



Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
PO Box 894779
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

OGSHnews@gmail.com

On Jun 6, 2022, at 7:36 AM, Colin Sewake
<colin.sewake@icloud.com> wrote:

TOPIC: Ikumi Arakawa
LOCATION: Coco's Family Restaurant in
Hamagawa, Chatan
DATE: 20220606

I was recently put in touch with Ryūkyū University graduate student, Ikumi Arakawa, who hails from Nishihara. She started the master's degree program this April and is scheduled to graduate in March 2024. For her dissertation, Ikumi would like to write about Okinawans who immigrated to the U.S. mainland and the identity, thoughts, values, interests, activities, etc. of younger Okinawan descendants. She wants to learn about the activities of Kenjinkai on the U.S. mainland and how they are different from those in Hawai'i and wants to motivate her generation to learn about and educate them on the post-war history of Okinawan immigrants. Ikumi's goal is to become a university professor and would like to connect with as many U.S. mainland and Hawai'i Okinawans as possible for her research.

She has two basic requests:

- Hawai'i Uchinānchu - If you'd like to assist her by making yourself available to answer questions she has via e-mail and/or video chat, please contact her directly at a02251931@gmail.com to let her know.

- U.S. mainland Uchinānchu - Please forward this info to whoever you know that are U.S. mainland Uchinānchu. (I told her that my network mostly consists of Hawai'i Uchinānchu.)

I told her that the Okinawan community in Hawai'i and worldwide is really strong to include the embracing of values such as yuimāru/kōkua so obtaining the cooperation and assistance of many won't be a problem. Yutashiku unigē sabira!

<762F7AC9-B8CD-41C9-AF8E-22D036017389.jpeg>

瀬分コリン善久
COLIN Y. SEWAKE

\$1 per scrip
40TH Hawaii Okinawan Festival



e-Newsletter
2022
June

Hybrid Membership Meeting
Chaya and Zoom
Saturday, June 18, 2022, 9AM

AGENDA

- I. Speaker
Gwen Fujie "Sacrifice and Survival . . .Unju nu Ukaji Yaibin (Okage Sama de)"
- II. Treasurer's Report
Income: Membership dues, donations, HUOA fundraiser, sales of Guidebooks and Short Stories
Expense:
- III. Committee Updates
 - a. Okinawan Festival (Nanzan)
 - b. Bonenkai Update (Hokuzan)
 - c. Taikai
 - d. Research Committee
 - e. Library

Donna's Word of the Month

usuri, *n.*
respect, reverence; awe

Upcoming Events 2022

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| June 17 | Senior Fair, HOC, 9AM-1PM, Free |
| June 21 | HUOA Festival Planning Meeting, Hybrid, 7PM |
| June 22 | Reflections: Irei no Hi in Hawaii |
| July 24 | Legacy Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian Hotel |
| September 3 and 4; | 40 th Hawaii Okinawan Festival |
| November 19 | OGSH Bonenkai, Legacy Ballroom, HOC |

SCRIPS FOR SALE...\$1 PER
SCRIP...SCRIPS FOR SALE



See Dorothy at the OGS meeting.
Scrips will be available for purchase on June 18, 2022, at the OGS meeting at the Serikaku Chaya. Price is \$1.00 per scrip. Cash or checks accepted. Make checks payable to: OGS.

If you attend the meeting via Zoom and wish to purchase scrips, please email: OGSHnews@gmail.com.
Nifee Debiru



123rf.com

Gusuuyoo chuwuganabira,

Terry Taira from Yonabaru Club and I, from Yomitan Club, would like to personally invite you to our upcoming HUOA Senior Health & Fitness Fair to be held on FRIDAY, JUNE 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Okinawa Center.

We're looking forward to a great event. We have almost 50 exhibitors with good information, giveaways, and foods for sale, including yummy fresh-made ANDAGI from the master, Patrick Miyashiro, himself! We'll also have interesting seminars and workshops.

Please see the attached schedule of presenters and the flyer for the Fair. We will have two Body & Brain sessions (presented by our own Roy Arakaki), a Zumba Gold activity by Frances Hokama, and a very special talk on an Oral History project by Karen Oshiro on Okinawan Kibei/Nisei/Women, among other presentations. And, the grand prize drawing will be a five nights stay with meals in Las Vegas by Vacations Hawaii! (Sorry, no airfare included this year.)



We look forward to seeing many of you and your kupuna for this fun event if you're not working.

Just wear your mask and smiling eyes!

Ipee nifee deebiru!
Mensooree!
Yutasarugutu unigee sabira,
Gwen Fujie of Yomitan Club
Terry Taira of Yonabaru Club

Presentations for Senior Health & Fitness Fair June 17, 2022, Free Admission

Indoor (in the Hall)

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Financial Benefits Insurance Co. –
Navigating Medicare with Ed Motosue

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Ihara Team Senior Move Managers with Dan Ihara

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Body & Brain with Roy Arakaki & Carol Miyasato,
Certified Instructors

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Oral History of Okinawan Kibei/Nisei/Issei Women
2020- 2021 with Karen Oshiro

Outdoor (under the tent)

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Body & Brain with Carol Miyasato & Roy Arakaki,
Certified Instructors

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Seating and Positioning Wheelchairs
with Karen Oshiro, MEd, ATP

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zumba Gold with Frances Hokama,
Certified Instructor

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Walkwise, Hawaii with Anita Nihei

HUOA 
Senior Health & Fitness Fair
at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

Friday 6/17/22
9 am to 1 pm

Educational & Wellness Workshops
Products & Services for Seniors
Valuable information for Caregivers & Families
Health, Safety, Financial, Cultural Booths

WIN a
5 night California Hotel
stay with 3 meals daily
(without air fare).
Courtesy of
Vacations Hawaii

- Giveaways
- Door Prizes
- Free Blood Pressure Test
- Tons of FUN!

FREE ADMISSION - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hawaii Okinawa Center - 91-587 Ukee St., Waipio
808-676-5100 / www.huoa.org / info@huoa.org

Haitai:

As we approach this week's monthly meeting with reverence, it becomes very clear remembering the people and veterans involved with WWII and the Battle of Okinawa is both an honor and responsibility to keep the stories alive. Please join us as we take a moment to remember this chapter in our island and world history that had profound implications for generations to come. Gwen Fujie is our featured guest speaker and she will talk about "Sacrifice and Survival . . .Unju nu Ukaji Yaibin (Okage Sama de)" . . . she will be talking about some of the people from our Short Story Books collection while some of us will share stories about our own fathers and other family members. You are invited to share your story with us too! All stories are important because each life is a miracle of its own.



As a reminder, there is a Senior Fair this Friday, June 17, from 0900-1300 at HOC and our very own Roy Arakaki will be there too as he shares about Body and Brain . . . please come and check it out!

Our monthly meetings will continue to be hybrid and we will be learning along with you of ways to make it a better experience.

Ippei nifee debiru,
Donna

***** June 22, 2022, Irei no Hi *****



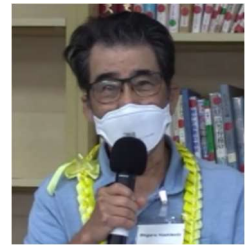
"Irei no Hi", known as Okinawa's Memorial Day, is commemorated on June 23 each year in Okinawa. It is a time when individuals remember and honor the over 240,000 people, both military and civilians, who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa. The battle changed the destiny of the Island and her people forever. In Hawaii, we commemorate this day on June 22nd due to the time difference with Okinawa.

HUOA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HUOA.org>

HUOA YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC61hEnfb8TenI9Aq6o_dTnQ

<https://huoa.org/events>

Speaker : Shigeru Yoshimoto



I am Shigeru, one of the researchers here. I was asked to talk about Okinawan 'kafu.' I'll tell you that I am no expert, but I think I know a little more than you, so that makes me a little more comfortable. I did some research on Okinawan kafu from Prof. Dana Masayuki's book. So, a lot of the materials that I am going to share is from him.

KAFU (家譜)

RECORDS OF FAMILY LINEAGE NORMALLY IN BOOK FORM

KAFU IN RYUKYU KINGDOM

NOBLE CLASS FAMILIES BEGAN TO PREPARE KAFU IN EARLY 1600s.

1670 KING SHO TEI ISSUED THE ORDER TO EVERY SAMUREE FAMILIES TO PREPARE KAFU.

1679 THE REGENT WAS ASSIGNED TO ENFORCE HIS ORDER.

1689 ESTABLISHED THE OFFICE OF GENEALOGY AT SHURI COURT TO REVIEW AND APPROVE KAFUS. **THE STAFF 1-OJI, 1-AJI, 1-YEEKATA 3-REVIEWER/ADJUATER AND 2-CLERKS.**

CATEGORIES: SHURI LINE, NAHA LINE, TOMARI LINE, KUME LINE, MIYAKO LINE

YAYEYAMA LINE

ABOUT 2/3RD OF KAFUS ARE SHURI LINES.

THERE WERE AROUND 1730 KAFUS IN 1728 AND 3000 KAFUS IN 1879.

Kafu, literally means 'Family Records.' I think many people have their own kafu. Noble families in the Ryukyu kingdom started in the about 1600s, after Satsuma invaded Ryukyu. Royal family started making their history. Started, making their own family records. In 1670, King Sho Tei issued the order for every gentry class family to prepare their own kafu. There were only 2 social classes, the samurai and **hyakushō** class. Commoners and gentry class. In 1689, the Office of Genealogy was established at Shuri Court to review and approve kafus. There was a strict review to ensure that the records were all correct and then they would put their stamp on it. That really made the Okinawan kafu unique. In Japan or China, the government normally did not review it, or put the stamp on it.

CHARACTERISTICS:

1. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DOCUMENT
2. SUPPORTED BY SOLID EVIDENCE
3. EDITED DOCUMENT

KAFU IS A PROOF OF SOCIAL STATUS AS SAMUREE

2 SOCIAL CLASS SYSTEM DURING THE KINGDOM SAMUREE AND HYAKUSHO

ONLY FAMILIES OF SAMUREE CLASS WERE ALLOWED TO HAVE KAFU

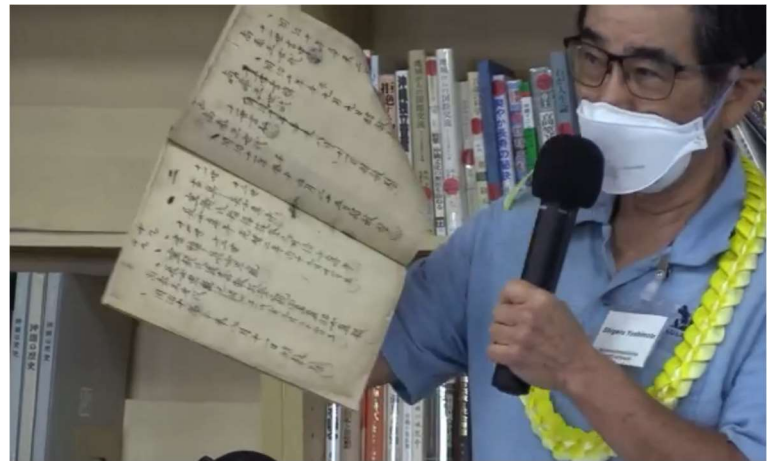
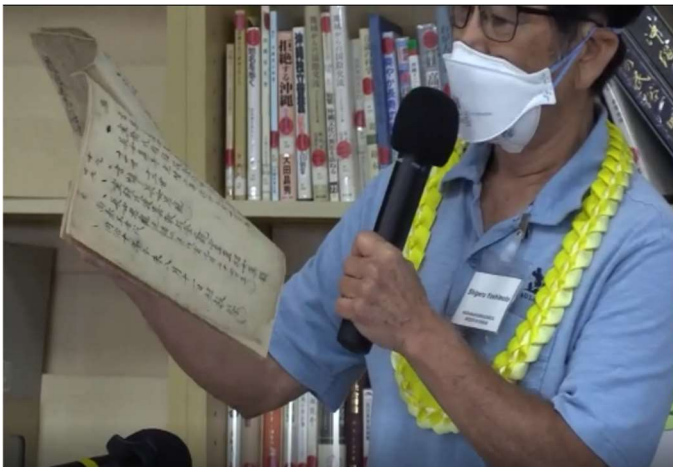
Island of Okinawa		Outer islands	
Shuri	Naha Tomari Kume	Miyako Yayeyama (Kumejima)	
Clan Name	Single Kanji	Multiple Kanji (2 Kanji)	
Chinese Name	Yes	No	
Japanese Name	Yes No	Yes	
Edit style	King's years Events	King's years	

Reference Professor Masayuki Dana

The characteristics of the Okinawan kafu is that it is an official government document, supported by solid evidence that is reviewed and were nicely edited to a specific format. The kafu is proof of your social status as a samurai, so it was very important. The families kept the kafu in a very safe place. During the war, when they lost everything, they kept their kafu. Proof of the gentry class, social status. Only the samurai class were allowed to have a kafu. Commoners had no kafu. Kafus were categorized by location from where their family came from. Normally they came from Shuri or Naha. Within

Naha, there used to be another district called Tomari and Kume was another district. So, the Shuri, Tomari, Naha, and Kume line kafus were from the Island of Okinawa. The outer island lines were Miyako and Yayeyama (Kumejima). The Shuri line was the most issued line. Most samurai class were from Shuri, so it is understandable. The Shuri, Naha, and Tomari lines were similar. The Kume line is different because they are descendent from China. So, you can tell who are descendent from Chinese by just looking at their kafu. Another characteristic of Shuri, Naha, and Tomari is that they have a clan name with a single kanji. But the Miyako and Yayeyama have multiple kanji, usually 2 kanji. Another characteristic is a Chinese name for the Shuri, Naha, and Tomari lines. The Miyako and Yayeyama lines do not have Chinese names. The Shuri and Naha lines have Japanese names also. The Kume line do not have Japanese names because they are of Chinese descendent. The Miyako and Yayeyama lines do have Japanese names.

Every 5 years, the families need to update their information that will then be reviewed and approved by the government. During the war, many records were lost. After the war, some kafus were in good shape, many were not, so the government asked the families to submit what they had, since kafu's were a history of the family. Events were recorded with the dates of occurrence. It also helped to prove that you are from a village that might not exist anymore. It also proves that there was a village by that name that is no longer exists. Shigeru also notes that during the war, they held onto their kafu, so that they would not lose it.



I have the original kafu from my own family. It was deteriorated I had to restore it. It has all the stamps, original paper, and probably about 200 years old. I asked a professional to restore. I found a person in Nishikawa and was charged \$700. If you documents with pukas and what not, there are people who restore it.

A koseki (family registry) is something every family in Japan must have because it is the law. It is like a census where the government needs a head count. Also, to provide names for the military. It is used for identification, your village, your birthdate, your lineage, where you live (permanent address), etc. Not everyone has a kafu, but probably Chinese people everyone has.

Last year, I did the translation for this kafu from a Montgomery Gregory, from his wife's side, Shuri line. It was very long, but impressive. I had to transfer writing from top on down and left to right. So, it made it very hard to make sure that it fits the paper. It was a very interesting task. His kafu was not complete, as some information was lost or misplaced, but he tried to compile as much information as possible. His kafu was started in the winter of 1690 by the 5th generation descendant of Zensho by order of the king. He had to go back several generations and do a lot of research. This is what made it interesting and challenging for me.

To wrap it up, the kafu is an official document of the Ryukyu Kingdom. It was reviewed by the government officials and it is approved for your identity and samurai class. It was very important document for the families. Served as identification, social status.



Greetings from HUOA Executive Director Jon Itomura

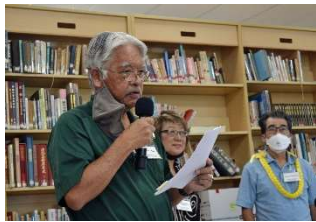
Good morning, haisai gusuyo,

We are going to see what works best. This is how we have been doing our HUOA meetings, the Executive Council and Board meetings. This allows people to have access in two different ways.

Glad to be here, unfortunately I have not been out here to your meetings here at the Center, just as when I was here in my capacity as Executive Director, then COVID hit, so it has taken this long for us to come back together. I hope you have notice some of the changes. Maybe after the meeting those who have not seen the museum that has changed. There are lots of explanation for all the exhibits we have in there. It looks completely different. In the Chaya I have created more room. This multipurpose room, the Serikaku Chaya, thanks to Mr. Serikaku, we are able to have not only the OGSB meetings, but lot of activities. Next coming week will be having the Children’s Day Camp. This facility is used for lots of their activities. Everything is picking up, we are returning to normalcy. I know the omicron or whatever variant is out there, but I am glad to see you all in person. OGSB being a member club I have been work closely with Donna and many of you. The most important thing is we continue to communicate and communicate on a regular basis so we do not have any misunderstanding and we can move forward faster in terms of what OGSB needs, what HUOA needs.

As people have been started to come to center within the last month. In fact just on Friday, a couple came in and were interested, curious about our roots and this facility. The OGSB people were here, and Cynthia introduced them to the OGSB people. The couple were getting information on their own family roots. So great job for the OGSB staff. That’s what it’s all about.

Its great to be here with your folks here today. Let’s have fun.



Treasurer’s Report by Clyde

This pass month our deposits came from collecting dues, publication sales, and donations. We got donations from British Columbia; Detroit, Michigan; and North Plains, Oregon. We also have been receiving a monthly donation from a donor. The donor received help from the OGSB researchers in helping her to find her family.

Wachimugukuru Utati Katayabira
Sharing My Heart Through Song
Solo Concert by Kenton Odo

Supported by:
 Pearl City High School Music Learning Center

Presented by:
 Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai USA
 Hawaii Chapter

Pearl City Cultural Center | Hawaii
Saturday | July 9, 2022
2:00pm



Mensore



Welcome Back to the Serikaku Chaya



May 21, 2022



Serikakusan: "Chaganju"
Nakasonesan: "Hasai"

