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2023
 OGSB Board

- Donna Nakamura
President
- Ken Kamiya
First Vice-President
- Jackie Toma
Second Vice-President
- Heidi Shimabuku
Corresponding Secretary
- Susan Ramelb
Recording Secretary
- Clyde Higa
Treasurer
- Virginia Tully
Assistant Treasurer
- Rodney Kohagura
Advisor



Santa Fred at the HUOA Craft Fair



e-Newsletter
 2023
 December



Ippee Niffee Debiru

Thank you to outgoing board members for their time to serve. Donna Nakamura, President; Heidi Shimabuku - Corresponding Secretary; Clyde Higa Treasurer

Thank you to HUOA for their support to OGSB.

The 2023 OGSB Board thanks all of you for all your support, kindness, and generosity to make it possible to have been able celebrate our 30 years.

Thanks for the memories! I consider 2023 an epic celebratory year filled with many memorable moments. I am thankful for yesterday, joyful for today and facing 2024 with hope for even better things for OGSB! Sending wishes for the best life has for you and your loved ones.

Donna Nakamura, President

Wishing you and yours a Happy Holiday. May you enjoy the holiday in good health, joyfully and peacefully!

May the spirit of the holidays also be with you as we welcome 2024!

Gin Tully, Assistant Treasurer



2024 Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii Board

- Interim President – Kenneth Kamiya and Jacqueline Toma
- 1st Vice President – Kenneth Kamiya 2nd Vice-President – Jacqueline Toma
- Corresponding Secretary – Anne Oshiro Recording Secretary – Susan Ramelb
- Treasurer – Virginia Tully

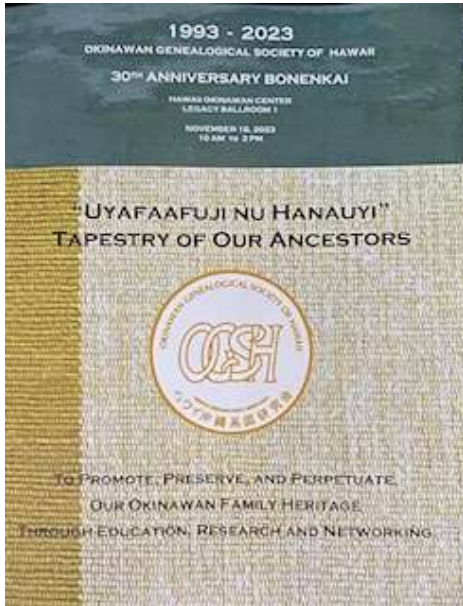


We link our past to
perpetuate our heritage



30th Anniversary and Bonenkai at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Saturday, November 18, 2023.

Picture by Clyde Uchima, Design by Caro Higa



Program by Theresa Tom



Master of Ceremonies
David Arakawa

Pictures by Clyde Uchima & friends

Entertainment 2023
Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
30th Anniversary **Bonenkai**

Lunch Menu by Yutttai Kivattai
Brandon Ing, Derek Fujio, Noah Kutaka, and Jesse Shiroma

Entertainment
Dance from Tamagusuku-ryū Shōsetsu Kai under the direction of Eric Wada
Shōshin Dance Company under the direction of Yukie Shiroma
Live musical accompaniment (Jūtē) by Ukwanshin Kabudan
Jūtē (musicians) uta-sanshin: Brandon Ing, Norman Kaneshiro, Keith Nakagane; tēku: Eric Wada

Kajidō:
Shane Akagi, Terrene Uehira
(Tamagusuku-ryū Shōsetsu Kai)

Kotobuki:
Marcie Moribe, Kaycie Moribe
(Shōshin Dance Company)

Kazhikaki:
Shawn Uehira
(Tamagusuku-ryū Shōsetsu Kai)

Munjuru:
Shiue Kaneshiro
(Tamagusuku-ryū Shōsetsu Kai)

Timāni:
Ann Moribe, Ann Kamimura Reynoso
(Shōshin Dance Company)

Nubai Kuduchi:
Shawn Uehira, Erin Uehira
(Tamagusuku-ryū Shōsetsu Kai)

Tanchamē:
Kailey Miyasato, Conrad Morikone, Allan Zablocki, Kathy Carranza, Zoe Kusatsu, Zaya Kusatsu
(Shōshin Dance Company)

Iwai Bushi:
Members of the Shōshin Dance Company

Entertainment Program by Susan













OGSH MEMORIAM LIST

As of October 25, 2023

Allen Isamu Agena	1905 - 2007
June Hiroko Arakawa	1905 - 2008
Hideko Masaki	1932 - 2008
Edwin Kunio Toma	1935 - 2008
Eleanor Ing	1930 - 2013
Morris Masayoshi Ishihara	1924 - 2013
Jamie Oshiro	1961 - 2014
Roy Kenso Kino	1924 - 2015
Asako "Edna" Kuwazaki	1922 - 2015
Jane Shiroma	1918 - 2015
Nobuo Takeno Takeno	1939 - 2015
Kay Kameko Yamada	1926 - 2015
Warren Teruo Higa	1941 - 2016
Ronald Katsumi Hirata	1945 - 2016
Lily Yuriko Ratliff	1937 - 2016
Ruth Yoshinaka	1921 - 2016
Robert Chosuke Kishiba	1930 - 2017
Stanley Masaaki Takamine	1928 - 2017
Masayuki "Mac" Yonamine	1928 - 2018
Goro Arakawa	1905 - 2019
Mary Miyashiro	1939 - 2019
Kiyoshi Taira	1926 - 2019
Janet Matsue Hirata	1930 - 2020
Herbert Yoshinobu Nakamatsu	1931 - 2020
Timothy Oshiro	1943 - 2020
Thomas Suyeo Shimabuku	1933 - 2020
Ronald Toshio Oshiro	1945 - 2021
Jane Miyoko Takeyesu	1935 - 2021
Thomas Yushin Tasato	1931 - 2021
Dorothy Kiyono Chee	1928 - 2022
Isaac Isamu Miyashiro	1936 - 2022
Yoshinobu Oshiro	1928 - 2022
Patsy Kikue Young	1929 - 2022
Shinye Gima	1925 - 2023
Sally Akie Matsumoto	1931 - 2023
Barbara Sachiko Nakamatsu	1938 - 2023
James Torao Serikaku	1928 - 2023
Kenneth Kamematsu Tome	1925 - 2023
Helen Yanamura	1931 - 2023

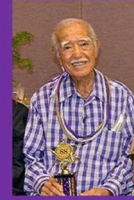
In Memoriam

Agena, Allen Isamu



1936 - 2007

Arakawa, Goro



1922 - 2019

Arakawa, June Hiroko



1924 - 2008

Chee, Dorothy Kiyono



1928 - 2022

Gima, Shinye



1925 - 2023

Higa, Wannan Teruo



1941 - 2016

Hinata, Janet Matsue



c. 1930 - 2020

Hirata, Ronald Katsumi



1945 - 2016

Ing, Eleanor



1930 - 2013

Ishihara, Morris Masayoshi



1924 - 2013

Kino, Roy Kenso



1924 - 2015

Kishaba, Robert Chosuke



1930 - 2017

Kuwazaki, Asako "Edna"



1922 - 2015



Masaki, Hideko



1932 - 2008

Matsumoto, Sally Akie



1931 - 2023



Miyashiro, Isaac Isamu



1936 - 2022

Miyashiro, Mary



1939 - 2019

Nakamatsu, Barbara Sachiko



1938 - 2023

Nakamatsu, Herbert Yoshinobu



1931 - 2020

Oshiro, Jamie



1961 - 2014

Oshiro, Ronald Toshio



1945 - 2021

Oshiro, Timothy



1943 - 2020

Oshiro, Yoshinobu



1928 - 2022

Ratliff, Lily Yuriko



1937 - 2016

Serikaku, James Torao



1928 - 2023

Shimabuku, Thomas Suyeo



1933 - 2020



Shiroma, Jane



1918 - 2015

Taira, Kiyoshi



1926 - 2019

Takamine, Stanley Masaaki



1928 - 2017

Takayesu, Jane Miyoko



1935 - 2021

Takeno, Nobuo



1939 - 2015

Tasato, Thomas Yushin



1931 - 2021

Toma, Edwin Kunio



1935 - 2008

Tome, Kenneth Kamematsu



1925 - 2023

Yamada, Kay Kameko



1926 - 2015

Yanamura, Helen



1931 - 2023

Yonamine, Masayuki "Mac"



1928 - 2018

Yoshinaka, Ruth



1921 - 2016

Young, Patsy Kikue



1929 - 2022



Colin Sewake

“Okinawa Times Article Again”

Aloha & Haisai OGSB & OPL,

Because of the **teamwork** of many individuals, the Karatsu siblings (**Karen and Wayne**) from California were able to meet their Sukuta, Nago relatives (**Shigeharu Tamaki and others**) on their mother's father's side.

- **OGSB** research team (provided immigration database info)
- **OPL** (provided copies of stories from books written about Nago immigrants which had the names of other relatives as well as a map listing the houses and household heads)
- **Gwen Fujie** (friends with the Karatsus, contacted me to introduce them via e-mail and ask for assistance)
- **The people of Sukuta, Nago** (**lady I first met** at the kōminkan who was leaving as I arrived, **other elder ladies** she introduced me to who were talking story on the sports field, the **kuchō** (community center chief))
- Relatives on the mother's mother's side in Makiya, Nago couldn't be found, but **Shigehiro Oshiro** and **Sakiko Nagatsuka** from the **Nago Shiyakusho (city office)** were really accommodating and helpful in quickly contacting the **Makiya Kōminkan Kuchō** when I visited them and asked for assistance

The story came out in the Okinawa Times this morning. The Karatsu sibling's pic on the front page is a lead in to the full story on Page 17. One thing that is written about in the article is that it was Wayne's 21 year old daughter, **Kyra**, who started this genealogical journey about six years ago to find her roots. When her grandmother (Karen and Wayne's mom) passed away, Kyra felt bad that she didn't ask or know anything about her Okinawan family.

Another part of the story is interesting. **Kamehachi** (Karatsu sibling's grandfather) emigrated to California, and Otsukichi's (brother) son, **Otsugen**, later joined him for 18 years. When he returned to Okinawa, he documented the family tree info for the Kamehachi and Otsukichi lines of the nine siblings. He told his grandson, **Shigeharu**, that the generation now is down to the 3rd and 4th generations so they won't come to Okinawa to find relatives, but **Shigeharu** believed differently after watching several programs that one day relatives will come to seek them out. He wasn't surprised to meet us on the street on Nov 27 because he believed in his heart that the moment would come someday.

I've already shared this information with everyone but wanted to send it again with the article and highlight the many individuals that were a part of this effort. **Everything had to work just right to make things happen. Conversely, any person could have been a point of failure...**if Kyra wasn't interested in her roots, if Gwen never reached out to me, if I was too busy or not interested in assisting, if Otsugen never documented anything back then, if the Sukuta people weren't helpful, if Shigeharu wasn't interested in meeting relatives, etc. Even with OGSB research team's dedication, the immigration database info wasn't enough. OPL's thorough research came up with the extra info needed for the dots to connect.

The more I think about this, the more I realize how **AMAZING** this whole effort was. Mahalo nui loa, ippei nifuē dēbiru, and otsukaresama deshita to **EVERYONE** who had a part in this!

瀬分コリン善久
COLIN Y. SEWAKE

Begin forwarded message:

Aloha & Haisai All,

Here are a couple pics again of the Dec 04 article. The one I sent earlier was just a quick shot I took while watching the Atlanta Falcons football game. 😊 The pic of Karen and Wayne holding the family tree with Shigeharu is printed on the front page as a lead in to the full article on Page 17.

The article was posted on the Okinawa Times homepage, but you have to be an on line subscriber to read the full article. (Keiko and I only subscribe the paper copies.) I'll try to contact the reporter later (Tamaki-san, no relation) to see if he can send me a PDF copy of the article and the two pics he took with his professional quality camera so I can send those to you to share with the family.

<https://www.okinawatimes.co.jp/articles/-/1267482>

瀬分コリン善久
COLIN Y. SEWAKE





ルーツ探す旅 涙の初対面

玉城茂春さん（中央）の祖父が作成した家図で、亀八さんの名前を指さすウイン・カラツさん（左）と義久のリン・カラツ・メネティさん（右）が涙を流す。



移民の故玉城さん孫ら 名護数久田
 3人は、いずれもカリフォルニア州とウイン・カラツさん（左）が、亀八さんの孫、66歳姉妹、ひ孫に当たるウイン・カラツ・メネティ、インさんの娘のカレン・メラ

【名護】名護市数久田区から1904年にメキシコに移住した故玉城亀八さんの孫2人とひ孫1人の計3人が11月27日、ルーツを求めて同区を訪ねた。同区公民館で、亀八さんに兄がいて、そのひ孫が同区に健在であることが分り、涙の初対面を果たした。（玉城学通信員）



舞で学ぶ 児童と交流

【浦添】浦添市立児童芸術球技。最後は児童と会合が一緒にカ11月14日、琉球舞踊を通して、チャーシーを踊り、にぎやかにまことばや伝統文化に触れて交流。琉球舞踊に使う紅型やかもろこ、前田小学校4年生、さ、かせがけなどの展示コーナーにも多くの児童が関心を示した。児童たちは舞踊鑑賞やまことばを使い、理解を深めた。岡村真輝さん（10）は「舞踊は静かな動きで、優雅で、ヨロヨロ

日米の子孫一堂「奇跡だ」



メキシコに移住した故玉城亀八さんの米国の子孫と名護市数久田の子孫が一堂に会した食事会。前列右がルーツ探しのかげをつづったカレン・キラさん

さん（右）。姉弟の母の玉城メリーさんが4年前に102歳で他界した際、キラさんが「お祖母からルーツの神髄のことを聞けば良かった」と思ったのをきっかけに、米ハワイ沖繩系図研究会に問い合わせ、異系移民の渡航記録などが検索できるデータベースを調べた。亀八さんが数久田自身であることが分り、ルーツ探しのため来沖。亀八さんの足跡を求めてあちこち探し回った末、公民館にたどり着いた。公民館で、亀八さんは玉城許光さんの5男で、3男の乙吉さんの孫、玉城茂春さん（68）が数久田に住んでいることが分かった。3人は姉妹の日、茂春さんら乙吉さんの子孫と市内のすし屋で対面し、先祖の話に花を咲かせた。「これは祖父の乙吉が作成した。あなたの祖父はここに書かれていますか」とウインさんが数久田を指さして「満腹だった。亀八さんの子孫がいつかルーツ探しに数久田に来るのかもしれない」と祖父母に話したことがあり、茂春さん、自身の予感の中に驚いた様子だった。ケネティさんは「茂春はいつカリフォルニアに来たら今日と同じようにもなす。だからルーツはウチナンチュだ」と満面の笑みを浮かべていた。読谷村在住の通訳、コリン義久瀬さんが同行して3人の通訳を務めた。



