawans and the others were researchers on Okinawan immigrants.

THE NOVEL “NOROESTE RAILWAY”

Author Tatsuhiko Oshiro(1925- 2020)

- Winning the 1967 “Akutagawa Literature Prize” for *Cocktail Party*
- 1973&1978 Visiting foreign Okinawan Associations
- 1989 Publishing the Short Stories “Noroeste Railway”
- 2010 “Tatsuhiko Oshiro Collection” opened at OPL

Yukiko Kimura and Kiyoshi Okubo, a radio personality, collected Japanese Immigration materials. As you know, Seikan Higa, a minister, was a leader in the immigrant base in the twenties and thirties. Sadao Asato from Ginowan, contributed to the Okinawan relief effort. Masei Shimabukuro from Kadena, spoke of his life story.

INVESTIGATION ON OKINAWANS RESIDING IN OVERSEAS REGIONS

Country	1973		1978	
	Bibliographic Documents	Audio	Bibliographic Documents	Audio
USA (Hawaii included)		5	6	5
Argentina		3	42	17
Brazil	100	5	3	11
Bolivia		6	13	7
Peru		2	22	10
Total	100	21	86	50

Related to Hawaii

- 6 tapes of audio
- 1 Seikan Higa (Naha)
- 2 Sadao Asato (Ginowan)
- 3 Masei Shimabukuro(Kadena)

- 4 Discussion
- 5 Yukiko Kimura
- 6 Kiyoshi Okubo


Created from the First and Fourth issues of OKINAWA SHIBYO HENSHU KYO Bulletin of the Historical Institute of Okinawa

In 1978, he interviewed Kame Oshiro. She was born in Tomigusuku and emigrated to Brazil in 1908 in the first immigrant group from Okinawa. Tatsuhiko Oshiro was able to interview the last survivor from the first immigrant group. She was able to remember the migration to Brazil. You can hear her interview of her life in Brazil on the website. His novel was based on her life story. The main point of this novel is the avoidance of Japanese military service. This was the reason why her husband migrated to Brazil. He became the leader of the ‘Victorious’ (Kachigumi), a group that could not believe after the war, that Japan surrendered and that instead Japan won the war. Also

INTERVIEWEE, KAME OSHIRO

Kame Oshiro(1891-1983)

- Interviewed in 1978 in Campo Grande, Brazil
- Born in Tomigusuku
- A Kasato Maru migrant in 1908
- Coffee Plantation Work
- Noroeste Railway Construction and settling in Campo Grande
- the Victorious, those who did not doubt the Japanese victory even after the Japanese surrendered



in the novel, the differences between the Japanese and Okinawans and between the Isseis and the Nisseis (the Generation Gap) and their opposing point of view. So, it is more than her life story. This is probably the same situation of immigrants in other countries. That is why the novel is very interesting. The main point of the exhibition is why the Okinawans immigrated to Brazil and why Campo Grande chose Okinawan soba as their sole food. There is an Okinawan Soba monument in the center of the city and in the marketplace, you can find Okinawan soba.

MAIN POINTS OF THE NOVEL

- Three opposing points of view
- 1 "The Avoidance of Japanese Military Service" vs "The Victorious"
- 2 "AKABANĀ (the hibiscus flower representing Okinawa)" vs "SAKURA (the cherry tree representing Japan)"
- 3 "ISSEI" vs "NISEI and after"



Their experiences and views were, more and less, similar to ones of Okinawan Issei Emigrants in other countries.

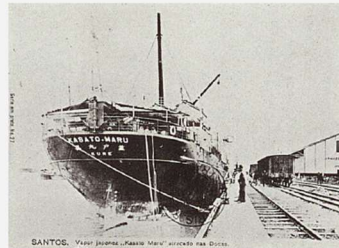
MAIN POINTS OF THE EXHIBITION

- Why did Okinawans migrate to Brazil?
- Why did Campo Grande choose "Okinawa Soba" as their soul food?



COFFEE CALLED GOLD TREE FRUITS

1. Why Brazil?
 - The Gentlemen Agreement in 1908
 - An allotment program
 - Remittance from Hawaii and others
 - Avoidance from JP military draft
2. Kasato Maru Emigrants
 - Work Condition / Arranged Family
 - Okinawans dominated the 1st migrant group to Brazil because Out of 781 migrants, 325 were Okinawans.
 - Emigration Costs



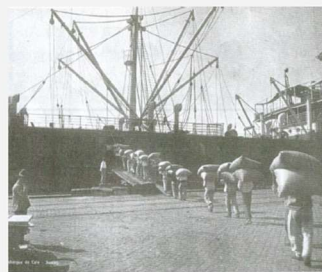
A PARADISE ON HEARSAY, A HELL AT SIGHT

- Coffee Plantation Life
- Work hard
 - Slave treatment
 - Daily Store run by owners, selling extraordinary price
- Salary was 1/4 of the money they had expected (were told)



ESCAPING PLANTATIONS AND WANDERING

- They had to return debt ASAP
- Moving to Santos Port, Argentine...



NOROESTE RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

- Connecting West (Porto Esperanza) and East (Tras Lagos)
- Good Salary
 - Hard and dangerous

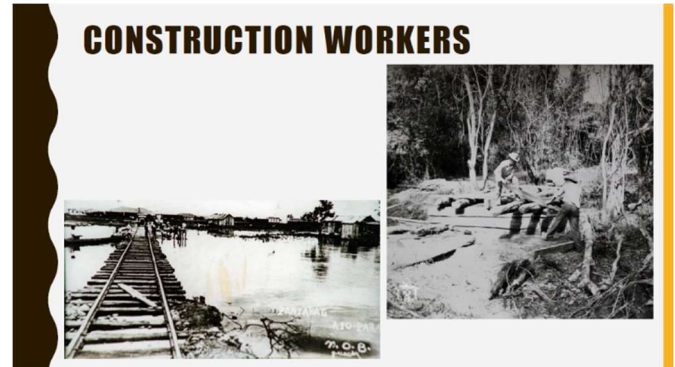


Why did they immigrate to Brazil? There was the Gentleman's Agreement between Japan and U.S. government in 1908 where Japanese could not emigrate to the U.S. anymore. The Japanese government looked for other locations and one of them was Brazil. There was an allotment program where the Japanese government gave land to individuals. Before that, the land was shared with the local people where they worked together. In the Meiji period, the policy was changed where land was given to them where they were able to sell it or not.

A lot of the immigrants to Hawaii were able to send money back to Okinawa. So, immigration was good for the people. The overwhelming reason again, was to avoid Japanese military service. Kame Oshiro's husband was very strong so, his parents were afraid of him being drafted because his cousin was killed in the Japanese-Russian war.

Work conditions for the immigrants were “nice”. They could earn 6 times more. Out of the 781 migrants of the first group to Brazil, 325 were Okinawans. To cover their migration expense, they had to borrow the money from the rich or sell their land. Plantation work was very hard, as they had to work from early morning to late at night. They were treated as scribes by the landowner and supervisor, similar to the lunas in Hawaii. The Daily Store was run by the landowner and goods were expensive. What made it worst, was their salary was one-fourth of what they expected. But, they had to pay off their debt as soon as possible or their family in Okinawa would get into trouble. So, they escaped from the plantation breaking their contract, with many of them returning to Santos Port, their first arrival point, becoming port workers. Many of them went to Argentina, hoping to find better work, but couldn't find any.

In the construction forest they would cut down the big trees in the wetlands. Many people died due to malaria. Kame Oshiro gave birth to three babies but all of them died because there were no doctors or hospitals nearby. They were working new land by clearing and cultivating. Finally, the railroad connected near Campo Grande. Some of the Okinawans in Campo Grande were construction workers and settled there. At that time, it was a small village. The soil was good, so farming was started and railroad jobs became available.



SETTLEMENT IN CAMPO GRANDE

- Connected at near CG
- Cultivating farms or engaging jobs related to railway

WORLD WAR II AND EMIGRANTS IN BRAZIL

- Freedom Limitation of the Enemy Nation Citizens
- Confinement and Forced Evacuation
- “The Victorious” (KACHIGUMI) vs “The Defeated” (MAKEGUMI)

When war broke out, Japanese in Brazil, Argentina, as in the U.S. were treated as the enemy. There was confinement and forced evacuation. As to Kame Oshiro and her husband, their shop that they owned in Campo Grande their property and house were confiscated. Most Okinawans (90%) in Brazil believed that Japan won the war because in Brazil. The Okinawans could not read the newspapers printed in Portuguese and information was limited. A ‘bad’ group changed the information that the U.S. surrendered, so it became a serious situation in Brazil.

FIN

The Novel “Noroeste Railway and Okinawan Emigrants in Campo Grande, Brazil”
<https://www.noroeste-brazil.okinawa/en/>

Q: Besides the agricultural and railroad aspects, did the Okinawans support other businesses.

A: The Okinawans went to other areas of Brazil and those that settled near Campo Grande port and built a Japanese and Okinawan community and grew bananas which became famous before the war, but after the war, they moved to the city, Sao Paulo. The nissei and sansei did not do agricultural work. Many found work in the construction industry. Like in Hawaii, many of the second generation moved to Oahu to do other jobs.

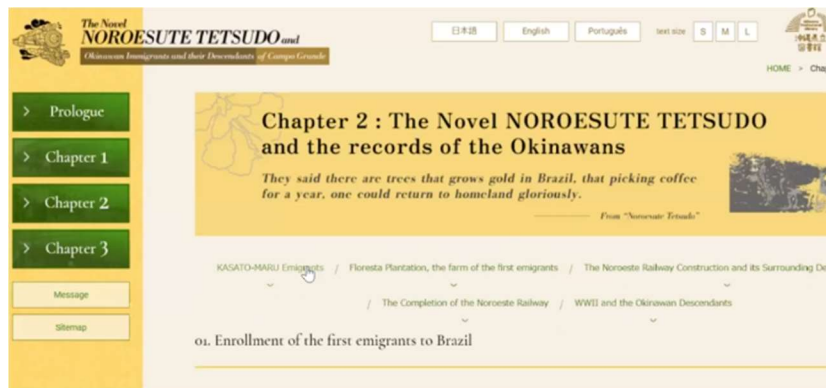
Q: Were the Okinawans recruited like the Imin Gaisha to work in Brazil?

A: No. The Okinawans communicated with each other, even if they were in other cities or plantations because they had

a connection with each other. They had good work conditions in Santos, Sao Paulo so many people moved there because of the good salary jobs. From there, some moved to Argentina. Likewise, Okinawans from Peru moved to Campo Grande to work in the construction field. They continued to keep in touch with each other and that gave them an advantage over other people in the city due to their strong connection.

Q: Was there a certain area in Brazil where the immigrants went to?

A: The statistics for that is on the website.



Q: Were the Okinawan immigrants offered land as an incentive to move?

A: Yes. The first migration company offered to those who worked 3 years a discount on the purchase of land.

Sidenote: The land they were offered needed to be cleared before they could use it for agriculture.

Q: Did you notice a difference between Hawaii and Brazilian Uchinanchu? Did you notice a different or same assimilation between the Hawaii and Brazilian cultures?

A: Good question. In the agriculture and construction sense, there is a similarity in their experience. They all had to work from early in the morning to late at night to survive. One difference is the Japanese government restricted Okinawans to emigrate only to Brazil starting in 1910. Many of them escaped and broke their contracts to find better job opportunities and conditions in Brazil.

Q: Is there an Okinawan Festival in Brazil?

A: I travelled to Sao Paulo in 2017 and there was a big Okinawan Celebration, not only in the city but also in the suburbs.

Q: Does Brazil have a record of who emigrated?

A: Yes. Information was taken from ship's manifest.



David Jones, 2022 HUOA President

Thank you, Hiroaki for sharing your knowledge about life in Brazil. It's important to stay connected to our roots. Also, to remind us of what the first generation did to pave the way for us.

This is the first time I came to an OGSB meeting, I wished I had joined sooner. It's great that you bring on experts on different areas of Okinawan history. Zoom is a wonderful tool to stay

connected.

A quick introduction. I've probably had the opportunity to meet many of you over the years. I am the president of HUOA this year. Jones is probably not known as an Okinawan town. My mom is from Naha, born and raised there. Her grandma is from Naha and grandpa is from Shuri. We moved to Washington State and moved to Hawaii about 15 years ago. I've been here since 2006. I'm married with 2 kids and not going anywhere anytime soon. My parents continue to live in Okinawa, Kitanagusuku. I am very humble to lead HUOA and the Okinawan community. I would like to thank David Shinsato, a vice-president and future leader of our organization. I've been involved in Young Okinawans of Hawaii. You might have seen me playing Taiko at different obon. I've been involved with HUOA maybe 10 years ago, for a few years. Just recently, I returned to HUOA. Maybe it was good timing because right around two years ago the pandemic started. I was in charge of programs at that time. We were planning for our big event and the pandemic happened. What could we do? We had to do a virtual format meeting like this on Zoom. We had the right team in place at the time and David mentioned that things happen for a reason, having the right people at the right time. We started the Yuntaku show, where we were able to show and feature different amazing people, not in just in our community, but throughout the world. We had guest from Okinawa, even from Argentina. OGSB was featured last year. Joy and Donna were able to host and share what the organization does. Zoom is an amazing platform to share not just locally but globally.

Having said that, our focus for HUOA and it applies to OGSB and all the clubs in Hawaii and Okinawa. Chuishijii is what we chose for our theme. Chuishijii means helping each other. I worked with Brandon Ng to come up with a theme. We're in the third year of the pandemic and we meet virtually, but it is important that we reconnect with each other. We have 3 goals for this year. I think this will work great for OGSB and every organization, reconnecting to our roots. Hiroaki reminded us we have so much wealth, so much history, and challenges that our ancestors faced, paving the way for many of us here. It is important to remember that. Reconnecting to each other is our second goal. It seems things are getting better. Things are opening up and it is great we can meet with other virtually, but HUOA is starting to have live in person meetings. Meeting each other via Zoom, you can't get to know each other well. When you meet in person, you have the sight conversation, the meeting before the meeting where you get to talk story, the meeting after the meeting. That's the glue that keeps us together and our relations grow. When safe to do so, meeting live every so often is important. What we do at HUOA is a hybrid meeting. We meet in person and on a big TV screen, we have a Zoom meeting also, so that others who would like to attend can join in. So far, it has been going quite well. Our third goal is investing in the younger generation. That's our future. That is what will keep the organization strong. For us, we know what that means by getting our grandsons and granddaughters interested by taking them to the Okinawan Festival or doing things Okinawan. Encourage them to participate in some Okinawan activity like Okinawan dance. That might be the seed. When I was in my teens and twenties, I was oblivious and when I went to Taikai back in 2006 is when my eyes opened up and I reconnected. So, going to Okinawa is something I highly recommend. Investing in the younger generation will keep our legacy going. What HUOA is trying to have live events. Some of the upcoming events are tonight's Loochoo Summit, the OIST (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology) Foundation Concert, a hybrid event, featuring Jake Shimabukuro, the Legacy Banquet at the Hilton on July 24, the 50th Anniversary Goodwill Golf Tournament on May 28, and the Okinawan Festival on September 3 and 4, maybe going back to the Convention Center. We may do a virtual festival, maybe at a different time of the year. Also, the Taikai will happen, regardless of travel restrictions. They will let us know at the end of April whether they will do a full-scale event or not. They plan on doing a live event, but if that doesn't happen, they will do a virtual or hybrid event. They will have a Taikai in some fashion. These are some of the big events being planned for this year. I would also like to mention the Mac Yonemine Fund and Program is an important initiative. For me, I am a little bit new and not familiar with the history, but I do know the importance of keeping this conversation going. What I want to do is reach out to Donna to talk about and understand it. That's all I have for my introduction. Thank you very much.





Stan Uehara

The U.S. Census is done every ten years and release to the public after 70 years. On April 1, the 1950s census will be released by the National Archives.

Ten years ago, when the 1940 census was released OGSB volunteers helped to work on the family search organization project. It was to index the census so it could be searchable by name. They wanted to do it within six months. With over 160,000 volunteers and several genealogical groups, like ours, the index was updated in four months.

Our volunteers, assembled by Ronald Miyashiro, produced so much we were rewarded a computer printer. This year artificial intelligence and handwriting recognition technology will be used to create an index searchable much sooner. Come next month they should be able to see how your family was in 1950.



Ronald Miyashiro

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/1950/census-records.html>

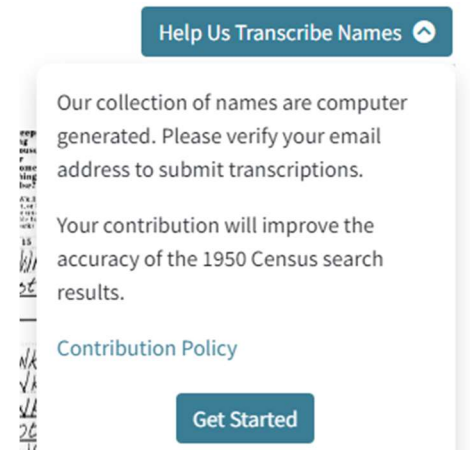
<https://1950census.archives.gov/>

They have a website on family search about this search.

This project. You can sign up if you want further updates on how this is coming out. It look like to me like they are doing it the same way like ten years ago. Asking for volunteers for help to help with further improve the accuracy of the indexing.

Something OGSB something to consider. It was very gratifying to do that. We are familiar with the Japanese names and corrected some of those. They are checks and balances, maybe three levels. Compared the digital index and compared with the actual handwriting of the census page. There was another check after us.

The project was taken by the Guidebook Committee aided by Nancy Yogi, Amy Tsuru, Jean Fujita, Stan Uehara, Sally Tsuda had a big part in helping with this project.



Taken every 10 years since 1790, the United States census provides a snapshot of the nation's population. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records, the most recent census year currently available is 1950.

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census was released, and users can access it for free through a dedicated website at 1950census.archives.gov. This population census is the 17th decennial census of the United States. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has digitized and is providing free online access to the 1950 Census population schedules for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

MY HAWAII
CONNECTING THE DOTS
 Hawai'i Uchinānchu Gail Shon Learns About Her Heritage in Okinawa

Colin Sewake
 Hawaii Herald Columnist

"Okinawa is such a beautiful place, not just the ocean and scenery and culture, but the people. For how treated well and taken care of by many people here in what has become 'My Hawaii.'" — Colin Sewake

When I was in elementary school, I loved the activity books my mom bought for me, especially those dot-to-dot books where a line was drawn to join a sequential number of dots to reveal a picture. Recently, I was able to help a Hawai'i Uchinānchu (Okinawan) connect the dots of her family history in Okinawa.

The first dot started when Hawaii United Okinawa Association 2007 President and current Nishihara Chojin Kai President David Z. Arakawa contacted me in November asking if I could help club member, Gail Shon, who would be on her first trip to Okinawa, connect with her Yonamine family and pay respects at the family haka (grave).

I immediately called my Yonitan neighbor and Okinawa-Hawaii's Uchinānchu vice president, Masaji Matsuda, to relay the request. Matsuda then called the Nishihara Choyakuba (town office) right away. Besides the mayor's secretary scheduling an ariana (greeting) meeting with Mayor Seiichi Sakihara, he also called upon Kochi Kenminkan Kochi townmaster



Gail Shon met with Nishihara-cho Mayor Seiichi Sakihara, Kochi Kenminkan Kochi townmaster chief Iwan Otaga and Yoshio Yonamine (Gail's relative) to learn more about where her ancestors were from and how to get to the family haka (grave) to pay her respects.

while other Yonamine relatives, who we weren't able to meet, still live out door.

Our last visit was to Kochigunaka (Kochi Castle). Not all castles have stone or coral walls. Dirt hills that are built up are also referred to as castles so the area we visited and were walking around is referred to as Kochigunaka. We climbed up to a high point and visited Ippu which is where the Kochi people would pray for things like fertility, healthy childbirth and also trips/voyages when traveling to America or other places.

We returned to the Kochi Kenminkan to pick up copies of some family documents that Choga made while we were checking out the Yonamine houses and Kochigunaka. Gail said her thank yous before we departed Nishihara and split up after a very productive day.

The next morning proved to also be busy as I escorted Gail and Philip to the Okinawa Prefectural Library, located near Asahibashi Eki (monorail station) on Highway 98,

Colin Sewake

Follow-up on Hawaii Herald Gail Shon article (distributed in the March 2022 OGSN Newsletter)

We are always talking about genealogy, connecting with your relatives and your roots. I am a 1989 graduate of Leilehua and graduated from the ROTC program in 1994 University of Hawaii. When I was given the choice of where to serve after graduating from University of Hawaii, I requested a base in Japan and I got Kadena. Being here, I've been able to connect to my Sewake roots in Fukuoka and Hiroshima. I didn't know about the Hawaii/Okinawan community and then in 2016, I met the Yomitan Club, Jane

Serikaku, David Arakawa, Sarah Tamashiro and started getting involved in all that.

So, fast forward to last November, David Arakawa contacted me to help Gail Shon with her roots. The important thing is the connection not just with your family but with each other. I like to emphasize the connection with the person who speaks the Uchinaaguchi language, the person that dances, the person that sings the songs, plays the sanshin. So, besides just being connected with your roots, I especially encourage the younger ones to stay connected to each other. Getting to find her roots wasn't as easy as making a phone call. It involved Gail Shon to David, David to me, me to Masaji Matsuda who lives up the street. Masaji picks up the phone and calls the Nishihara Choyakuba, the town office and that guy saying the guy who can help is in Kochi. So, he had to call the Kochi community chief and he got in touch with Yonemine relatives. So, it was not a one-on-one thing. We had all these dots to connect. It was very interesting from my perspective, to come from Hawaii, being here and not knowing you folks till like six years ago and all of a sudden, we're connected. That's what I want to emphasize is that relationship with each other. For me, the important thing is the "C" word, the community. It gets me motivated. It's the people that make the place. I'm really happy to be a part of that. Also, I'll be coming home to see my mom this summer from the middle of June to mid-August.

David Arakawa: I want to thank you Colin and Hiroaki Hara and you for helping Gail Shon find her relatives, hometown, and family live. Thank you for wearing your Palaka shirt.



Colin: That is the whole connection with the Nishihara. Arakawa and Nishihara connection. I would like to put in a plug for Okinawa, since I have been here longer than in Hawaii. One thing I have seen similar here in these locations, here, Hawaii, and my family in Georgia is that the aloha spirit, the yuimaru, that kokua. Recurring themes in the communities I have been involved with. That chimugukuru spirit. It's like being home.

Tribute to Patsy Kikue Miyahira Young

October 29, 1929-April 3, 2022

Trailblazing Asian American legislator Patsy Young dies at age 92

Patsy Young, a trailblazing Asian-American woman who served in both the state House and Senate between 1971 and 1988, died April 3 at age 92.

Young was the first woman to serve in a leadership position in the state Senate as vice president; the first Asian American woman appointed to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents; the first woman on the Public Utilities Commission; and one of the founders of the first Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus, according to biographical information provided by the Hawaii United Okinawan Association.



She was also particularly proud of awarding over \$1 million in scholarships to more than 700 students during her time as the executive director of the McKinley High School Foundation.

Young was born in Waihee, Maui, on Oct. 29, 1929.

She grew up in a two-bedroom home with two older sisters, an older brother and five younger brothers, whom she helped raise.

Her parents had immigrated from Okinawa. As a child, Young recalled learning the importance of yuimaru, an Okinawan word that meant working together in the spirit of cooperation to create a strong and stable family.

Young and her family moved to Honolulu in 1941. Her parents opened a saimin stand in Kalihi called Elizabeth's Sandwich Shop, where Young met her future husband, Honolulu Fire Capt. Francis Young. They married in 1950 and had three children, Patrick, Francine and Greg.

Francis Young died at age 46, and Young raised their children as a single mother while continuing her career in public service.

She began her legislative career in the House in 1971 and moved to the state Senate in 1974 as the Senate Majority Policy Leader. She was also chairwoman of committees such as Legislative Management, Public Utilities, Housing and Urban Development and Hawaiian Homelands and Hawaiian Programs.

During her time in the Legislature, Young helped pass a law that enabled individuals with a Hawaiian blood quantum of 25% to inherit Hawaiian Homelands leases from certain closely related relatives. She also played instrumental roles in establishing the Hawaii Community Development Authority, which would produce affordable housing; the Hula Mae mortgage loan program for first-time homebuyers; and more.

Young retired from the Public Utilities Commission in 1994 and continued her work in community service on the Honolulu Fire Commission, as director of the Waipahu Cultural Garden Park and as the first executive director of the McKinley High School Foundation.

Throughout her various careers, Young continued embodying the spirit of yuimaru. Colleagues remember her as kind and caring, yet strategic and tenacious in the causes she advocated for. She was recognized as someone who always "got the job done," according to the Hawaii United Okinawan Association.

She also remained connected to her Okinawan background through her membership in HUOA clubs.

In retirement, Young enjoyed reading, writing poetry and spending time with her grandchildren, family and friends.

Family members did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Neither Young's church nor the HUOA had information on survivors or service information.

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2022/04/10/hawaii-news/trailblazing-asian-american-legislator-patsy-young-dies-at-age-92/>

Her 'Most Wonderful Christmas Gift' Is Seat in House

By Gregg Kakesako
Star-Bulletin Writer

Mrs. Patsy K. Young yesterday received what she termed "the most wonderful Christmas gift" — a seat in the State House of Representatives.

She was designated by Gov. John A. Burns to serve out the balance of the House term left vacant by the elevation of Joseph T. Kuroda to the State Senate in October.

Kuroda, who was elected as a Democrat from the 20th District (Ewa-Pearl City), defeated Republican Rep. Howard Oda in a special Fourth Senatorial District (Leeward Oahu) election held to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Larry Kuriyama.

REP. YOUNG, 41, also had to resign her two-year seat on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents — a post to which she was appointed by Burns only last July and was still awaiting approval by the Senate.

Her appointment leaves three vacancies on the 11-man board which Burns said he would fill at a later date. The terms of Dr. Patrick M. Cockett and Edward Nakamura expire at the end of this month.

Mrs. Young's appointment to the Legislature will boost the female population in the State Legislature to five.

There are now four women lawmakers — all of them Republicans, Reps. Dorothy Devereux, Diana Hansen, Pat Saito and Sen. Eureka Forbes.

Mrs. Young, a Democrat, will be sworn into office along with Kuroda on the opening day of the Legislature next month.

"I believe women have a long way to go, this is just the beginning."

DURING AN interview with reporters in the Governor's office, she said she would like to see more opportunities for women.

"Women are under-represented in government," Mrs. Young said.

He noted that his decision to appoint Mrs. Young was made in the "firm belief

that he had made a good choice."

MRS. YOUNG served in the Constitutional Convention in 1968 and has been active in the PTAs of Waipahu Elementary, Intermediate and High Schools, as well as in Waipahu neighborhood and community associations.

She is closely aligned with State Sen. Nadao Yoshinaga, having worked as his legislative staff assistant during past sessions, and political observers see her appointment as a victory for the House faction led by Rep. Hiroshi Kato.

Both Yoshinaga and Kato have been backed by the ILWU in the past and the Kato faction has been looking for an appointment whose ties closely match theirs.

Such a move would strengthen their position in the House against the majority Democratic faction led by Speaker Taduo Beppu.

Mrs. Young is a graduate of McKinley High School, and is a part-time student at the University. She has been a substitute school teacher and worked as a reporter for the Leeward Press.

As the newest member of the Leeward Oahu delegation, Mrs. Young told newsmen that she favors the "West Oahu College" campus concept, which means she endorses the establishment of a new four-year campus there.

"There is a real need for a community college there," Mrs. Young said, "as well as a four-year campus in Leeward Oahu."

Mrs. Young's husband is a Fire Department captain and the couple live at 94-450 Awamoi St. with their three children.

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ANOTHER LADY IN THE HOUSE — Mrs. Patsy K. Young yesterday became the only woman Democrat in the House of Representatives. Here she reads the proclamation by Gov. John A. Burns appointing her to fill the vacancy left by Rep. Joseph T. Kuroda's election to the Senate.



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A-10 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1972

House Democrats Squabbling Again

By Richard Borreca
Star-Bulletin Writer

Another House organizational fight between Rep. Hiroshi Kato and House Speaker Tadao Beppu may be one of the first orders of business tomorrow after the House settles down to work for the 1972 Legislature.

Beppu, D-10th Dist. (Palolo-St. Louis) sparked the latest fire by nominating Rep.

An Agenda for the Legislature—Editorial on A-19

Patsy Young (20th Dist. Ewa-Pearl City) appointed to fill a House vacancy, to chair the House Health, Youth and General Welfare Committee.

He also nominated Rep. Richard Garcia, D-17 Dist. (Kalihi-Kai-Kapalama) to head the highly desirable Housing-Consumer Protection Committee.

interested in Housing and Consumer Protection, and that if he takes it, the Health Committee would be open," the House speaker said.

"But after she agreed, I guess guys like Uechi and Kato started pounding her head . . . so I called her in again.

"The question arises whether your word is good or not," Beppu said he told Rep. Young.

MEANWHILE, Mrs. Young said she isn't too sure about the committee appointment.

"I think it all depends on what the 50 other representatives say. They have to vote on it," Mrs. Young said.

So Beppu and Mrs. Young seem unsure of the committee appointments.

Garcia said he doesn't want to talk about his role in the potential squabble. Uechi is willing to talk, but he isn't saying much.

"At this point, we don't know what is going to happen," Uechi said yesterday.

testimonial dinner for Rep. Young

Patsy Miyahira Young, recently sworn in to the State House of Representatives, will be honored at a testimonial dinner Feb. 13 at 6 at the Wisteria Restaurant, 1206 S. King St.

Rep. Young has filled the vacancy created by Joseph Kuroda who is now a senator. Rep. Young represents the 20th District—Ewa, Pearl City and Waipahu areas.

The dinner is sponsored by Hui Makaala with Mrs. William Chinen and Mrs. Yokichi Uyehara as co-chairmen. For tickets and reservations call Mrs. John Gushiken, 734-3894; Mrs. James Takushi, 595-4348; Mrs. Yokichi Uyehara, 988-3980; or Dynamite Takushi, 548-3207.



Eureka Forbes



Pat Saiki



Jean King



Patsy Young



Mary George

It's a Good Political Year for Women, 2 Experts Say

By Richard Borreca
Star-Bulletin Writer

This is the year for women in politics.

Two persons (males) who make their living by making the right political guess at the right time are predicting nothing but success for women in politics this year.

Women, these experts say, are looked on as honest champions of the people, while men in politics, particularly since Watergate, are considered crooked.

Nationally, this feeling was summed up two months ago by Richard Aurelio, former campaign

Republican Sen. Wadsworth Yee.

Both believe women will do well at the polls this year.

In fact, they are predicting the State Senate will be one-fifth female next year.

Right now, Manoa Republican Eureka Forbes is the only woman in the Senate, but she is expected to be joined by Reps. Jean King, Patsy Young and Pat Saiki and City Councilman Mary George.

YOSHINAGA is backing Rep. Young, his former secretary, and thinks she will step into his Senate

be running in the same crowded senatorial district.

Finally, Sen. Forbes, 69, is expected to run again in Manoa Valley. She led the ticket in 1970 by more than 1,000 votes.

She first won elective office in 1959 when she won a House seat.

Yoshinaga and Yee expect her to win again this year.

Yoshinaga, who has

seen several polls that support his Senate predictions, has only one regret.

"I can't find any women to run for the House," he said. "This is the year they should run; they'll win."

Budget Control Voted by Senate

Patsy Young Moves Up to Senate Race

Democratic State Rep. Patsy K. Young has announced that she will run for the State Senate from the Fourth District of Leeward-North Shore.

Mrs. Young, a full-time legislator since December, 1971, has served as chairman of the Housing Committee, vice chairman of the Education and Economic Development committees and as a member of the Finance, Higher Education, Public Health and Welfare, Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Lands and Tourism committees.

She is active in the Hui Makaala Association, Zonta of Leilehua, the Nanaikapono Hawaiian Civic Club and the Waipahu Jackrabbit Youth Program.

She is the wife of the late Fire Captain Francis Young, and she and her three children live on Awamoi Street.

Harlan "Ishka" Miyashiro is chairman of the "Friends of Patsy Kikue Young Committee."





Your Legislature 1975



New Bottle Law?

Disposable beer and soda bottles would be outlawed under SB-595 sponsored by Republican Sen. Richard Henderson from the Big Island.

The bill would require all bottles to be clearly marked for return value and would require beverage dealers to accept all bottles offered for a refund.

Ferry Planning Funds Sought

State Sen. Patsy Young wants the Legislature to appropriate \$120,000 for the planning of a shuttle ferry system at Pearl Harbor.

Her request for the funds was included in SB-603 introduced this week.

GOP ahead

The women's story

Republicans may be badly outnumbered in the total makeup of the state Legislature, but one area where they lead is in numbers of women and leadership positions they hold.

In the House, four of the nine Republicans are women — Kinau Kamalii, Faith Evans, Donna Ikeda and Barbara Marumoto.

Among the 42 House Democrats, three are women — Kathleen Stanley, Carol Fukunaga and Clarice Hashimoto.

In the Senate, two of the Senate Republicans are women — Mary George and Pat Saiki.

Among the 18 Senate Demo-

crats, one is a woman — Patsy Young.

Not only that, in the House, three of four minority leadership positions are held by women — a record in Hawaii's history. Kamalii is minority leader, Evans is minority floor leader, and Ikeda is one of two assistant minority floor leaders (with John Medeiros.)

Among the House Democrats, Stanley is one of seven assistant majority floor leaders and is chairman of the committee on public employment and government efficiency.

In the Senate, Republican George is the assistant minority

leader — another first in modern Hawaii history.

Democrat Young is one of three assistant majority floor leaders in the Senate and is chairman of the committee on housing and Hawaiian Homes.

Why have Republican women done so well, at least relatively in their own organization? Several reasons are advanced, including the state and makeup of the Republican Party, ethnic and racial factors, seniority, a willingness to do battle, and of course the one that sometimes counts most — ability.

But that is another kind of story for another time. —J.G.

To limit condo conversions

Bill proposed by renters

By SANDRA S. OSHIRO
Advertiser Government Bureau

People who can't afford to own a home may get a break this year if efforts to ban or restrict the sale of rental units as condominiums bear fruit at the Legislature.

A group called the Oahu Tenants Coalition has circulated a draft bill that would limit the number of rental units that can be converted to condominiums to 1,000 a year.

Another bill, introduced by Rep. Russell Blair, would ban such conversions for two years.

Both pieces of legislation are aimed at a perennial problem in Hawaii: a tight rental market.

Recently, the problem has been compounded by a rush of condominium conversions. According to figures gathered by the tenants' group, landlords sold over 2,000 rental units as condominiums in 1979.

Many condominiums, of course, are rented by their owners.

Kathleen Bryan, a member of the tenants' group, said there's no problem with



Sen. Patsy Young



Rep. Russell Blair

condominium conversions when there are enough rental units being built and when the vacancy rates for rentals are relatively healthy.

But with few rental units being built, especially on Oahu, and with vacancy rates dipping below 1.5 percent, according to official surveys, landlords effectively take rentals out of the market.

"These people are in business. They're not bad guys, but they're in business," Bryan says.

Conversions usually take place when the owner no longer can show the building depreciating for tax purposes and when it's more profitable to sell the apartments to a developer, who would refurbish the units and sell them.

Bryan's group would like to see tax laws changed to discourage condominium conversions. But for more immediate results, the tenants' coalition wants a ceiling imposed on the number of conversions which could take place annually.

The draft bill would establish a board

which would approve all condominium conversions and limit these to 1,000 units a year.

If fewer than one-third of the residents in the soon-to-be converted apartment building will not purchase the condominiums, the board can turn down the project.

The board also would have the power to disapprove a conversion application if the developer failed to come up with a relocation plan for displaced tenants. If rents were increased unreasonably within 18 months prior to the conversion request, the board also could turn down the application.

Another part of the bill would require landlords to notify tenants 90 days prior to eviction instead of 28 days, as under the existing requirement dealing with month-to-month tenancies. And it would bar any increases in rents once an owner files an application for a conversion.

The immediate halt to conversions is less appealing to Senate Housing Chair-

man Patsy Young than legislation restricting condominium conversions.

Young said the moratorium would cut off the availability of converted condominiums that are cheaper than newly built condominiums and affordable for families with modest incomes.

A related problem is that rental units are not being built, Young said, partly because landlords feel that the requirements of the state's Landlord-Tenant Code are too strict for owners.

Young favors a proposal in the tenants' bill that would give renters in a building to be converted the first opportunity to buy their units.

A ceiling should be placed on the selling price to ensure that the renters could reasonably afford to purchase the apartments, Young said.

The bill was introduced by Neil Abercrombie in the Senate and by Mitsuo Shito, Housing Committee chairman, in the House.

That's the word from Senate President Richard Wong, who said last week that senators will not act on the plans until all 12 have been submitted.

The functional plans flesh out the administration's highly displayed State Plan for fu-

Although characterized by Gov. George Ariyoshi as the guidelines from which directions for the 1980s would be drawn, not all functional plans have been submitted by this year's deadline for legislative review.

Wong said he wants to see all of the func-

tioned time to study them all.

The functional plans relating to agriculture, housing, tourism and transportation were submitted to the 1979 Legislature, which failed to take action on them. All, with the exception of the housing guidelines, are

plans relating to conservation lands, energy, historic preservation, recreation and water development are scheduled to be submitted before March.

The submissions of the remaining blueprints in the area of lower and higher educa-

A preliminary opinion which Wong's office received from the attorney general indicates that the failure to meet the deadline appears to be one of a number of violations of the Hawaii State Planning Act.

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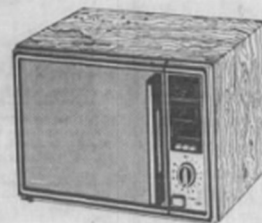
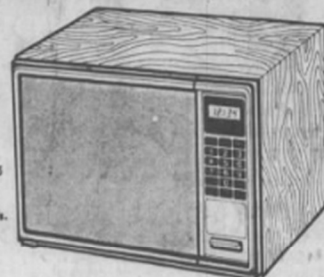
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September 2, 1982

Monday, September 20, 1982 Honolulu Star-Bulletin A-7

FIVE DEMOCRATS face no general election opposition and were elected automatically to the Senate. Ben Cayetano and Joe Kuroda were unopposed, while Duke Kawasaki, James Aki and Lehua Fernandes Salling defeated Democratic opponents.

Of the 12 holdover senators who faced no elections this year, seven are Democrats — Senate President Richard Wong and Sens. Dante Carpenter, Mamoru Yamasaki, Clifford Uwayne, Milton Holt, Norman Mizuguchi and Patsy Young. Republi-

Lessees criticize Senate bill holdup

By Jerry Burris
and Thomas Kaser
Advertiser Staff Writers

The chairwoman of the Senate Housing and Urban Development Committee said yesterday she will block legislation that would change the law governing renegotiation of land leases between Island homeowners and the big landholding trusts.

Sen. Patsy Young said she prefers a moratorium on new lease rent negotiations rather than an immediate change in the law.

Her action was immediately criticized by leaseholder groups — but applauded by Bishop Estate spokesman Paul Cathcart, who said Estate trustees are willing to put a temporary hold on renegotiations.

"Our trustees are willing to abide by that moratorium and come up with something that is workable," Cathcart said.

That will give time for the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the Hawaii Land Reform Act (which seeks to gain fee simple title for homeowners) and to study the "ramifications" of the House bill, Young said.

"If the Land Reform Act is found unconstitutional," she said, "the Legislature must ensure that the rent renegotiation statute is free of the defects that caused the act to be held unconstitutional."

And if the high court supports the Land Reform law, the Legislature has to be sure that any rent-control measure does not unfairly decrease the "just compensation" that must be provided to a landowner as required by the U.S. Constitution, she said.

Cathcart said the moratorium would not involve that many individual homeowners. He said that of a total of some 13,000 Bishop Estate leases, only around 35 leases are up for renegotiation in 1984.

He said it is misleading to say that only about 35 leases are up for renegotiation.

"Many lessees are not facing renegotiation this year but are facing a short lease and cannot sell their homes because of it. Buyers know that leases have been jacked up overnight from a couple of hundred dollars a year to four (thousand) and five thousand dollars a year, and they won't buy a home with a short lease."

Highly inflated lease rents, he added, impose a highly inflated value on the land, "which only lines the pockets of the landowners."

Schieve also rejected landowners' claims that leases must rise dramatically at renegotiation time to catch up with the rapid rise of land value in Hawaii. "Right now, new subdivisions have leases that are only \$750 a year. Why then is an old home that is being renegotiated looking at \$5,000 a year in lease rent?"

May 9, 1984

Hawaiian Homes change up for federal approval

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Legislation calling for federal approval to reduce the blood quantum requirement for Hawaiian homestead lessees' successors was introduced yesterday by U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye and U.S. Rep. Daniel Akaka.

The identical measures would enable the spouse or children of a Hawaiian homestead lessee to claim the unexpired portion of his or her 99-year lease upon the lessee's death, if they possess a minimum of 25 percent Hawaiian blood.

Under current law, successors must meet a 50 percent Hawaiian blood requirement. In many cases, the lessee's spouse or offspring has not met the minimum blood requirement, resulting in eviction.

In 1982 the Legislature approved an amendment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to reduce the blood quantum requirement. Such amendments are subject to the approval of the federal government.

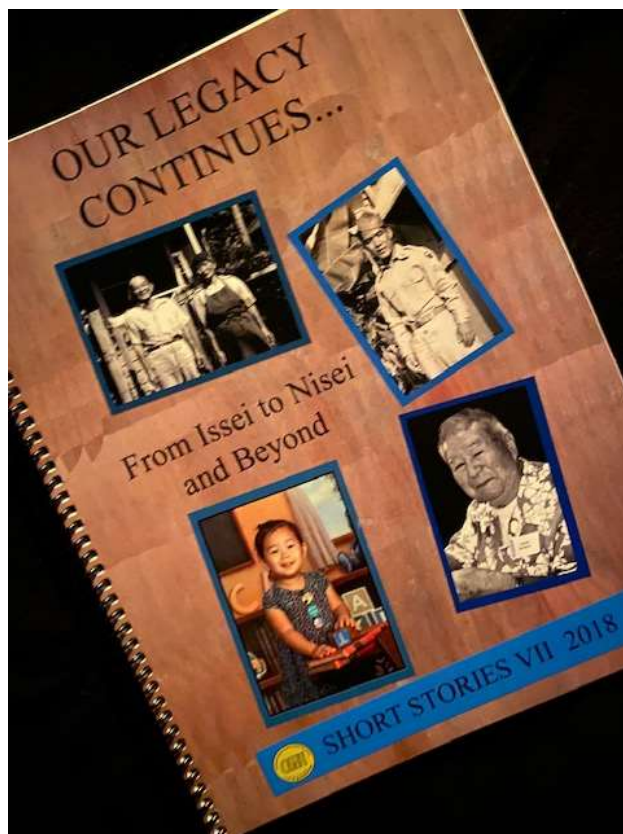
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Greg Young, Mits and Jane Miyahira, Patsy Young, Dorothy Chee, Sharon Yamamoto and Edith Miyahira



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Life in a Capsule

By Patsy Miyahira Young

Patsy Miyahira Young, being a daughter of immigrant parents has accomplished much in her lifetime. She was the first Okinawan female to serve as a legislator (State House and Senate 1971 – 1988,) and the first woman of Asian ancestry to serve on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents. As a 1947 graduate of McKinley High School, Patsy was inducted to the Hall of Honor in 2004. This article is a reprint from the Short Stories Vol. I which she wrote as an OGS member in 2004.

I got up this morning to the sunny sky,
I got up today to the morning glow.
A new and fresh, the day to begin.
The morn burst forth like a new born babe;
Full of promise for a better tomorrow
I look out the window and see the sparkling dew,
They glisten like diamonds amidst the emerald sea of grass.

They remind me of another ocean of blue,
The Pacific with colors of every hue.
I think of Otosan and Okasan and others that came,
To seek a better life, fortune and fame.
Across the Pacific they traveled afar,
With eager eyes and hearts so bold,
Not knowing what the future did hold.

Yes, these Uchinanchus crossed the Pacific blue;
Blazing pathways to build lives anew.
Yoshio Miyahira and Uta Tamanaha came from the village of Gaza;
From the family of Naka Ufudara.
They came and settled on Maui Isle,
Ah – they traveled many a mile.
They toiled in the fields of sugar cane,
Days filled with sunshine and sometimes rain.
Cut cane, hoe hana and hapai ko,
Were laborious tasks of rhythm and flow.

The years flew, and the family grew.
A son and then two daughters too.
The Depression loomed through the years,
Days were long, dreary and filled with tears.
On October twenty-nine, the year was 1929

Another daughter was added to the other two.
What promise for her did the future hold,
The years were bleak I was told
Born under the sign of Scorpio,
Amidst the chaos of the "Markets" blow.

All struggled to survive the lean years.
President Roosevelt came with the CCC and WPA,
And saved young men from desolate fate.
The future in the "Big City" and not Kahakoloa or Waihee, Maui;
So onward to Honolulu was the cry;
They sailed on the cattle barge - the Hualalai.
Farmers Road and Kapakahi Road were strange names to behold.
The farmers planted flowers and vegetables and fared,
Kapakahi Road was the place the pigs were cared.

In 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor,
We were at war, perhaps brother against brother.
Black out at every home,
Martial Law came and we no more to roam,
Bomb shelters were dug in every yard.
Things were rationed, and Black Market took place.
Gas masks were hung on children's tiny shoulders,
Finger printed IDs on everyone.
Air drills at schools everywhere.

Strange faces of men in uniforms,
Some white and other black were unfamiliar sight.
Our brothers and friends joined the 442 Regiment and the 100th Battalion;

And off to shores across the seas.
Others were interned for reasons unknown,
No logical answers, our minds to soothe
Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki,
The war years come to an end.

The Second World War opened a new era.
The GI bill enabled sons and brothers
To walk the campuses of universities and colleges.
And return as lawyers, teachers and businessmen.
Came back to our Territorial Isles and shaped a new Hawaii.

Through Education and Politics, changes were made.
These young men for political offices groomed
And the Democratic party bloomed.
Statehood for Hawaii was the battle cry.
Equality with representation was ours to try.
Two votes in the Senate and two in the House,
Elected John Burns as our Governor
He led the way for others to follow.
Fong, Inouye, Mink, Gill and Matsunaga;
Saiki, Abercrombe, Case and of course Akaka.
At home our numbers also grew.
Ariyoshi, Waihee, Cayetano to name a few.
Ching, Chang, Chong, and Wong,
A new Hawaii was born.

And through the years, what happened to the little girl from Waihee town,
Born of immigrant parents who came from afar,
To settle on sugar land like that of Gaza,
From Waihee School to Liliuokalani Middle School,
To Kaimuki High, McKinley and UH Manoa too;
Walked the halls of Harvard and Michigan State U.
Served on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents;
Elected one of eight women to be a Con Con Delegate.
Went on to be a member of the House of Representatives
And on to the Senate to serve as Vice-President.
First woman to sit on the Public Utilities Commission
And also, the Honolulu Fire Commission.

Who would dream that this little barefoot girl,
From the taro patches of Maui,
Would one day sit with the King of Tonga,
Dine at Washington Place with Emperor Hirohito,
Have audience with President Marcos of the Philippines,
And stand in awe before other leaders.
This little girl from humble beginnings,
Grew to serve the people.

Now the twilight years are here,
The autumn of her life is near,
Much has come her way,
Bits of sadness and despair,
But so much happiness hope and care.
Sometimes in the stillness of the night,

When cares of the world matter not;
 She pauses and ponders on what was, is and to be;
 She reflects and whispers in the darkness,
 "Of all your children Lord, why me?"
 A light shine and a voice thunders -
 And why not you!!
 I smile and say to myself
 "I am most truly blessed."

.....

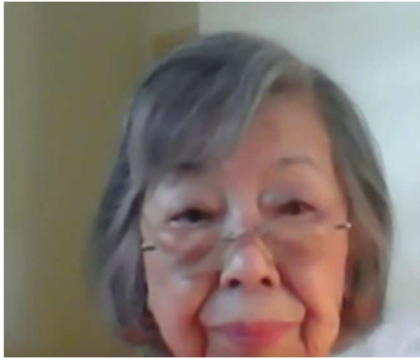
Yama Miyahira 山宮平 - Kama カマタ (2nd wife)

1092 Gaza, Nishihara
 Household Head
 DOB 1877 Arrv. 1906

Yoshiichi 義一 - Tsuruko 1 st son DOB abt 1901 Arrv abt 1914	Yoshio 義雄 - Ota (Uto) 2 nd son DOB 1902 Arrv 1916	Kama カマ DOB 1905 Arrv 1917	Saburo 三郎 3 rd son DOB 1907 Arrv 1917
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Yoshihara DOB abt 1923	Otoyo	Hideko DOB 1925	Kikuye DOB 1929 (Patsy)	Yukio DOB 1930	Mitsugi DOB 1932	Tadaki DOB 1938
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Family Chart References:
 Ancestry.com
 Familysearch.org
 OGSB Database



Began on Sunday, March 20, 2022, and ends on Monday, June 20, 2022



Happy Easter