



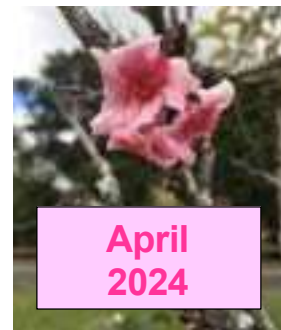
Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
 PO Box 894779
 Mililani, Hawai'i 96789
ogshnews@gmail.com



Congratulations Ken
 Outstanding Alumnus
 2023 recipient
 CTAHR
 College of Tropical Agriculture
 Human Resources



<https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu>



2024 Bonenkai – Help Needed!

Hokuzan group (last name beginning with A to Kohagura), is tasked with planning **our Bonenkai**. Help from any OGSH member is welcomed and appreciated!

Want to help? Attend the next planning meeting, Saturday, April 20 at the Serikaku Chaya. The planning meeting will take place after the regular monthly meeting.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, but willing to help, please email co-chairs Claudia Kamiyama and/or Sandie Kaneshiro.

Need help preparing lucky number prizes, preparing favors and centerpieces, planning entertainment, and putting together a slideshow.

Claudia: c.m.kamiyama@gmail.com Sandie: kaneshiros@gmail.com

Ippee niffee deebiru!

2024 Bonenkai Saturday, November 16, 2024 Hawaii Okinawa Center Legacy Ballroom



Message from Jackie Toma
 OGSH Interim President

Intro to April Newsletter

The Board and Committee Chairs met on Saturday, April 13, 2024, to develop a Strategic Plan to guide the organization. These are the following goals for the organization:



VISION/EXPECTATIONS:

1. Organization with active membership
2. More access to library/ information
3. Members willing to step up; attracting “New Blood”- younger participants as well keeping current membership engaged
4. Create greater access to OGSH services/programs
5. Collaborate with other organizations
6. Recruit more people with Japanese, Okinawa writing/speaking/translation skills
7. Develop Policy/Procedures for every committee – Specific tasks for volunteers

For each goal an action plan with specific tasks, designated party to implement, start date, and report dates were added. This will be reviewed and approved at the May Board meeting for presentation to the members. The expanded Board, members plus Committee Chairs will continue to meet monthly to review the progress.

The working group created a sense of community working toward a common purpose which reminded me of the Okinawan concept of “moai.” Moai provide deep support and respect for each other while working toward their purpose. A vision is for OGSB to become a moai for its members.

Announcements

- Jackie Toma, Interim Co-President of OGSB, has agreed to be Interim President for the rest of the year.
- Betty Takamine, former OGSB member, passed away on December 3, 2023. Her Appreciation of Life Service will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 10:30 am.
- The results of the member survey are included in this newsletter. We have started implementing some of the suggestions.
- The Born Again Uchinanchu book will be coming out by the fall. The members who pre-ordered the book will pay the discounted price. All others will be charged \$10 extra.
- OPL is sponsoring a webinar “ A Kafu Belonging to Ryukuan Gentry Discovered in Brazil” on Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 2 – 3:15 pm HST. Registration is required.
- The Research Committee will be providing genealogical assistance to attendees after the break. (Saturday, April 20, 2024 – bring what you may have to help with your research.)
- We will have further discussion on whether to add the Lew Chew database back to the OGSB website in May.
- The Board welcomes members’ feedback. We are setting up a physical suggestion box in the back. We will be adding a virtual suggestion box on the OGSB website in the next few weeks.

March

OGSB Meeting

-Clyde shared a picture, maybe of

Higa/Shimabuku families, Kitanagusku , 30 year gathering

-Guest/New Member-Chase T. (Haeburu); Charles and Alex M. (Kin);

Treasurer’s Report -Expense-Toner, Income-Dues

Introduce Kaaren Takara – new OGSB Assistant Treasurer

Speakers: Steve Oshiro

Research Committee-Claire and Shigeru

Zoom: Jon Itomura

Photos: Clyde Uchima and members

Transcript: Steve O, David R



AGENDA April 20, 2024

I. Introduce new members and guests

II. Treasurer’s Report

III. Guest Speaker: Sally Tsuda, Research Committee Chair, will discuss how to get started doing Okinawan genealogical research.

***** The Zoom portion of the meeting will end. *****

After the break, members present will participate in planning the Bonnenkai, Okinawan Festival, or getting in-person research assistance.

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=lecc>

UH Outreach College, East West Center Arts Program, Monkey Waterfall , and Leeward Theatre Present:

April 20 & 21 - (re)Imagining Homelands

In the creative retelling of ancestral memories, Kenny Endo, Norman Kaneshiro, and Yukie Shiroma share their exploration of the intersections between Japanese taiko, Okinawan sanshin, Okinawan and modern dance—between the old and the new.



Seminar title: Multi-lingual Zoom Seminar: "A Kafu belonging to Ryukyuan Gentry Discovered in Brazil"

Date and time: Sunday, April 28, 2024 9:00-10:15 a.m. Japan time

Saturday, April 27, 2024
2:00-3:15 p.m. Hawaii ST / 8:00-9:15 p.m. Eastern DT

Program:

1. A Kafu belonging to Ryukyuan Gentry Discovered in Brazil
Speaker: Chiaki Hayase (Currator at Nakaguduku Village Gosamaru Historical Materials Library)
2. About our current exhibit: "The People of Okinawa Colonia"
Speaker: Chiharu Yonahara



3. Talks by Okinawa Association of Campo Grande and the Document's Donator
Speakers: Marcel Asato and Nilton Shirado

Please sign up from the URL: <https://forms.gle/aBjZBR7KgYMV9rDH9>

2024

April

- 20 OGSB Meeting 9 a.m.
Speaker: Sally Tsuda
Genealogy Research 101
- 20&21 (re)Imaging Homelands
Leeward Community College
Or Streaming Access
- 27 "A Kafu Belonging to Ryukyuan Gentry Discovered in Brazil"

May

- 3 HUOA Senior Health and Fitness Fair
9am, Hawaii Okinawa Center
- 18 OGSB Meeting 9 a.m.
Speaker: Rodney Ichimura
Family Search

June

- 15 OGSB Meeting 9 a.m.

July

- 20 OGSB Meeting 9 a.m.

August

- 17 OGSB Meeting 9a.m.
- August 31, September 1, 2024**
Okinawan Festival
Hawaii Convention Center

September

TBA

October

- 19 OGSB Meeting 9a.m.

November

- 16 Bonenkai

December

- No OGSB Meeting

BETTY TAKAMINE Obituary

BETTY FUSAE TAKAMINE Our beloved mother Betty Fusae Takamine (93) was kissed by the angels on December 3, 2023, while sleeping peacefully. The youngest daughter of Matsuo and Heisuke Nakachi, Betty married Stanley Takamine and was survived by daughters Gayle (Clifford) Lau, Stephanie Pulido, and son Wayne Takamine. Betty was the controller for D.H. Graham, Murata, and Russell. In retirement, Betty and Stanley devoted their time with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club, Motobu Club, and East Manoa Lion's. Betty's Appreciation of Life Service is from 10:00am to 11:30am, Sunday, May 5th at the Hawaii Okinawa Center followed by lunch. Aloha attire, no flowers please.



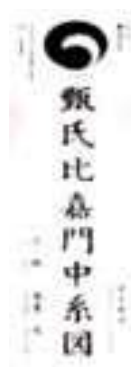
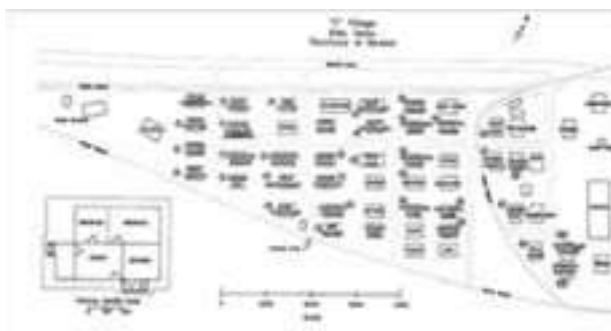
Published by Star-Advertiser on Apr. 7, 2024.

Jackie: I would like to introduce you to Steven Oshiro. Steven is a sansei and he is 100% Chibaru. He retired from Civil Service in 2012 with the Navy after 35 years of service. After retiring, he became a Master Gardener and works as a volunteer at the Pearl City Urban Garden. He's also a lifeline for his cousin and mom whenever they need help. He is here today to talk to us about his experience recently of doing his family tree for both his mother's and father's side, which was both an exciting and frustrating experience.



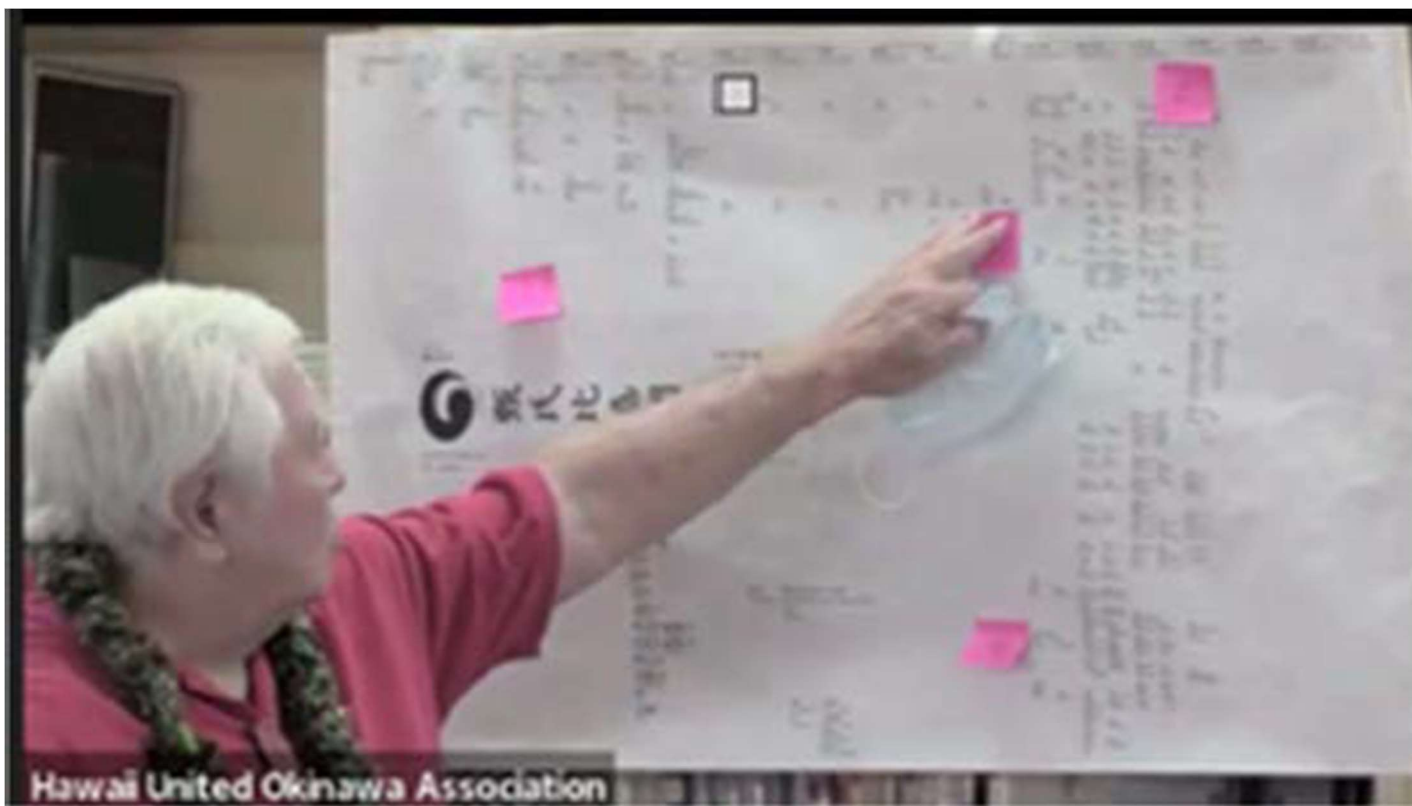
Good morning, my name is Steve Oshiro and as Jackie mentioned, I am retired Civil Service. I worked with Clyde Higa in my past life. This will be a Power Point presentation and I hope you will not be bored and fall on the floor. Anyway, let's start.

As was mentioned by Jackie, I am Sansei and 100% Chibaru. I was grew up in Ewa, not Ewa Beach, but Ewa Plantation's C Village. There were about 47 houses that made up C Village where I grew up. I'd like to digress a little at this point by mentioning that throughout my presentation, when I talk about my family, I will refer to my grandmothers' (Baban) and her family. Although my grandfathers were the head, my grandmothers (Babans) were the boss, like most families I know of.



At first, I thought this would be easy. Growing up, I knew all my first cousins because we got together often at our grandparents for parties and dinners. How hard could it be? Well, I wanted the tree to as complete and accurate as possible. This is when it became interesting. I lived with my Oshiro grandmother and Nakamatsu grandmother lived 3 houses away. Since the houses were close by, I would bounce between both of them, depending on who had the good stuff. I knew all my uncles, aunties, and first cousins. I knew some of my 2nd and 3rd cousins but didn't know how we were related. I called them all cousin and their parents uncle or auntie. During New Year's time, my grandparents were visited by relatives and their family or we would visit them. From time to time, my grandparents would visit them and I would go along. We (2nd and 3rd cousins) met during the Shinenkai parties, club picnics, and weddings and I got to play with them, mostly the boys. The problem was that I knew them by first name or name but not how we were related and frankly, at that time it didn't matter, but now I want to know.

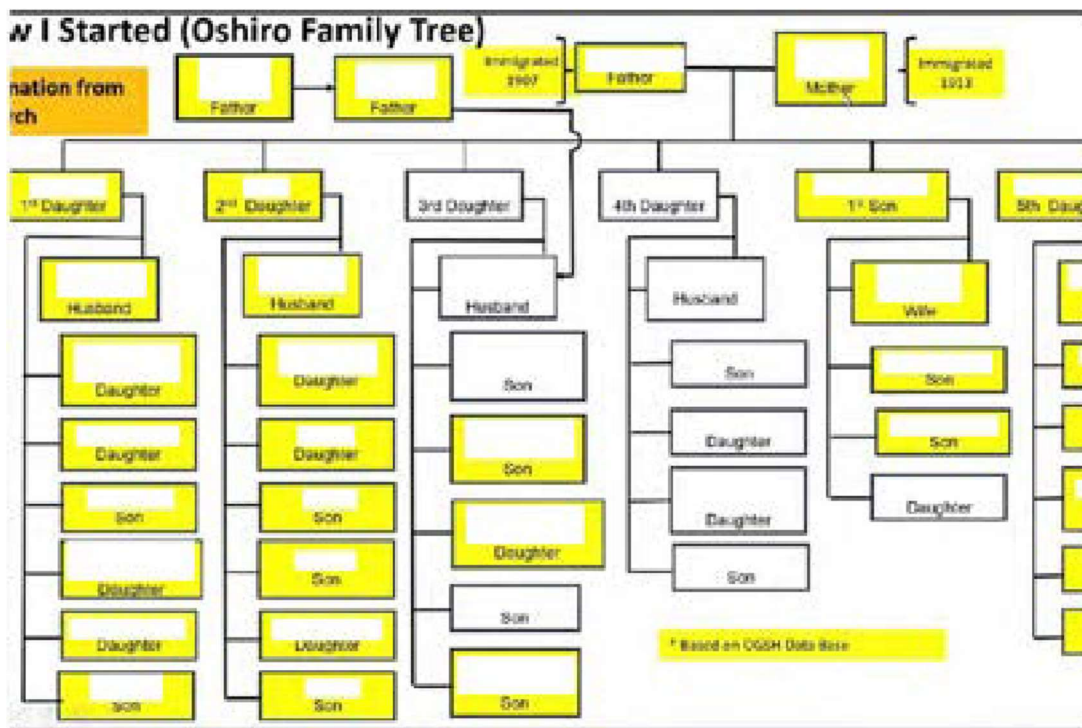
Why did I start? Last summer. I found out that my mother's cousin and he raised hyotan and I wanted some seeds. So I called to ask for some. While there, I noticed that he had a big matsu tree, so I asked him if I could come back to harvest some to make kadomatsu. Late December 2023, I went to harvest. Couple of weeks later I went back to air layer the tree, so that I could plant one in my yard. As we were talking story about family, he showed and gave me a copy of my maternal grandmother's family tree (Higa). He pointed out that it was male centric, i.e. only the males of the family had their wives listed. My grandmother only had hers and grandfather's name listed and her line stopped there. Her brother's family was listed in its entirety. Her sisters' and respective husband's name were listed but not their children. 14 generations. Since it ended at my grandma, my cousin recommended that I start one for Nakamatsu/Higa family as an addendum to the tree for the present and future generations. Someday, one of the future generations will wonder who their ancestors were and that information would be available. This is how it all started. Fortunately, the Higa tree had names of my great grandfather, great great grandfather, great great great grandfather, and other relatives which made the search easier.



How did I start? I created a spreadsheet listing whatever information I knew, right or wrong, starting with my Nakamatsu side, all my aunts and uncles and their spouses, respective cousins and their children. The Oshiro was a little more complicated cause I had nothing to start with. I talked to my mom and called relatives to fill in the gaps. At that time gathering information was relatively easy but I didn't know what I didn't know. The more information I found, the more questions and names surfaced. When the spreadsheets became too cumbersome, I did it in the traditional tree format and then I started working on my paternal family (Oshiro) tree.

This is how the Nakamatsu Family Tree looks like now. It is not complete and I need to contact more people to make sure the information is correct. But, it is pretty much the Nakamatsu Family Tree.

How I started the Oshiro Family Tree: On this chart, I have my grandmother Kame, my Auntie Ushi, my Number 9 Auntie, and my Uncle Yusei. On this chart, this is all the information that I knew. On the next chart, all the yellow highlighted information is from my research. I got my grandfather and grandmother's father's and mother's name from the OGS database. Through my research, e.g. death certificates, I was able to clarify certain names.



Sources for information are Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH) which has lots of information in their database and links to other database websites, such as: US Census, Family Search, Ancestry, Moillili Japanese Cemetery, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), and Find a Grave.

I didn't know about the Okinawa Prefecture Library (OPL) till I talked to my cousin on the mainland. Coincidentally, her son was also working on a family tree. I emailed him and he said that he spent some of his time in Okinawa researching our family and that one good source was the Okinawa Prefecture Library. I went online and filled in a request for information on my family. If you do use OPL, gather as much information as possible before making your request and the service is free. A lot of the information from them is interesting.

From the US Census: During my research, my relatives told me that my maternal grandfather was married twice. His first wife could not bear children, so he sent her back. Through the census, I learned his first wife was named Ushi.

From the Hawaii Department of Health, I obtained death certificates which were easier to get, not like birth certificates where they can be altered. It contains information like birthdate, date of death, cause of death, and their parents' names. Be sure to bring proof of relationship, such as birth certificates, death certificates, family tree (if available), etc. Cost of certificates are \$12.50 each.

Graveyards: Headstones are a good source of correct name spelling and dates. Sometimes it has where the family came from. The "Find a Grave" website (www.findagrave.com) is also helpful. Family shrines (Butsudan) sometimes have spiritual tablets of the deceased with information. Take a picture of it for future reference.

The Japanese Consulate may track people and have their arrival and departure dates from Japan and Okinawa. I haven't contacted the consulate yet, but my understanding is that they do this.

Once I started, the more interesting this project became. Some of the things I learned. All my Oshiro Baban's sisters and brother made Hawaii home. Her parents lived in Hawaii for some time and later moved back to Okinawa. My Great Grandfather's name on my Nakamatsu Baban's death certificate is listed incorrectly. It is listed as Teiso but the family tree shows it to be Teisho. However, if you look only at the Romaji on the tree, both Great Grandfather's and Great Great Grandfather's name is listed as Teisho, so you may think it is a typo because who names two kids the same. Hiroaki Hara

looked at the family tree and said Teisho is correct and the two Kanjis are different. The kanji on the chart is difficult to read but Shigeru was able to determine what it is and wrote it for me. For the sake of accuracy, I plan to include it on my family tree.

The real name of relatives: Oshiro Baban's eldest sister was known as Takara Lady (nobody recalled her first name; Kameko), Number 9 auntie's name is Ushi, auntie Uto's husband's name is Taruro (everyone called him "19"). Uncle Yusei's first name is Richard. Auntie Joyce's middle name is Setsuyo and not Setsuko. Uncle Hykes' middle name is Tomohiko and not Hiko.

Auntie Ayako was born in 1924 and died in 1926. Cousin Clyde was born in 1954 and died that same year.

Finding little clues helps solve nagging questions and make you feel as though you won the lottery. It is not uncommon to keep going back and forth between various websites because of new information that hones your search. For example, Omine aunty, my Paternal Grandfather's only relative from Okinawa living in Hawaii; everyone referred to her as Omine Lady. No one remembered her first name. This is where little clues were of tremendous help. I talked to my mom and she mentioned that Omine auntie was married to one of our other relatives and later married Omine uncle. Knowing Omine auntie's first husband's name, and using the US Census and other records, we found out her first name is Uto and Uncle Omine's name is Teiso.

To find someone's phone number, if not in the phone book, try Googling it. You might get lucky. It is not perfect but better than nothing. There are numerous people with the same first and last names in databases. It might not matter to some, but identifying the proper individual was important to me, as it was tied to important dates (e.g. arrival dates, birthdates, census records, etc.). I keep digital and paper records in the event that there are questions or if future generations want to know how I found the information. For me, accuracy is an important thing. If I had not taken information from Baban's death certificate as correct, I would not have known it was most likely a typo. Headstones, besides names and dates, may provide where your family came from. Nothing beats visiting a grave site for finding information. To get a head start, visit websites such as Moiliili Japanese Cemetery, Find a Grave, and Punchbowl Cemetery.

Now I know how I am related to whom I call auntie, uncle, and cousins. I've established contact with people I haven't talked to in 60 years. I feel closer to my ancestors and I have a sense of accomplishment. I regret that I didn't start this earlier. People are no longer alive, memories fade or get blurred, you lose touch with relatives, people move away. Pictures are always better than words. A Butsudan may have a lot of information that were generally kept by the Issei or if lucky, Nissei. I doubt if any Sansei would keep up the tradition, so all that is lost. Most importantly is to take as much pictures as possible, especially of relatives and where they lived.

It is necessary to ask questions. Questions like where did they come from? What village? What aza? What was life like growing up? What are my Great Grandparents, Great Great Grandparents names? How were they written in Kanji? Information about other relatives, their brothers/sisters and their children, other uncles, aunties, and cousins. Why did they leave Okinawa? Talk to the elders. They have so much information. Once they are gone, the information is gone. So, record interviews with video and/or audio during conversations.

Start your family tree today, don't wait. If you put it off, you will probably never start. The first step is always the hardest. Tell your family and relatives that you are doing this and ask for their help. You may be surprised that someone has already started and save you a lot of work. Two of my cousins had already started and with their information, it made my work easier. Put your information in a bound tablet or notebook and later transcribe to a computer. If you use a piece of paper, you might lose or misplace it. It is harder with a notebook. After you start, you will find out what you don't know and what questions you will need to ask. As an example, my grandmother was not my grandfather's first wife, so the question is what was his first wife name? It was Ushi.

Again, take lots of pictures. Take pictures of family members, where they live/lived, gravestones, documents (birth and death certificates that help prove blood relationship), Butsudan Spirit Tablet, etc. Write whatever you remember as soon as possible. You can later edit what you wrote. Finally, ask OGSB for help.

One concern of mine that has been on my mind since the beginning is Identity Theft. I don't want something that I created to hurt any of my relatives. This is something that everyone should decide for themselves. I chose to leave out birthdates and date of death. I may have included the year but not month or day. I debated whether to include middle names and may choose to use middle initials only. What I am really concerned with is from the tree. It is easy to determine mother's maiden name. This information is often used to verify one's identity.

One of my safeguard is to limit distribution and ask recipients to also limit distribution and publication. If you notice in my presentation shows only the structure of the family tree and the details are tiny. Definitely, do not post online.

What is next for me? I will start a booklet of remembrances of parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, aunties, and cousins. I will digitize old photos and create a family photo album.

I would like to thank my mom's cousin for showing me our family tree and urging me to start on this project. Shigeru Yoshimoto who helped me with translations and clarified grey areas. Hiroaki Hara of OPL who recognized my grandfather's name as something he previously worked on and put a priority on my request by moving me to the front. Normally it takes 6 months but mine took 2½ months. A special thanks to my wife, Anne. Her knowledge of the sources of information and determination to find that information. She checked and verified over and over to ensure that the information was correct. She filled in names that otherwise be left blank. *Steve Oshiro*



Research Team
Cases of the last 5 years
Speakers: Clair Seu and Shigeru Yoshimoto

Claire: Prior to 2019, we did not document the cases of individuals from the requests from all over, but with the establishment of the database, we started to work more systematic and we began to keep records to document what we did. 2019, prior to the pandemic, we had between 3 and 5 researchers who were actively helping people do their research. It's a collaboration, not where we do all the work for them, but we try to go back and forth to further help them do their research because it is never really ending.

Prior to that in 2019 and the pandemic, we did about 40 cases, mostly from Oahu, a few from the mainland and Okinawa. In 2020, during the pandemic, we were still getting cases, about 23 of them. Still, mostly from

Oahu, but expanded from Brazil, Australia, and 5 cases from Okinawa. In 2021, we started exiting the pandemic and got 26 cases. In 2022, post-pandemic, we got 37 cases and in 2023 we got 42 cases, so it is going up. But, we still have only 3 to 5 researchers, due to some people leaving and new people coming in. It takes a little while to help people. I've only been doing this for a year, so I am not an expert like Shigeru here. Shigeru is our only translator here and he is getting real busy. His workload has gone from 3 requests in 2019, 22 requests post-pandemic, then 8 then 10 and last year he got a big request where it will take him 2 months to do the translation. In summary, in the past 5 years, we had 168 cases, mostly from Oahu, a few from the neighbor islands, 27 from the mainland, and 13 from Okinawa, Brazil and Australia. This year, there will only be 3 researchers due to circumstances, and still just 1 translator. We need more people to help.

Shigeru: Being the only translator, it is hard to do all the cases. This year is kind of busy. I have 4 requests already. Today, I found out I have another one. Anyway, we need more people. If you are interested in research, please join us every Friday. We have lunch and talk stories and we learn something new. It's interesting. If you want to try and find your ancestors, your roots, Okinawan culture, please join us.





影撮念記年週年三滿會心一衆島美比
 日四十月七年九十一

Clyde H. is looking for a home for this picture. If you recognize someone or the group in the picture contact ogshnews@gmail.com. Picture was taken in 1938. Shimabuku/Higa families.



FREE ADMISSION
 Friday, May 3, 2024. 9 am to 1 pm

Senior Health & Fitness Fair 2024
 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

Win a
 4 night California Hotel stay with meals for two (without airfare).
 Courtesy of *Vacations Hawaii*

- Products & services
- Information for caregivers & families
- Health, safety, financial, cultural booths
- Free blood pressure test
- Door prizes, tons of FUN!

Limited parking at Puahi St - Free shuttles -

Hawaii Okinawa Center - 94-587 Ukee St., Waipio
 808-676-5400 / www.huoa.org / info@huoa.org

Sponsored by: **GENERATIONS MAGAZINE** Special thanks: First Hawaiian Bank

Survey emailed to 164 email addresses

of surveys received: 27 Response rate: 16%

1. **What is your age group?**

0 20-40 years old 2 41-60 years old 18 61-80 years old 6 81+ years old

2. **Are you a 2024 member of OGSB: 27 Yes 0 No**

3. **How many years have you been a member of OGSB? _____ yrs. Average # of years: 8.2**

Range: 0-30 Years. ≥ 20 years= 5

4. **What are the reasons you joined OGSB? Select top 3**

# of Responses		# of Responses	
19	Genealogy research	5	Learn Okinawan words
11	Learn about koseki, yago, etc.	1	Membership benefits/discounts
18	Learn Okinawan culture, history & traditions	18	Network with members
	Other		

5. **Which OGSB programs are important to you? Please select up to 3.**

CATEGORIES	Select 3
Bonenkai	8
Field trips	5
Genealogy research	18
Membership Meetings	16
Membership discounts for OGSB sponsored events	0
Newsletter	7
Networking with other members	12
OGSB booth at Okinawan Festival	13

6. To assist us in determining OGSB member benefits please indicate which events products should be free to members only free to community etc.				
CATEGORIES	ree to members only	ree to everyone	Reduced fee for members	Same fee for everyone
OGSB sponsored events and workshops	6	2	12	1
Genealogy research	9	4	4	0
Newsletter	15	6	0	0
Short stories, bookmarks, etc.	0	1	11	8
Other Please specify				
Comment: Short stories, book marks were started as fundraisers				

7. There are different ways in which OGSB communicates with its members. What wor s best for you? Circle whichever applies.

# of Responses		# of Responses		# of Responses	
26	Email	16	Newsletter	10	oom meetings
13	In person meetings	2	Social media		Other

8. OGSB see s membership participation on committees. Please indicate which committees are of interest to you. Circle whichever applies

# of Responses		# of Responses		# of Responses	
1	Board	7	Bonenkai	4	Bookmarks
1	Bylaws	4	ducation	0	Finance
11	Genealogy esearch	3	nternet echnology	3	Library
1	Mensore	0	Nominations	10	Okinawan Festival
7	Short Stories	0	Other		

. We would appreciate any suggestions for increasing membership and participation in OGSB Committees and activities.

9 Increase membership
1. Are we seeking to increase membership for more participation? 2. Okinawan Festival- May need integrative activity to "attract" people. More interaction with people who come by to look at books we are selling.
Announcement in Purple Blast for membership recruitment. There are members that don't know about OGSB. Activities: excursions to Okinawa=Hawaii related topics. For Sashiki-Chinen, we toured Ulupo Heiau in Maunawili, a member is an employee there. Eric

Assuming that most people interested in their Okinawan genealogy, it would be useful to post info ads on HUOA's newsletter about the OGSB.
Book groups & meetings to discuss literature, history, myths, etc. Small groups in an area where interest may reveal location, on a trial-pilot basis
Community outreach programs, including neighbor islands, join festivals, fairs
Establish small work groups (i.e. Steve Oshiro Research) at other times (not at OGSB monthly meetings.)
Get committees organized to work
Have a time at end of monthly mtgs to plan, discuss, get help with research
Phone (cell) tree communication
Publicize activities on social media
Would be good to know what kind of help committees need - if a brief description could be provided, I would be more sure of what I'm committing to.
Young people are now interested in tattoos, especially the Ryukyu ones.

10. Suggestions for meeting topics and speakers:

10 Meeting topics
Talk about specific types of records, understanding jurisdictions, cultural topics
Important: membership meetings esp. with guest speakers
Representatives from the HOC classes/clubs to talk about what they had to offer.
Camp life of Okinawans
Healing with ancestors (sp?)
More genealogy topics. Can we subsidize experts from Okinawa Or when they are in town, i.e., the recent Japanese people. Could they be able to tell us about the southern part of Okinawa.
Have we had a recent presentation from Dr. Ishida from the UH=Center for Okinawan Studies. (808)956-5754, Email: masatoi@hawaii.edu
As you know, I am interested in hearing stories from members about where they come from Okinawan roots and a favorite memory to be shared at the area meetings to celebrate seniors.
Personal stories or journeys experienced for genealogical search
sharing
Focus on Genealogy (OGSB)!
Life in old Okinawa vs. modern day.
Land division-Azas, mura, Majiri, son-differences

Speakers from other genealogical societies such as Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, Hawaiian, etc. Portuguese, Japanese, Hawaiian, etc. Workshop on leaving your research results
How guys have done a good job on providing speakers on so many subjects. Is there a way to see previous meetings/topics
Attends of Yukyu
Keep up with what you are doing

11. Please share other suggestions or comments.

11 Other suggestions
Improve the sound for your Zoom meeting attendees. Last meeting, I couldn't hear the presentation or the discussion. Have some time online for networking before or after the meetings for Zoom attendees to chat with each other
Members could give their experiences in visiting Okinawa, other pertaining info. Genealogy research committee do not do the research. It assists & guides people to sources available - as you learn about our culture. Over a certain age - 80, 85, 90, 95, membership free. Look for projects pertaining to OGSB/genealogy.
Meetings are great. Excursion activities take our meetings outdoors. Sorry, I work full-time, so I can help when I can
Some age groups have certain desires - guess you will know by this survey. Might be very revealing. Wish lived back on Oahu, would be more active. Thank you for all the hard work you do for the membership.
RE:#6 Genealogy research and newsletter- already free RE: #8-Bookmarks not a committee
Meet village people from Okinawa in Hawaii. Small gatherings and do research
Workshop on leaving your research results and family history for descendants and family history for descendants.
I am still working on my genealogy. Is there a way to meet with people who can help me maybe after the meetings
If members could talk as loud as possible into the microphone. Some folks are hard of hearing. - For Zoom members.



MUNUGATAI - Stories that connect the Past, Present and Future
2024 LOOCHOO IDENTITY SUMMIT

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With an invitation to bring the essence of a cherished person to accompany them, 100-plus attendees were warmly welcomed to the highly anticipated **Loochoo Identity Summit** held on March 22-24 at the Windward Community College under the grandeur of the majestic Ko`olau Mountain. Thoughtfully crafted by the directors of **Ukwanshin Kabudan, Eric Wada, Norman Kaneshiro, Keith Nakaganeku** with Uchinaa-based advisor **Chihiro Komine** and their steadfast planning committee, this Summit marked the 10th year that folks who hold a special connection to Okinawa were able to meet each other, share stories, develop relationships, and strengthen their knowledge of Okinawan culture, history, language and awareness of the social issues affecting our motherland.

Munugatai was the theme of the Summit. As explained in the “Welcome” program, Norman Kaneshiro elegantly wrote:

*“In this, our 10th **Loochoo Identity Summit**, we turn our focus to the **Uchināguchi** word, **munugatai** (also **mungatai**) which literally means “the telling of things,” but more conventionally translated as “story” or “tale.” For those of us who are separated from our ancestral homelands by both generational time and geographic space, stories are often the only connections we have left. For those who have remained in the homeland, stories store memories of places, people, events, or ways of living that exist no where else in the world that have either faded to the background or been erased by trauma or violence. For all of us, then, the sharing and interweaving of stories helps us to remain connected to our ancestral homes and ancestors in ways that people who do not understand these stories will never quite comprehend. Thus, the homework we have as indigenous **Shimanchu** is to learn how to both take in and understand the **munugatai** of our ancestors as well as to preserve and perpetuate them.*

*It seems our Uchinānchu ancestors understood the importance of stories in making relationships and maintaining connections as another definition of **munugatai** is “conversation” or “dialogue.” In this way, the “telling of things” is not simply a recollection of past events, people, or places, but a vital means of communication in the present. It is in the present that we develop an understanding and relationship with others and the world around us. And it is in the present we create a vision or map for the future based on our lives and perceptions now. Thus, the full interpretation of **munugatai** makes it a thread that connects the past, present, and future.”*

Over the course of this 3-day event, participants were able to actively engage in very meaningful activities that clearly transmitted the concepts of “how we remember, how we share and how we create.” A solid presentation by Eric Wada on an Okinawan creation story and the analogy of the life-cycle of ocean coral to the generational evolution of our existence to honor, appreciate and respect the teachings of our ancestors set the foundation for other powerful and enriching experiences that awaited everyone.

Among the thought-provoking workshops, **Micah Mizukami**, associate director at the Center of Oral History -UHM, illustrated how oral history can be approached from an indigenous perspective. A panel discussion with hajichi (tattoo) artist **Moeko Heshiki**, local musician/song-writer **Brandon Ufugusuku Ing**, and dance instructor/choreographer **Yukie Shiroma** shared how they imbue their stories through their creative medium.

Another panel discussion moderated by **Kaiya Laguardia-Yonamine** revealed the choices and decisions that the younger generation make to express how they create their own stories. Hawai'i Peace and Justice officer, **Tina Grandinetti** joined artist **Dane Nakama**, curator **Josh Tengan** to share their views of the challenges they face in today's world and how it shapes their stories.

This year's Summit attracted people beyond Hawai'i. A contingent of university students from Okinawa were very present in their interaction with the other attendees. They enjoyed talking to the many other participants. A recurring comment from them was "People in Hawai'i know more about Okinawa than we do." A noticeable change was the larger number of young and first-time participants. Many from the continental US flew in just to attend after learning about the Summit through social media.

As with many other Loochoo Identity Summits, the attendees expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to connect with their Okinawan heritage, connect with other interesting folks and especially having a safe and comfortable space/time to share and express their own thoughts, feelings, and concerns.

For many, they came away from the Summit with much to think about; to reflect on their own identity and perhaps to define who they are or who they want to be.

