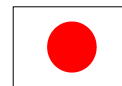




O.A.A. Newsletter



Okinawa Association of America, Inc., a Nonprofit Organization
16500 S. Western Avenue, #203, Gardena, CA 90247 (310) 532-1929

President's Message

Sadao Tome

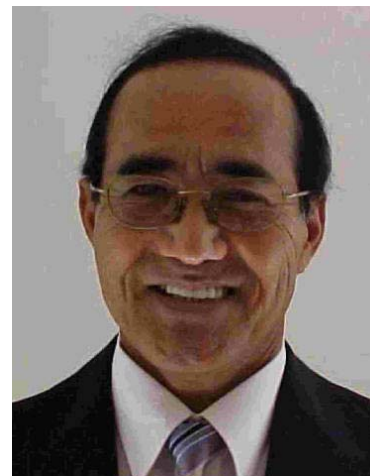
"Okagesamade" I thank all of you for your great contribution of your time and effort to make all our many events so successful in this year of 2005. Our recent Bazaar (our big fundraiser of the year) was most successful with the variety of entertainment, our Okinawa Soba and sata andagi with other delicious foods, new children's games and bargain shopping at the plants, produce

and crafts booths. We are currently putting our efforts towards the OAA Elevator Fund, so please promote the Alberto Shiroma and the Diamantes Benefit Concert on January 22, 2006, since half of the profit will benefit our Elevator Fund. Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

会長メッセージ

当銘貞夫

今年最後のニュースレターとなるわけですが、この一年間を通して、皆様のご協力のおかげで北米沖繩県人会の全てのイベントがと



どこおりなく遂行できましたことに深く感謝いたします。バザーは大勢の方々の努力で大成功でした。中間のエントリーテインメントもよかったですと思います。琉球大学の三教授が UCLA で移民の研究を

来年も会員の皆様と共にがんばっていく所存です。

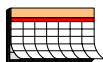
「デアアマンテス・ショー」を予定しています。切符売り上げ金の半分はエレベーター基金に寄付されますので、他の部所にも働きかけ多数のお友達をお誘いの上、切符の販売にご協力をお願いします。

わらず、皆様のお心遣いをお願いいたします。来年二十二日に

されてバザーに立ち寄られ、ポケットマネーから寄付をされました。ご存じのようにバザーは県人会の大きな運営資金源になっております。



行事予定表



- 12月3、10、11、17、18、2005
年末助け合い運動
- 1月3日 ボランティア・デー
- 1月7日 カラオケ
- 1月15日 新年宴会
- 1月22日 アルベルト城間コンサート
- 2月4日 カラオケ
- 2月7日 ボランティア・デー
- 2月15日 婦人部ハラス・インディアン
カジノ・ファンドレイザー
- 2月25日 婦人部クッキングとクラフト
- 3月4日 カラオケ
- 3月5日 婦人部親睦会
- 3月7日 ボランティア・デー
- 4月1日 カラオケ
- 4月4日 ボランティア・デー
- 4月5日 婦人部リーガン図書館見学
- 5月2日 ボランティア・ランチ
- 5月21日 謡やびら踊やびら(芸能部)



Calendar of Events



- Dec. 3, 10, 11, 17, 18, 2005
End of Year Charity Drive
- Jan. 3, 2006 Monthly Volunteer Day*
- Jan. 7, 2006 Karaoke
- Jan. 15, 2006 New Year's Party
- Jan. 22, 2006 Alberto Shiroma Concert
- Feb. 04, 2006 Karaoke
- Feb. 07, 2006 Monthly Volunteer Day*
- Feb. 15, 2006 Fujinbu Harrah's
Indian Casino Fundraiser
- Feb. 25, 2006 Fujinbu Cooking
& Craft class
- Mar. 04, 2006 Karaoke
- Mar. 05, 2006 Fujinbu Shinbokukai
- Mar. 07, 2006 Monthly Volunteer Day*
- Apr. 01, 2006 Karaoke
- Apr. 04, 2006 Monthly Volunteer Day*
- April 05, 2006 Fujinbu Reagan Library
field trip
- May 02, 2006 Monthly Volunteer Day*
- May 07, 2006 Women of the Year
Luncheon
- May 21, 2006 Utayabira, Wuduyabira

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

ANNOUNCEMENT

"Celebrate 2006 - The Year of the Dog"



Date: Sunday, January 15, 2006

Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Place: Quiet Cannon Restaurant

at Montebello Golf Course

Cost: \$35.00 (Combination Filet Mignon/Salmon)

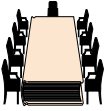
Reservation deadline - January 8, 2006

(\$45.00 for late reservations)

Note: See separate insert for reservation form.

**Remember-bring your ticket-

"No ticket means No meal".



2005 OAA, Inc. MEMBERSHIP GENERAL MEETING



Congratulations!

Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai scholarship recipients

On Sunday, November 13, 2005, OAA, Inc. held its annual Membership General Meeting at the Yamauchi Building from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. The Agenda included OAA's financial report, annual reports from all the Committees and this year, the election of eight Board of Directors. Since the OAA President has a 2-years term, (Article 23, Section 12.2 of our By-Laws), Sadao Tome will serve another year. Each Board Member serves a 2-year term. (Article 10, Section 10.4 of our By-Laws). Board Members shall be eligible for reelection without limitation on the number of terms they may serve, provided they continue to meet the required qualifications.

The eight nominees were: Sadao Tome, Chogi Higa, Haruo Yamashiro, Ethel Asato, Helene Shimane, Kenneth Kamiya, Shigeko Yamauchi and Pedro Agena. With no other nominee from the floor, member Takako Yamashiro moved that the members present accept the slate

of the eight nominees. Masao Tobaru seconded.

CONGRATULATIONS to all eight nominees!! Thank you for your continued dedication in serving the membership through 2007. Next year, in 2006, the remaining seven Board of Directors will conclude their 2-year term and will be up for reelection. It is then that a new President will be elected for the 2007 year.

There were 28 members in attendance and of those, 26 were qualified to vote. A lively discussion took place regarding ways of attracting more members to take an active role in selecting their leaders. If you have any suggestions that will help make OAA better, please send them to the Board for consideration. The 15 Board of Directors are there to work for you, as do all the Chairpersons of the over twelve Committees OAA has. Please come and help and get involved in your organization. (Jane H. Kuniyoshi)

Proudly representing the OAA, Joseph Jones and Sayuri Kinjo were this year's Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai scholarship recipients. The Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai annually holds their fundraising events highlighted by an award ceremony presenting scholarships to those students who have accomplished their studies in many areas of Japanese culture, such as calligraphy; flower arrangements; Japanese language; martial arts; odori; or tea ceremony. This year, both Joseph and Sayuri were recipients of recognition in Okinawan dance. Joseph and Sayuri have continuously studied the past 13 years under the direction of instructors of Tamagusukuryu Kansen-kai Yonamine Keiko and Majikina Honryu Majikina Aiko, respectively. Joseph is also a recipient of Shinjinsho and Yushusho, the competitive concourse with the Okinawan dancers in Okinawa. Sayuri has dedicated many years to community services through her dance par-

ticipations. Both of their perseverance of training and dedication to the community certainly were recognized by the OAA and ultimately rewarded by this scholarship. An appreciation is extended to the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai for giving this opportunity and encouragement to our youth to study the Japanese culture by rewarding their efforts. This year's fundraising performance, representing various prefectures, was very creative and festive with many participants. The audience enjoyed the afternoon of variety show. Congratulations again to Joseph and Sayuri and wishing continued success as they study at their respective colleges. (Aiko Tokunaga)



Election at General Membership Meeting: Eight Board of Directors elected for 2 year-term, L to R: Pedro Agena, Haruo Yamashiro, Ken Kamiya, Chogi Higa, Sadao Tome, Shigeko Yamauchi, Helene Shimane and Ethel Asato

End of the Year Charity Drive

For Keiro Health Services

Location: Torrance Mitsuya
Marketplace

Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Dates: December

3, 10, 11, 17, 18, 2005

We need at least 4 people at a
time (2 at each door)

We need you - Please help us!

Call OAA

at (310)532-1929 to sign up



OAA General Cleanup Day

In spite of the heat, it was so great to see 34 people working so hard during OAA's GENERAL CLEANUP DAY on October 30, 2005. They came as early as 8:00 AM with work gloves, rags and buckets ready to clean, clean, clean! Thanks to their hard work, we accomplished the following things:

The Yamauchi Building: scraped off peeling paint & painted, Cleaned restrooms, scrubbed the kitchen, Cleaned all tables and chairs. In Higashi Building: Cleaned restroom, mirrored wall, organized storage shelves, trashed throwaways (broken, worn-out, unusable) from storage area, Organized donated rummage items. In parking lot: trimmed Ficus trees. We continued on Tuesday's Volunteers Work Day & completed the rest: Vacuumed & mopped the floors in Higashi & Yamauchi Bldgs, Took bags of recyclable cans/bottles to recycling center, Returned tents/ rice cooker to JCI in room #103: Cleaned restroom, cleaned all table tops, cleaned 2 refrigerators, vacuumed the carpet.

Special thanks to our 34 hardworking volunteers - you are our heroes! Jimmy & Mary Ishiara, Jane & Kevin Kuniyoshi, Pedro & Teresa Agena, Takako & Haruo Yamashiro, Sadao & Aiko Tome, Ken Kamiya, Keiko Morris, Bob & Yoko Maeda, Charlotte Gibo, Elaine Higa, Hiroshi Yamauchi, Julian Ely, Kay Goda, Shigeko Yamauchi, Seiichi Shima, Chogi Higa, Masanobu Ajifu, Dick Enomoto, Ethel Asato, Sachiko Arakaki, Masao Tobaru, Miyoko Higa, Helene Shimane, Rose Takushi, Emiko Walton, Sachiko Kawamoto, Arikuni Shima, Kikuo Kuraya, *Naomi Endow, Kimiko Goya, Tomiko Akamine cleaned up on Tuesday.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious Goya Champuru, Pork Tofu, hotdogs, chicken, rice prepared by OAA's chief cook, Keiko Morris Maasan!

The OAA Center belongs to all of us - Please join us next time!

Ippee Niffee Deebiru!

(By Ken Kamiya)

Katrina Hurricane Victims Relief Fundraiser

Special thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the Katrina Hurricane Victims Relief Fundraiser sponsored by the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai. Our OAA donated a total of \$1,000 to help the many people who lost their homes, pets, jobs, ev-

erything and had to be uprooted to shelters elsewhere. It will probably take many years to rebuild their homes and community. We hope our donations will show them how much we care about their well-being. Ippee Niffee Deebiru. (By Chogi Higa)

Keiro Kansha No Hi Celebration

It is raining with thunder and lightning today. What surprising weather it is after our last heat wave! This is God's blessings being showered on all of our 75+ seniors for Keiro Kansha No Hi Day.

Our Keiro Kansha No Hi Party last Sunday was a huge success with standing room only for our many "younger" volunteers. We sent 200 invitations to our 75+ Senior members and 81 of them came to our celebration and received their special manju. We were so pleased to receive 135 RSVP replies which helped us plan more efficiently.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious "Maasan" Shibui Soup made by Itsumi Jacomo & Katsuko Arakawa

of the Uchinaguchi Class, Karaoke Club and the Teruya Sokyoku Kenkyukai. Then to the buffet table of more delicious potluck dishes. Surely everyone gained an extra pound!

Birthdays for June through December were celebrated with cake and the birthday song. Wonderful entertainment by Ryukyu Koku Matsuri Daiko with Kohki & Grace Nishioka, Majikina Honryu with Michelle Yamashiro and OAA Fujinbu ladies with 2 eisa dances. Toko Miyagi sang 2 songs especially for our senior members. Many people went home happy with their prizes won playing BINGO.

It is vital for all of us to get together for eating, celebrating and lots of fun so we can stay young and healthy!

(Helene Shimane)

OAA PRESENTS "Alberto Shiroma and the Diamantes Benefit Concert in Los Angeles"

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00 (all general seats)

Place: Redondo Beach Performing Arts Theater

To benefit the OAA Elevator Fund and

the 100th Anniversary of Immigration in Peru

Pre-show: Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, Peru Baila &

Majikina Honryu Dance

Tickets sold at:

OAA Center Office (310) 532-1929

Restaurant Kotosh at Kamiyama (310) 257-1363

Mickey Seki Jewelry (213) 617-2662

Mario's Peruvian Sea Food Restaurant (323) 466-4181

Uyehara Travel (213) 680-2499



Keiro Kansha no Hi: Fujinbu ladies do "Eisa Dance" for 75+ senior members honorees.

婦人部便り

一雨ごとに朝夕の寒さも厳しくなってきました。

二〇〇五年もいよいよ押しせまりました。経済情勢は中国を除き世界各国で根強い不景気が続き、消費者の生計状況も好転している様には感じられません。会員の皆様方には色々とお出費が重なる時期で大変だと存じますが、どうぞ明るく健康で有意義な年末年始をお過ごし下さいませ、念願致しております。

さて、会員の高齢化に伴い九年間も婦人部の活動が小休止状態でありました。婦人部では、どのようにして活性化を計ろうかと思案に就いておりましたが一月に立てた行事日程に沿って実践致しました所、会員が増加して現在、婦人部には百十六名の会員が在籍致しております。これも会員の皆様か婦人部の活動に関心を寄せになり、ご協賛の実をお示し下

さったお陰でございます。

婦人部では、親睦会で公約致しました様に十月のOAA理事会で三千万をビルディング・ファンドにそめて百ドルをエレベーター・ファンドに寄付致しました。これも、偏に歴代婦人部長始め会員の皆様が色々な行事で貯蓄して下さったお陰でございます。もうすぐ、山内ビルディング内にある寄付欄に婦人部の名前が命名される事でしょう。歴代婦人部員の皆様には心から感謝申し上げます。本当にありがとうございます。この様にして婦人部の現金が有意義に使用出来る事に対してとても誇りに思います。

ニューズレターの英語欄にて掲載してありますので是非ご覧になって頂きたく存じます。尚、詳細は順次、婦人部便りにて発表致します。本当に人生は長いようで短いものです。ですから人生爽快に過ごそうではありませぬか。二〇〇六年度は一人でも多くのお母さまやおばあさまが婦人部に入会して頂き英語、日本語そしてウチナーグチで交流を深めウチナーンチュ精神をお互いに分かち合っ

会員部便り

去る五月に会員費未納者宛てに二〇〇五年度会費納入の通知をお送りいたしました。会費を納めになった方々には心からお礼を申し上げます。その通知でお知らせ致しました通り会費を納めにならなかった方々のお名前はOAA会員名簿から削除致しましたのでご了承ください。二〇〇五年十二月一日現在、北米沖繩県人会の会員数は合計六百二十二世帯です。今後とも一人でも多くの方の入会をつのり我が県人会の輪を広げていきたいと思っております。皆さんのご協力をお願い致します。二〇〇五年度の新会員は三十九人です。ありがとうございます。三月九日の調査では八〇歳以上は百三十八です。毎年メンバー費は九月までに納入して下さいようお願い致します。メンバーシップに関するご質問やご意見は、OAAオフィス(310-532-1929)までお問い合わせ下さい。

FUJINBU 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- *Sunday, January 15 OAA New Year's Party
 - Wednesday, February 15 Harrah's Indian Casino Fundraiser
 - Saturday, February 25 Cooking class - Okinawan Nantu
 - Craft - fabric flower corsage - Aiko Tome
 - Sunday, March 5 Shinboku kai
 - Wednesday, April 5 Field trip to Ronald Reagan Library
 - Sunday, May 7 Woman of the Year Luncheon
 - *Sunday, May 21 UtaYabira WuduYabira
 - Saturday, June 24 1:00 pm -Sashiko Class - Yoko Tamae
 - 3:00 pm -eisa practice -Mieko Shima
 - Saturday, July 8 1:00 pm -Sashiko Class - Yoko Tamae
 - 3:00 pm -eisa practice -Mieko Shima
 - Sunday, July 16 OAA Picnic (eisa performance)
 - *Sunday, August 20 7th Anniversary - Open House
 - Saturday, August 26 Cooking class - Okinawa Soba, rafute
 - Mieko Shima, Keiko Morris, Kimiko Goya
 - Okinawan cooking video-Toguchi, Hatsumi
 - Sunday, September 17 Keiro Kansha no Hi (eisa performance)
 - *Sunday, October 1 OAA Bazaar
 - *October 12 - 15 4th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai
 - Wednesday, November 1 Fujinbu planning meeting
 - Saturday, November 25 Craft class-Diaper Cake -Helene Shimane
 - December Merry Christmas!
- (* denotes Fujinbu will help at OAA event)

O.A.A. Membership

In May of this year, the Membership Committee sent out reminder notice to members who had delinquent dues. For those who responded with their payment, thank you very much. However, for those who did not, and have not paid as of this Newsletter mailing, we regret we'll have to drop you from our roster and you will no longer be receiving OAA's Newsletters, due to the high cost of mailing.

As of December 01, 2005, we currently have 622 household Members. Thank you and "Mensore" (Welcome) to our 39 new Members. We also have 138 Members who are 80 years and older. We value our Members! Please join! See insert for membership renewal form. If you have any questions regarding Membership, please contact the OAA, Inc. of- fice at (310) 532-1929.



Fujinbu presented \$3,100 check to Ken Kamiya for the Building Fund Donors Wall and Elevator Fund.

Jr. Study Tour Report



2005 OAA BAZAAR

As I sit here, trying to write this article, my mind draws a blank. I can't just describe the most memorable moment while I was in Okinawa - I doubt I have such a thing. The whole experience was memorable. From the moments spent with my family to the newly made friends. I also learned a lot while I was on this trip. I learned about team work and the importance of remembering. It was only with using teamwork that I could communicate with the other participants on the tour, row Sabani boats, win games with the local high school students or learn about the history and culture of Okinawa. Remembering is the most important. By remembering, we can never forget the faces of our friends, relatives and guides. The smiles of Mr. Uema and his staff stay in my mind and make me want to work hard to succeed in life. By remembering, we also keep alive the history of our past. The past can hold terrors of

war, but if we remember, we can make sure that these terrors do not repeat themselves. By remembering, we can keep alive the pride we take in being who we are. The last thing I remember is when our whole group got together for a big group hug. We forgot about leaving the next day, forgot about our differences and our troubles, we let everything go...we just embraced one another and silently, I felt as if I would never forget these people. These people were my new family in my new home. I can't forget the colors of the rich red Shuri-Jo Castle, the yellow lights of Kokusaidori, the blues of the oceans in Churami Aquarium, the greens of the plants in Hiji Falls, the brown of the snakeskin sanshins, the semi...all these colors made my experience in Okinawa absolutely unforgettable!

(Michelle Yamashiro)



October 9th was a beautiful day for our annual fundraiser Bazaar. Our "maasan" Okinawa Soba was sold out early and the line for hot sata andagi was long as usual. The Teribento was very tasty, so people had it for lunch and took another home for dinner. The Spam Musubi, Nantu, desserts and snow cones were great to snack on throughout the day. Shoppers took advantage of the bargain priced vegetables, plants, handmade crafts, merchandise and children's hopi coats. The highlight of the afternoon was the entertainment by the "Pigs From the Sea" musical young dancers, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, Karate by the Arashiro family and the singing of Emi Ganeko. Mr. Frank Goya gave a Bonsai Demonstration and donated the bonsai for the top raffle prize. Thank you to all our many donors of the andagi ingredients, vegetables, plants, drinks/snow cones, food items, crafts, raffle prizes, merchan-

dise and monetary donations. Another successful Bazaar, thanks to all our many volunteers who worked with the "Yui Nu Kukururu" Uchinanchu Spirit with hearts together in unity for our OAA. Ipee Nifee Deebiru! (by Ethel Asato)

BAZAAR PROCEEDS FOR 2005

Teri-Bento.....	\$2,151.00
Okinawa Soba.....	\$1,904.50
OAA Merchandise.....	\$ 609.00
Crafts.....	\$ 595.00
Sata Andagi.....	\$ 569.00
Uchinaguchi Booth.....	\$ 562.00
Vegetables.....	\$538.55
Snow Cones/Drinks.....	\$383.50
Spam Musubi.....	\$ 352.00
Raffle.....	\$ 272.00
Plants.....	\$ 238.00
Rummage.....	\$ 181.10
Children's Games.....	\$ 163.00
YOSC Beef Jerky.....	\$ 99.00
Marukai Merchandise Donations\$ 60.75
Monetary Donations.....	\$ 650.00
Total	\$9,328.40
Expenses.....	\$1,842.43

Net: \$7,485.97



Michelle Yamashiro danced "Kanayo" at the Welcome Party of the Jr. Study Tour.



Bazaar: Mieko Matsukawa, Nitta & Haruo Ishihara announce the winners of the Raffle Prizes.

アメリカ・エナジック社と
県人会婦人が寄付金

バザー盛大に
琉大三教授も参加

電解水生生成器(還元水)メーカー・レベラックで一躍発展を遂げているエナジック社(本社東京、大城博成社長)のアメリカ・ロサンゼルス支店副社長・大城博樹さんが十月中旬に県人会を訪れ五千ドルのチェックを建設資金に提供した。

また北米沖繩県人会婦人部の呉屋君子部長が三千ドルのチェックを県人会館建設資金の一部に役立ててくださいとケン神谷建設委員長に手渡した。

北米沖繩県人会がロサンゼルス市の隣接都市ガーデナ市に移設してから六年が経過、三つのビルを改造、北米沖繩県人会センター、山内ビル、東ビルとして会員に利用してもらっている。経費の合計百五十万ドルは殆んど会員達の努力により、基金募集したものである。北米沖繩県人会センター・ビルの二階には事務所と図書室があるが、階段を使用しなければならぬので、特に高齢の人々に不便をきたしている。去年より一大キャンペーンを実施、エレベーター設置の基金募集を開始した。工事完成費用は約十二万ドルが必要となる。寄付金提供に当り大城副社長は「当協会長よりエレベーター設置必要の説明があり、寄付金が急務とのことでしたので、提供いたしました。北米沖繩県人会の皆様には公私共にお世話になり感謝いたしております」と語った。来年一月二十六日にはアルベルト城間さんによるドイツ移民百周年記念式典に参加途中、北米沖繩県人会主催ロサンゼルス公演をして、同基金募集に協力することになっている。(当銘貞夫)

非営利団体(Non Profit Organization)としての県人会運営はボランティアの懸命な努力と寄付金によってまかなわれている。バザーは県人会の資金調達の最も重要な手段となつてい

る。今年のバザーは十月九日会館のパーキング場にブースを設置、パーベキュー弁当、サーターアンダギー、ホットドッグ、植木、盆栽、野菜、沖繩そば、古着、ゲーム、かき氷などが販売され、約千人の人数があり、特に人気があつた沖縄そば、サーターアンダギーの売場には長い行列ができた。婦人部が弁当の係、青壮年部がパーベキュー、ヤングオキナワンプズがホットドッグなどと各部で分担した。ランチタイムには、琉球国祭太鼓やミュージカル「海から豚」に出演した子供達のダンス、琉球民謡やカチャーシーも披露され、来客をもてなした。ヤングオキナワンの山内ヒロシ部長の指導の下、若い二世・三

世達が和気藹々と会場設置や準備及び接客にせわしく動き回っている姿がたのしく、人目をひいていた。

午後になつて、琉球大学名誉教授の比屋根照夫さん、法学部教授・理学博士の前門晃さん、同じく法文学部教授の上里賢一さんの三教授がカリフォルニア大学ロサンゼルス校(CUCLA)で移民特に沖縄からの移民の調査を終え、県人会に立ち寄った。折しもバザーの真つ最中、「ロサンゼルスに来るのは七年ぶりですが、大勢の人に会うことができて、光栄です。ここはまるで古き良き沖縄に巡りあつたような気分です」と、比屋根名誉教授は県人会より差し入れの沖縄そばを食べながら、昔を懐かしむような面持ちで語った。前門教授は「研究費を節約して県人会に提供致します、エレベーター建設に少しでもお役にたてれば」と百ドルをドローネイトされた。(当銘貞夫)



Uchinaguchi Class
3rd Anniversary Celebration

Haisai, gusuuyoo, chuu uganabira, mensoochabitan were not the only Okinawan words heard on Sunday, November 27th in the Yamauchi Building. There were 15 individuals or groups who introduced themselves, told about their (royal) families, recounted growing up on a pig farm, explained tasty recipes or performed skits in Uchinaguchi, Okinawan Hogen. It was the 3rd Anniversary Celebration of the OAA's Uchinaguchi Class which is taught twice a month by Mr. Chogi Higa. The large crowd was also treated to excellent music and dance by the husband and wife group "Miruku" from Okinawa along with three local musicians: Nao Magami, Akira Norose, and Chris Ono. Miruku sold their CDs at a bargain price and autographed by "Boo and Terumi". The afternoon was fun, spiced up by

some hilarious moments during the skit by Ken, Pedro and Itsumi, sanshin playing by Shima Sensei and Morris Sensei with drum and whistles accents by Ajifu san and Tobaru san and talk of the 4th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai next October, 2006. M.C. Kimiko Goya kept the audience tuned in with excellent English and Japanese recaps of each presentation. And not only did everyone dine sumptuously to an incredible potluck, but most people ended up with a delicious take-home box for dinner. Certificates of Achievement were given to first, second and third year students of "Higa Shinshii." Special thanks go to many people for their help including the kitchen crew led by Keiko Morris, the musicians, students, cooks and the friendly and enthusiastic audience.

"めんそーれ" Karaoke Club

First Saturday of the month (第一土曜日)
7:00 PM to 10 PM
OAA Center-Yamauchi Building
for OAA Members only
(\$5.00 fee per person for snacks)
Chairperson: Pedro Agena
Contact: Office (310) 532-1929, Hours (10am to 4pm)
Karaoke CD: Okinawa music (うちなーうた)



- English (英語)
- Spanish (スペイン語)
- Japanese (演歌)



The Uchinaguchi Class meets in room 103 in the OAA Office Building on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month. For OAA members, there is a tiny \$2 snack fee per month - Newcomers are welcome at any time! Mensoore! (By Julian Ely)

Dr. Robert Garfias The Order of the Rising Sun Award

Dr. Robert Garfias received the Order of the Rising Sun Award. At age 72, Dr. Robert Garfias received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon from the Govern-

ment of Japan at a special ceremony with the Emperor in Tokyo on May 20, 2005. He was recognized for his lifetime contributions to the research and understanding of Japanese culture

and music. At UCLA, his doctoral research for his Ph.D in Ethnomusicology focused on Gagaku, the Music of the Japanese Imperial Household.

Dr. Garfias taught at the University of Washington where he was one of the founding members of the Center

of the Asian Arts. He now is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of CA at Irvine. He served 10 years on the National Council on the Arts of the National Endowment for the Arts. For over 40 years, he was dedicated to the study of Gagaku, Noh Theater, Kabuki, Japanese Koto Music and Okinawan Classical Music. He has taught its history, theory and instruments at UCLA, University of Washington, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine.

Dr. Garfias has continued a close relationship with the Gagaku Department of Japan's Imperial Household Agency. In 1959, he provided support for the first US tour of their ensemble. In October, 2004, he assisted in the presentation of first Gagaku concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Congratulations, Dr. Robert Garfias! (Ailo Tokunaga)



OAA members congratulate Dr. Garfias and Mrs. Garfias
L to R: Katsuko Arakawa, Aiko Tokunaga, Keiko Morris, Heather Matsunaga, Joy Afuso, Naomi Endow and Jane Kamiya.



Stories from the past, part 3

Sunday, November 6 was the third in the "Stories From the Past" series presented by the Young Okinawans of Southern California. The aim of the series is to share knowledge throughout the generations. In particular, the presentation focused on the history of Japanese-Americans during World War II - the veterans of the famous 442nd regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion with the screening of "A Tradition of Honor" from the Go For Broke Foundation. This is a documentary about the Japanese American units that fought during World War II. As the Japanese-Americans have a strong history in Hawaii, there tended to be a Hawaiian Japanese-Americans versus the Mainland Japanese-Americans slant to the

film but this is an important tone not to be excluded as some individuals interviewed in the film expressed that this was the general mood of the Japanese-American battalions. Particularly interesting is the interview with a Korean-American who served in a Japanese-American unit. To paraphrase - "We are all Americans" so he stayed with his unit and was not transferred.

Given the subject matter, naturally the American internment camps and the German concentration camps were covered in the film. For those not familiar with the treatment of Japanese-Americans on the mainland as compared to Hawaii at that time, it was very moving to hear veterans from Hawaii speak of their first visit

to an internment camp and how it unified the soldiers in the unit. Also moving was when they served in Europe and witnessed the recently abandoned German internment camps and contemplated the camps back home. After the screening, two veterans (Tets Asato and Michael Takamine) spoke of their background as Japanese-Americans and of their experiences as veterans of World War II. These proud men were delighted to share their stories and answer questions from the audience. What was unexpected that evening was an audience member who shared his experience as an interpreter in Okinawa as a Nisei veteran in World War II. Holding back tears, he recounted one particular experience that haunts him to this day where he utilized his Japanese language to call out to those

Okinawans hiding in the caves, suddenly smoke streaked out and he does not know if he was able to save anyone. His story mirrored one of the interviewees in the film who as an American soldier in Okinawa interrogated one of his old Japanese classmates.

World War II was an interesting time in American and world history and is a much studied matter. Hence, "A Tradition of Honor" should command the attention of not only Japanese-Americans but also other minority groups today that face similar issues as history tends to repeat itself. Visit the Go For Broke website: <http://www.goforbroke.org> to see film clip and interviews with veterans. (Mariko Walton)





From the Editorial Division

会報部



本誌は北米沖縄県人会の正式刊行物です。関係記事は理事会の承認を得た上で最終原稿をEメール(nijima@pacbell.net)でお送り下さい。締切期限を守るようお願い致します。次回原稿締切は**2006年2月29日**です。

*This is the official newsletter of Okinawa Association of America, Inc. Members' information, Committees' news, etc., are welcomed. Please e-mail your article, after having obtained approval of the Board of Directors, to nijima@pacbell.net no later than **February 29, 2006** for the next issue. Please meet the deadline.*

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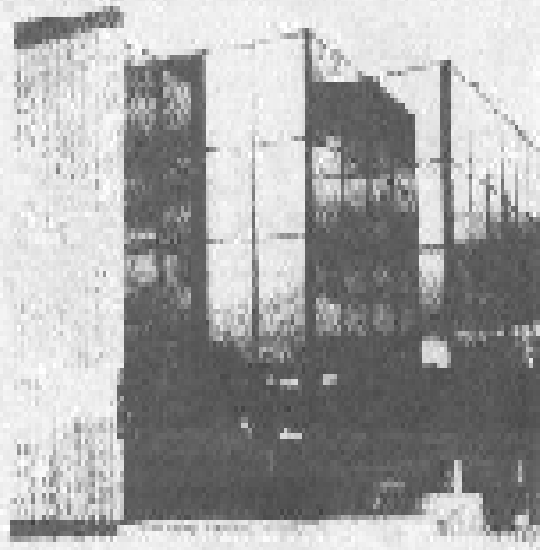
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We Have a New Okinawa Center
"CHVHISSA YA"
(Fulfilling dreams, one step at a time)
You can make a difference!
Our future depends on you!



OAA Inc.では当会員のみならず、アメリカ国内外の各沖縄県人会及びその関係者、沖縄県庁等に本会報約700部を発送しています。



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Stamp



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