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e-Newsletter
 2023
 MAY

6

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OGSH April Meeting
 May 20, 2023, 9AM
 Serikaku Chaya or Zoom

AGENDA

- I. Speakers: Ken Kamiya and Jennfier Kumura “Summer Internship”
 - II. Bob Nakasone and John Tasato –“WUB” World Uchinanchu Business Association
 - III. Committee updates as follow:
 - a. Festival: scrip sales will commence in the Chaya with Amy Tsuru and Ginny Tully; additional updates will be shared by Jackie/Al Toma
 - b. DNA Workshop: postponement till Fall; alternative date will be discussed
 - IV. Treasurer’s Report-Income: as of March 2023- Income: Sale of bookmarks; Expense: Purchase of computer and monitor
- photos by Curtis S. and members, transcription by David R.

Upcoming Events 2023

- May
 20-Saturday OGS Meeting, 9AM
 Speakers: Ken Kamiya,
 Jennifer Kumura
 Bob Nakasone
 John Tasato
- June
 6-9- Warabi Ashibi – Children’s Day Camp
 Hawaii Okinawan Center
 16- Senior Health and Fitness Fair
 9AM – 1PM, Hawaii Okinawan Center
 17- Saturday OGS Meeting, 9AM
 Speaker: Colin Sewake,
 David and Amy Kaneshiro
- September
 2 and 3 Hawaii Okinawan Festival
- November
 18 Bonekai
 Hawaii Okinawan Center
 Legacy Ballroom



Haitai OGS!

Another month has flown by and here we are facing June! It definitely feels like time flies by faster the older I get (sigh)! As I look back over the previous months, the one thing that remained a constant was change. Yes, change is both exciting and can be so challenging at the same time and we are navigating this phenomenon with our best foot forward. As we continue this journey, we will be sharing the latest news with you . . . the potential for a summer internship. Jennifer Kumura, who created our new web site, will be joining us this Saturday and will share more exciting possibilities and details. This is a good opportunity to learn more about Jenn and her background. Along with her, Bob Nakasone and John Tasato will be giving us an update on the latest happenings of WUB. And, Amy Tsuru and Ginny Tully will be joining us in-person to sell and distribute scrips for the Okinawan Festival and from what I have heard, there is good news to be heard and shared!

Please join us as we hear the latest committee reports for our DNA workshop, Okinawan Festival and the beginnings of our Bonenkai discussions. Our members are hard at work planning all these events so let’s get onboard and join the bandwagon!

See you all soon!
 Ippe nifee deebiru,
 Donna

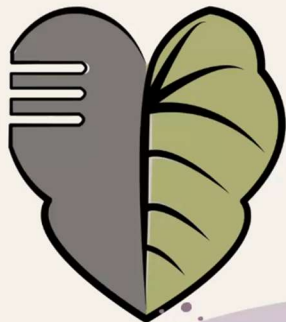
Donna’s Word of the Month
aratama-in
 vi,; to be altered, be revised, be improved



Oral History Project Planning

April 15, 2023 | Okinawan Genealogy Society of Hawai'i

Micah Mizukami, Associate Director
Center for Oral History
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Thank you for inviting me. I've prepared a slide show. I was asked to talk about how to do an oral history project. I have been with the Center of Oral History at UH Manoa. The book, 'Uchinanchu: A History of Okinawans in Hawaii' was done by my predecessors, Warren Nishimoto and his wife Michi Kodama-Nishimoto. That book features oral histories of Okinawan Issei. There is another printing and copies are available at UH Press and I think there will be a relaunching event by the center sometime later in the year.

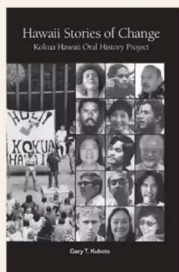
About COH

- Established by the legislature in 1976
- Department of Ethnic Studies
- 800+ interviews
- 30,000+ pages of transcripts



My presentation is on how to plan an oral history project and how to do interviews. Oral histories are a great tool for genealogy research. A little history about the Center of Oral History. It was established by the state legislature in 1976. Prior to that, it was part of Hawaii State Foundation for History and the Humanities. It was kind of like the Foundation for the Culture and the Arts, but I guess the people at UH were not satisfied with the work they were doing and they thought they could do more. It got moved to the University and we're currently in the Department of Ethnic Studies. We relaunched the department in 2018. I took over with our Director Dr. Davianna McGregor after the retirements of Warren and Michi Nishimoto. Our archive has over 800 interviews and 30,000 pages of transcripts and are available online or at any of the public libraries. There are bound volumes of transcripts available at public libraries. We have most of the audio recordings. If you were to find a family member that did an interview, you can reach out to me to see if I have a recording of it. We have over thirty transcripts on-line and in the public library system. We do a lot of community trainings, like today. I've also worked with Karen Oshiro, connecting her with some students in the Japanese and Okinawans in Hawaii course.

Value of Oral History



About Oral Histories

- Method
- Product



We think of oral history as two things: as a method of conducting historical research and an oral history is the product of the research. In lot of cases, it is the transcript or recording (audio or video). Some of the values of oral history are making connections with the past, making life connections with the past, nourishing hope for a more humane future. It's good for amplifying marginalize voices that haven't been included in history books and promoting a common sense of identity.

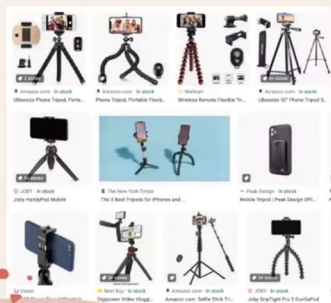
Before the Interview

- Background Research
- Pre-Interview
- Develop question guide
- Plan for archiving, dissemination, and other uses

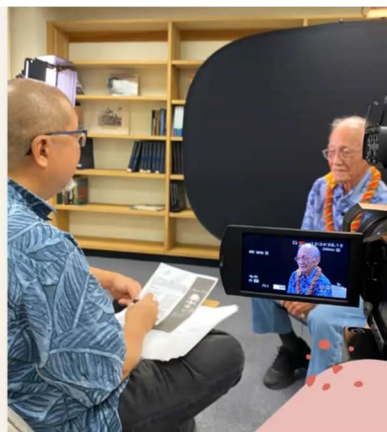


Before you do your interview, it is really important to do background research so that you will understand the subject matter, history, and the time period the people were experiencing. We also do a pre-interview before we even sit down to record the individuals. We kind of talk story with them. Get to know them a little bit without a recorder, to get a general sense of their life, so that we will know what to ask them. Using that information, we create a question guide to help with the interview, but we do not follow it verbatim. We want to think in advance on what topics to ask about and we write it all down. But people don't talk like that. They might answer 3 or 4 of our questions in one go, so we need to be very flexible with that. Before even before you start a project, you need to think about how you are going to archive it, how you are going to share it, and what other uses might be for it. When you are recording the interview, use equipment you're familiar with, like your phone and you can get a cheap tripod for it. You can even use Zoom. You will also need to find a quiet space as appliances will be overheard on your recording, even though you may not notice the noise. If you are doing video, make sure there is enough lighting so you can see their face. But a good sound recording is what you should be prioritizing over video. If you have a good recording but bad sound, you might not hear it too well. Also consider how the person looks in the camera frame and what is in the background. You don't want things to be too messy in the background. If possible, get a black background screen. When starting an interview, it is best to start off easy and establish context. To start that, we begin with who is the person you are talking to. We call that person the 'narrator' and not interviewee. We start off with, "What is your name?", "When and where were you born?", "Who are your parents, grandparents?", "Who are your ancestors and where are they from?". Then you can go into what schools, occupational careers, just to get a general sense of their life and who they were, what they did. We really want to emphasize them as a person and their experiences as a person and not going into the interview and starting off with, "Are you a survivor of the Battle for Okinawa?" or "Are you a survivor of the tsunami in Hilo?". We don't want to start off like that. We want to know them as a person and see how those experiences shaped the way their historical events. With the flow of the interview, start easy and with those personal questions like your birthplace, family are easy questions to start off with. Transition

Recording the Interview



Examples (framing)



Beginning the Interview

- Start easy & establishing context
- WHO is your narrator?
 - Year & place born
 - Parents, grandparents
 - Establish ancestry
 - Occupation/career



into topics by using the narrators words to follow up or clarify into questions. That also shows that you are listening to what they are saying. Take breaks as necessary to keep the narrator comfortable. Sometimes we take two to three breaks during the interview. Silence is OK. A lot of times since they are talking so much, they need time to just rest and



Interview Flow

- Start easy
- Transition into topics
- Use the narrator's words to follow up/clarify

think about what they are saying. For me personally, a lot of the good answers come after the person I am interviewing finishes saying something and while we are sitting there, they add something on. So if I jumped to the next question instead of sitting in silence, they wouldn't have come up with that extra information.

So when asking questions, these are kind of the dos and don'ts. For the dos: Ask open-ended questions and follow up questions are good. Clarifying questions if you need follow up answers. Reflective questions are good if you are coming to the end of a thematic arc. Maybe you go through their schooling, occupation, some kind of historical event. You can ask how their life experiences may have impacted the way that they did their work. Those questions are nice because you can see how it makes meaning to their life and drawing on their past experiences and connecting it to today. During the interview, give them your full attention. Go with the flow. People will talk from topic to topic and to keep track, take notes and be OK with them taking the conversation where they want to go. For the don'ts: Don't interrupt, even though they may go off topic. We don't want to interrupt them. Wait till they 'take a break' or 'catch their breath' or finish their answer. Then you can redirect the conversation. We don't inject our personal biases into the questions. We try to keep them as general as possible. Don't show off by showing off the historical information you may have studied. Focus on their stuff. You can talk about that stuff after the interview. During the interview, it is not appropriate. Don't challenge what they are saying. A date may be misremembered but don't tell them it is wrong.

Asking Questions Dos & Don'ts

Ask	open-ended Qs
Ask	follow-up Qs
Ask	clarifying Qs
Ask	reflective Qs



Asking Questions Dos & Don'ts

- Don't interrupt
- Don't inject personal biases
- Don't show off
- Don't challenge
- Don't fill the silence

Archiving Digital Media

- Rename files (LastName_FirstName_YYYYMMDD)
- Save multiple copies
- Keep track of metadata (names, date, location, key words, etc)



When thinking of archiving: what you want to do the interviews. We are into a new kind of age of archiving oral history material. Oral historians around the world are still figuring out the best practice to preserve the material. If you are using Zoom, phone, audio recorder, or camera, the first thing you would want to do is copy the recording onto your computer and rename it. As an example in renaming a file is: LastName_FirstName_YYYYMMDD. Save multiple copies on external hard drives. Keep track of metadata such as interviewer's name, date, location, key words, etc. At the end, please thank your narrator. Also, in the summer, we will be getting a new director and hopefully we will be able to continue to work

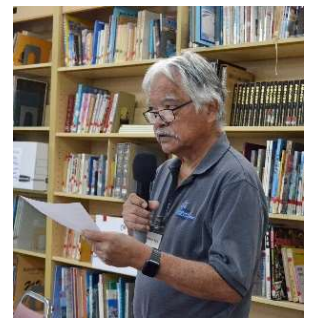
together.

This was a condensed version on how to do an oral history project.

Q and A

Q: Do you edit the interviews?

A: The answer is yes. We transcribe it and then we go back to the person we interviewed with the transcript and if there is anything they want to redact or if there is anything they want to correct that they might have said wrong. Also, to correct spelling errors, usually with names. Even stylistics edits. We'll incorporate all of that. In the case of redactions, we will also cut that out of the recording.





CULTURE

CONNECTING MORE DOTS

Colin Y. Sewake
Commentary
Special to The Hawai'i Herald

In November 2021 I was fortunate to be able to help Hawai'i Uchinānchu Gail Shon, with Nishihara roots, connect with her Yonamine relatives on her first trip to Okinawa. During the 7th Worldwide Uchinānchu Festival, held from Sunday, Oct. 30 to Thursday, Nov. 3, I was once again blessed with the opportunity to assist another Hawai'i Uchinānchu David Kaneshiro meet his Okinawa relatives for the first time. His adventure to connect with them started after finding out about the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawai'i prior to the 5th WUF in 2011 and also attending the 6th WUF in 2016.

I first met David in August this year at an OGS monthly meeting at the Hawai'i Okinawa Center. Founded in 1992, the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association club aims to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the Okinawa family heritage through education, research and networking. After the formal part of the meeting adjourned, I stayed around to yuntaku (talk story) with members since it was three-and-a-half years since my last visit to Hawai'i. While sipping on my coffee at a table near the refreshments, David started to tell me about his quest to learn more about his roots and find his relatives on both sides of the family - his Kinjo relatives in Yaese-cho (town) on his grandfather's side and his Arakaki relatives in Nanjo-shi (city) on his grandmother's side. (Note that the Japanese kanji for his grandfather's side is pronounced "Kinjo" in Okinawa but can also be pronounced as "Kaneshiro," which it was changed to after immigrating to Hawai'i.)

The Okinawa Prefectural Library in Naha provides first-generation immigration genealogical reference services where overseas Uchinānchu can submit an application form online in English, Japanese, Spanish or Portuguese to find out information such as passport number, date of passport approval, company that processed immigration paperwork, date traveled, residential address and map before immigrating, photos of relatives, etc. I told him not to wait until the 7th WUF to submit his application to OPL so he didn't, and shortly thereafter the library responded with their findings to include having called the *kōminkan* (community center) in both hometowns who made positive contact with relatives who wanted to meet David!

After returning home to Okinawa, I offered to accompany and translate when meeting relatives so David and I chatted via video call several weeks before his arrival to go over a few details. We met again at Naha Airport when I greeted his tour group that arrived via charter flight from Honolulu on Saturday, Oct. 29. The excitement of meeting his relatives continued to build up.



David Kaneshiro (in the red shirt) finally together with Arakaki relatives in Nanjo-shi. (Photos by Colin Sewake)

After his group's tour for Tuesday, Nov. 1 ended, David returned to his hotel and turned around to head out with family documents and photos in hand to the Hokama Kōminkan in Yaese to meet his Kinjo relatives followed by NHK media crew who covered his story. I arrived ahead of David to introduce myself to the *kuchi* (community center chief), who was one of his relatives and other family members. The light rain didn't dampen David's spirits as he arrived, entered the *kōminkan*, and met his grandfather's side relatives. After sitting around some low tables on the tatami mat and going through light introductions and family connections, we headed over to the *haka* (tomb) a short distance away. The *haka* is located behind residential property so we parked our cars on the side of the road and walked between two houses. I could see the expression on David's face as he accomplished what he set out to do - meet relatives and visit the *haka*, both of which he had only seen photos of up until now. As a relative prepared *sesō* (incense sticks), *anzemori* (distilled Okinawan liquor) and fruits for offering, other relatives explained the history of the family *haka*.

The day with Kinjo relatives continued as David was escorted to a nearby piece of property. Although the house is new and not the original one, he was able to set foot on the property where his grandfather was born and raised and once walked. Relatives gathered in the tatami room where further discussions were held about the Kinjo family history and members as I did my best to translate accurately for David. An actual point couldn't be identified to show the solid connection between David and his Okinawa relatives, but they did mention that all Kinjos from the Hokama *azuki* (ward) of Yaese are related to each other.

With that, David followed his relatives down the street and around the corner to a family member's house where a welcome dinner was held not only for him but also two other overseas Uchinānchu attending the 7th WUF. As I conducted initial introductions in Japanese, I didn't know that the two ladies who were sitting on the couch were the ones from America. It turns out that the two from Hawai'i and California who have always been in touch with each other were also related to David. What a surprise for the three of them and another heartwarming story from the 7th WUF!

After talking and laughing with relatives while eating sushi, *andagi* and a variety of other foods, I asked the Kinjo relatives to gather by individual families at one end of the tatami room. They introduced themselves to David and the two newly connected visitors, then a family member welcomed the three of them by dancing to *Kagiyadeji*, which is customarily performed to open celebratory events to celebrate longevity and happiness. The evening ended with smiles, hugs and well wishes, and I took David back to his hotel to get rest to enjoy more of the 7th WUF and Okinawa while preparing for the next meeting with Okinawa relatives.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, I picked up David from his hotel and headed to Nanjo in Southern Okinawa to meet his Arakaki relatives on his grandmother's side. After parking the car a few houses down at a nearby park, we got out and walked to the house. What an awesome scene it was to once again see him greet more Okinawa relatives, for the first time, with a handshake and hug! After the excitement and initial introductions, we went into his cousin's house where more discussions took place to pinpoint the exact connection between Hawai'i and Okinawa relatives.

We took a break from the conversation about family as it was lunchtime and headed to the Arakaki



A visit to the Kinjo family's *haka*.



Celebrating with Arakaki relatives at a restaurant in Naha.

haka before enjoying *hijōjiru* (goat soup) for lunch. After returning home, talks resumed to include sharing stories about relatives on each side while a 95-year-old aunt urged David to eat *afū andagi* (Okinawan doughnuts). Extensive discussions revealed that both sides only knew about some of the Arakaki siblings from their grandparents' generation. The complete picture of the four Arakaki siblings came to light after David and his relatives sat around the table and shared their individual knowledge of the *keizu* (family tree). Through that process, David and his cousins could make the connection of their relationship.

The afternoon flew by and it was time for dinner so one of David's cousins and his son took us to his friend's steak restaurant in Naha. The surprises continued as one of the younger employees came to our table and David's cousin introduced her as another Arakaki relative! After enjoying more yuntaku time and laughs, the cousin took David to a store on Kokasai Dōri so he could pick out some *omiyage* (souvenirs) to take back to Hawai'i before returning to the house in Nanjo where everyone exchanged departing words and hugs.

The effort in coordinating details and translating for families on both sides seems so minuscule when seeing the expressions on the faces of relatives who meet for the first time once the dots are connected.

The Okinawa Prefectural Library in Naha provides first generation immigration genealogical reference services. To research your Uchinānchu roots, go to library.pref.okinawa.jp/about-okinawa/cat1/post-12.html. ☐

Colin Sewake is a *keiki o ka 'āina* from Waianai, who was assigned to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa in December 1994 to fulfill his U.S. Air Force ROTC commitment. There, he met his future wife, Keiko, and decided to make Okinawa his permanent home. Colin is now retired from the Air Force and the Air Force Reserves. He and Keiko have two children and live in Yonitan.

2023 Summer Internship

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

This internship is geared to get hands-on experience with a non-profit's web-accessible database (<https://lewchew.warubozo.com/main.php>) through the understanding of current flow and functionality, as well as proposing and executing on improvements for both the organization and its users.

TIMEFRAME & LOGISTICS

- 10 weeks, 20 hours/week
 - Thursday, Friday expected days, additional hours are flexible
- June 15 - August 23
- Hybrid/Remote (In-person work location TBD)
- Primary Managers: Jennifer Kumura (jennifer.kumura@gmail.com), Al Toma (tomaj003@hawaii.rr.com)

OBJECTIVES

1. Work with the team to learn how our current database functions (PHP, MySQL) and how it displays in the front end to users.
2. Propose and execute feasible opportunities to improve the interface and be more mobile and user-friendly.
3. Document processes for organization members on how to update based on the updates made.
4. Research opportunities for document scanning for kanji translation and/or image uploading for database use.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Laptop/computer and workstation
2. Wi-Fi

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

Below is the estimated breakdown of the schedule week by week. Subject to change.

Week	Objective(s)
Week 1	Onboarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-review of the current web experience • History and goals of OGS • History of the database • Overview of the immigrant records search – how to search • Technical introduction of how it works • Technical set-up
Week 2	Design Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented analysis of the current site • Wireframing of the proposed mobile experience • Review with organization members
Week 3	Design Exploration cont. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the feedback, scaled wireframes to desktop • Responsive behavior proposed with fidelity increased • Review with organization members
Week 4	Technical Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the current tech stack what needs to be changed or implemented to execute the agreed-upon solution
Week 5	Technical Execution
Week 6	Technical Execution
Week 7	Technical Documentation
Week 8	Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we scan documents with kanji for search? • and/or how can we upload images to add to the database search?
Week 9	Research cont.
Week 10	Wrap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to the organization of the work that has been completed during the internship • Knowledge transfer