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e-Newsletter  
**2022**  
**October**

## ABOUT

### What is the "World Uchinanchu Festival"?

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Okinawa Prefecture is one of the leading regions of outbound immigration in Japan, stretching back more than a century. Our ancestors crossed the sea, pioneered new lands in distant countries, and overcame difficulties through sheer hard work. While building a living foundation in each region and firmly rooting in the local cross-cultural society, their communities inherited Okinawa's unique traditional culture and identity. At the time of the last Festival, it was estimated that there were about 420,000 ethnic Okinawans living around the world.

The "World Uchinanchu Festival" honors the achievements of Okinawan people from all over the world, recognizes the great value of the community heritage of Okinawa, and seeks to expand and develop the Uchina network through exchanges with Okinawan citizens around the world. The purpose is to bring people together, reaffirm their roots and identity, and thereby be able to pass them on to the next generation.

The festival is sponsored by the Uchinanchu Festival Executive Committee of the world, which is organized by Okinawa Prefecture and related organizations, and has been held approximately once every five years since the first festival in 1990 (Heisei 2). It has been held 6 times so far.

### Outline of "The 7th World Uchinanchu Festival"

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"The 7th World Uchinanchu Festival" will be hosted by the 7th World Uchinanchu Festival Executive Committee. The executive committee was established in September 2020 (Reiwa 2), consisting of 141 members from government agencies including prefectures and a wide range of private organizations such as economy, finance, media, international exchange, and culture.

At the same time as the executive committee was launched, the executive committee secretariat was set up in the Exchange Promotion Division of the Okinawa Prefecture Culture, Tourism and Sports Department.

The executive committee officially decided to hold "The 7th World Uchinanchu Festival" in 2022 (Reiwa 4th year).

The festival schedule is as follows:

- (1) Festival eve : October 30, 2022
- (2) Main Festival : from October 31 through November 3, 2022.

In addition, 2022, the festival year, also marks the 50th anniversary of Okinawa's return to Japan, so we plan to consider an event where the festival participants and the citizens of the prefecture can share in this.

### 1. The Significance of Holding the Festival

#### (The Migrant History of Okinawa Prefecture)

Okinawa Prefecture is one of Japan's largest migrant prefectures, and in North America, South America, and around the globe there are approximately 420,000 individuals of Okinawan descent. Before and after World War Two many from the prefecture journeyed overseas, at their destinations they overcame difficult times with an indomitable will and have continued to make steady progress. Specifically, the Chimugukuru (Spirit of Compassion) of Uchinānchu (people of Okinawan descent) binds them together along with the people of Okinawa through strong bonds even when they are far apart. Before and after the war, the money and many relief supplies they sent, supported the recovery of their homeland Okinawa in times of financial distress.

Today, Uchinānchu have built up trust as members of their respective country's societies and continue to be active in various fields such as politics, economics, culture, and academia. Even in foreign countries and regions outside the prefecture, they do not forget about their homeland and cherish the culture and spirit of Okinawa. With a focus on cultural activities such as traditional performing arts, Sanshin, and Karate, at Kenjinkai and other occasions, they have passed the Uchinānchu identity down to the next generation. With regard to the Okinawan culture created by our forbearers, Okinawa Prefecture has designated November 1st as "Ryukyu History and Culture Day", and with this we aim to pass on and develop the culture of Okinawa, and thereby contribute to the realization of a spiritually rich life and a culturally vibrant society for the people of Okinawa.

#### (Timeline of the Worldwide Uchinānchu Festival)

With the aim of establishing and developing a global network of Uchinānchu, the "Worldwide Uchinānchu Festival" has been held approximately every five years since its inception in 1990. Through the past six festivals, with the aim of building the Uchinā Network, development and revitalization of both Okinawa and participants countries' societies and economies, advancing hubs of international exchange, passing on, deepening and expanding the network, developing new networks, and aiming for the sustainable succession and development, we have produced results such as the launch of the "Uchinā Good Will Ambassador" system, the establishment of WUB, the implementation of the Junior Study Tour, the launch of the Host Family Bank, Okinawan local people's attendance at the ceremonies, and the launch of the World Youth Uchinānchu Secretariat

In addition, 7,353 people from 29 foreign countries and regions and 603 people from Japan participated in the last festival, making it the largest ever. There, October 30th was designated as "World Uchinānchu Day", and the Worldwide Youth Uchinānchu Festival was held in Okinawa. The Uchinānchu Festival has played a role in the succession and development of the Uchinā Network in various ways.

The Uchinā Network which we should show with pride to the world, is not one that ends at just interpersonal exchange, information sharing, and business exchange, but like when in 2019 after the fire at Shuri Castle, Kenjinkai among others domestically and internationally sent a great deal of heartfelt support, it has been passed down and developed as a strong bond based on the spirit of Chimugukuru and Yuimaru (mutual aid).

#### (Philosophy of the 7th Festival)

The 7th Worldwide Uchinānchu Festival will be held with the expectation of the hope for the further development of the Uchinā Network and also under the assumed remaining effects from Covid-19. In light of the fact that we have been reminded of the importance of interpersonal bonds due to the spread of Covid-19, we will seek the participation of not only those who can come to the prefecture, but those Uchinānchu domestically and abroad who are unable to make the trip to Okinawa, we seek for them to participate from wherever they are.

Further, for the festival which will be held on the 50th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japan, we will widely share and disseminate information about the festival domestically and overseas, and including for those who had never heard of the festival before, we will seek for their deeper understanding of the significance and achievements of the Festival and further cooperation in the global Uchinā Network.

The Festival's philosophy is to confirm once again the strength of the unique Uchinā Network, which is connected by identity and a love of Okinawa. In addition to passing on and developing the network, it seeks to share Okinawa's unique soft power, utilize its allure, and implement sustainable exchange and cooperation through the use of ICT and other advanced technologies, thereby contributing to the development of Okinawa and other regions.

## 2.Goal of the Festival

By carrying out programs based on the following basic policy, the "7th Worldwide Uchinānchu Festival" will be held with the goal of contributing to the development of Okinawa and other regions, passing on and developing the Uchinā Network, and implementing sustainable exchange and cooperation through the use of soft power and advanced technologies. <https://wuf2022.com/en/about/>

### Going to the Taikai – 7<sup>th</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival?



Jackie Toma is organizing a tour of the new Okinawan Prefectural Library (OPL) in Naha on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 pm. Hiraoki Hara will be conducting the tour. OPL has extensive records on Okinawan immigration and collaborated with OGSB on the genealogical database. Hara-san has also helped many people locate where their ancestors lived in Okinawa and helped find their relatives in Okinawa. If interested, please contact her at [jtoma07@gamil.com](mailto:jtoma07@gamil.com).

### Donna's Word of the Month

Ufu muutu, n.

The head family, the grand head family, the origin, the founding house of a patrilineal consanguineous group.



Oct 2022 Newsletter . . .

Haitai OGSB Family:

Whenever this time of year comes around, I find myself getting a bit nostalgic and think back on the events of the year! We have had many interesting speakers and we have been able to rally together to execute events where we had less than ideal planning time. Those events are not under our belt and has been relegated to our folder of memories for the year. Our Bonenkai Committee continues to work hard at capturing the highlights of the year in a slide show and a special composite to honor our ancestors. Please join us this Saturday to find out the latest and greatest as our program and event continues to evolve. There will also be plenty of opportunity to volunteer for the event . . . this is a special call for those of you who love crafting, wrapping and greeting. Please give it some consideration!

Your Board of Directors with Ken Kamiya as a facilitator and his daughter, Wendy, as a recorder, began an earnest conversation to dialog about Patsy and Mac Yonamine generous donation. Several subject matter experts were added to the group to provide diversity of thought and perspective. We continue to develop the way forward and there is much to be discussed with HUOA. More will be shared at a later date when things become clearer and more defined.

Hope to see you this Saturday!

Ipee niffee deebiru,  
Donna

<p>Donna Nakamura <i>President</i></p> <p>Ken Kamiya <i>First Vice-President</i></p> <p>Jackie Toma <i>Second Vice-President</i></p> <p>Heidi Shimabuku <i>Corresponding Secretary</i></p> <p>Susan Ramelb <i>Recording Secretary</i></p> <p>Clyde Higa <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Dorothy Nakama <i>Assistant Treasurer</i></p> <p>Rodney Kohagura <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p>Hybrid Membership Meeting Serikaku Chaya and Zoom Saturday, October 15, 2022, 9AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGENDA</b></p> <p>I. Treasurer's Report Income: Donations, Membership dues, Short Story book Guide books, Bonenkai Expense: Festival</p> <p>III. Committee Updates</p> <p>a. Bonenkai (Nanzan)</p> <p>b. Taikai</p> <p>c. Research Committee</p> <p>d. Library</p> <p>Photos by Curtis and members</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Upcoming Events 2022</b></p> <p>October</p> <p>15 Saturday OGSB Meeting</p> <p>31 Monday 7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival</p> <p>November</p> <p>19 Saturday OGSB Bonenkai, Legacy Ballroom, HOC</p> <p>24 Thursday Happy Thanksgiving</p> <p>26 &amp; 27 Saturday &amp; Sunday HUAO Winter Craft Fair</p> <p>December</p> <p>No OGSB Meeting</p> <p>7 Wednesday HUAO Evening Craft Fair</p> <p>25 Sunday Merry Christmas</p>
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**2022 OGSB Bonenkai**  
*Ukaji Deebiru, Thanking our Ancestors*



Saturday, November 19, 2022  
Hawaii Okinawa Center – Legacy Ballroom I  
94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu  
10 am to 2 pm

The annual Bonenkai, *Ukaji Deebiru* is fast approaching. We are excited that we will be able to meet in-person again. The planning committee decided to expand the ancestors' photos for the slide show to the nisei. Members are asked to submit up to three photos in jpeg format with the member's name, their ancestor's name, and the relationship of the ancestor to the member. Also include place and date of the photo, if known. Please send photos to Clyde Uchima at [cly4ku21@gmail.com](mailto:cly4ku21@gmail.com) by October 31, 2022.

The Bonenkai Committee is seeking volunteers to help with setup, registration, door prizes, pupus, cleanup, and other tasks as needed. If interested, please contact Jackie Toma at [jtoma07@gmail.com](mailto:jtoma07@gmail.com). There will also be a sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting.

**Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii**  
**2022 Bonenkai – “Ukaji Debiru, Thanking Our Ancestors”**

**Date: Saturday November 19, 2022**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: Hawaii Okinawa Center - Legacy I Ballroom**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone/email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ancestral Village:** Maternal: \_\_\_\_\_ Paternal: \_\_\_\_\_

- A slide show will be created to honor our ancestors. Please email up to three (3) photos to Clyde Uchima at [cly4ku21@gmail.com](mailto:cly4ku21@gmail.com) by Monday, October 31, 2022. In your email also include 1) your name and 2) name(s) of your ancestors. Due to limited space, the first 50 photos, which are received, will be used for the slide show.
- Please also bring photos of your ancestors and/or remembrances to the Bonenkai to share with others at your table.

**REGISTRATION:**

**OGSH MEMBER: Dues paid for membership. Membership year is January - December.**

**ON-LINE Registration:**

Link to registration and payment.

<https://tinyurl.com/OGSHbonenkai>

	Registration Fee	Number Attending or Number of Table(s)	Amount
Adult	\$40.00		\$
Child (12 years old and under)	Free		-
Reserved Table of 10 seats	\$400.00		\$
Monetary Donations	-	-	\$
2023 OGSH Annual Dues	\$10.00		\$
		Grand Total	\$

**\*\*\*\*\*Final Registration Deadline—Saturday, November 5, 2022 \*\*\*\*\***

**If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Toma at [jtoam07@gmail.com](mailto:jtoam07@gmail.com).**

**If paying by check, make check payable to OGSH.**

**Submit completed registration forms and payment at monthly meetings to: Clyde Higa**

**Or mail form and payment to:**

OGSH  
P.O. Box 894779  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Name(s) of attendees (Include additional names on back). Please note child’s age after name, e.g., Mary Asato (5 y/o)

Names of Attendee(s)	
1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.



Connie Nakasone  
Okinawan Festival Chairperson

First, I want to start off with sales. We sold 50 Guide Books, 29 Short Stories, and an incredible 972 Bookmarks, which is like double the last time. I don't have any data on the airplane models. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve or any kind of comments so that we can consolidate them into a list for next year's event. One of the examples given was for the displays. There was a lot of interest in the displays of the map, the ships, the scroll of the chieftains. There was a lot of people gathering in front of it and so one of the suggestions is that next year we get a docent or two to explain to the public as they come thru, to answer any questions. It might spark interest in our organization. After all the suggestions are given, I will create 2 folders to put into a file for next year. One folder for the chair and the other as a spare. Another of the comments that came out was that even though we had a five-month late start, we had everything ready to go a week before the festival, so that was one of the good things. I want to give a big shoutout to Dorothy and Sally who did the scrip sales. It took a lot of time to call everyone. They were able to get volunteers, a big task, to sell a thousand more scrips. Another shoutout to our advisor, Rodney because every time he saw me, he was giving me information to use. Thank you, Theresa for always emailing me more information and hints like that. Thank you to those who came in at the last minute to help the researchers. I know it's been three years since we had it and the computers went to sleep. The humans awoke before the computers did. So, thank you to those who rescued us. This was also my first time to set up and it seems that a lot of you have done it before and it seemed to go well and to those that stayed back to help clean up and transport the things back. Thank you to everyone because without you this would have never happened.



Clyde Uchima gave us an update.: Alan Toma is testing the posting of ancestor's pictures to the database and to see if that procedure is secure. Currently there are some issues with that because we want to make sure it is secure, which is a priority. We don't want anyone to post an image which is not acceptable.



John Tasato shared an oncoming project. It is the 3D computer simulation of Shuri Castle. This project was initiated by universities in Japan and the Consulate General in Hawaii. They will probable come to the Hawaii Okinawan Center to see who have taken pictures of Shuri Castle. We know Shuri Castle burned down. So, this 3D simulation is a new technology that I.T. (Information Technology) people want to recreate Shuri Castle. Reconstruction of the castle is taking place. This project is a creation of a 3D simulation, so they are asking anybody who took pictures of the castle to submit it and they will digitize it. They will take all the data and create a 3D simulation where you can view the castle as if you were there. How they are going to upload yet is what they are going to be presenting. They will be a presentation of the project on October 23, a Sunday at Imin International Conference Center at East-West Center. People who donated to the Shuri Fund they would like to invited. They went to the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Network (WUB), WUB Hawaii Organization, East-West Center, The Center for Okinawan Studies, and the Kenjin Kai members are being asked to share this information. So, this is new technology and trying to recreate Shuri Castle virtually.



to mention this.



Reprint from John Tasato's excerpt "How Genealogy came to UOA/HUOA, my take, John Tasato

I would like to share few words from the visionary, Bernice K. Hirai, PhD, Chairperson at the beginning of the Japanese-Okinawa genealogy workshops she helped organize OGS as we know it today!

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"Is there a person who, at one time in one's life, has not yearned for those ancestral ties that bind? What part do I play in the family line started by my forebears? What can I leave for the generations that come after me? Ultimately, each of our individual genealogies become a valuable foundation for the future of our ethnic population which today often encompasses a cultural diversity of groups due to successful inter-marriages. This heritage will disappear unless we do something now. Congratulations on starting the genealogy workshop!"



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Fred Shinsato: The most significant ties Bernice Hirai had with OGS is she is responsible for the creation of OGS more than 25 years ago. She was with the Fukushima Genealogy Club. There was no Okinawan genealogy club. She was the contact and urged the OGS Okinawans to form a genealogy club. I just wanted to mention this.

Gwen Fujie: I love Bernice Hirai and probably those who worked with her did as well. I knew her from a long time ago, even before I got involved in Okinawa things and even knew she helped you all. We were both together in the Japanese Women Society and she was on my board. She was the loveliest, sweetest, kindest person and we loved her. I regret that I did not spend as much time as I feel I should have in her later years. She was always willing to help and always willing to give information. She truly was a wonderful person. She came to the Jon Nakamatsu piano concert, for those who remember years and years ago, I MC that and she came up to me and said she just loved all these Okinawan things. We sat together another concert where she said to me let's go in the back. I was so shocked because she said lets go and meet those dancers. I just love Okinawan things. Okay, lets go. She was part of me getting more interested in my own Uchinanchu background. Years ago she gave me a set of tea cups and I wished I asked her further about the background of the teacup, but she said it was very, very special. So I want to give at least one of the teacups to OGS as a reminder of Bernice always and we can keep it here if you want to you, and just to have a little symbol of her spirit. Because drinking tea together is about fellowship and friendship and love. Donna I give you this tea cup. It's really pretty on the inside. She told me one time, "I don't know how I was born Japanese. I don't know. I think I should have been Okinawan. I love the music, dance, food, and people. And that was Bernice Hirai."

