Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy holiday season as we end a successful 2007. With a new slate of officers coming on board soon, I look forward to an even more exciting year in 2008.

It has been an honor serving as president in 2007. I wish to thank all of you for supporting Hui Makaala. This past year we celebrated our sixtieth anniversary and successfully raised funds for our scholarship program through our golf tournament and our fashion show. I am so grateful to all the individuals who volunteered for these events, which enable us to continue providing scholarships to upcoming 4-year college students and to perpetuate our Okinawan heritage.

I would especially like to thank Ryan Okunaga for chairing the golf tournament and Karen Shishido and Patsy Takaesu for chairing the fashion show. The inspiring success of both events were due to their willingness to take charge of those events.

Continued on Page Eight

Takaesu named 2007 Hui Makaala Uchinanchu of the Year

Hui Makaala is proud to honor PATSY TAKAESU as its 2007 Uchinanchu of the Year. Patsy has been a loyal and staunch supporter of Hui Makaala, especially with her involvement of the annual fashion show event serving in every capacity: Chair, Co-Chair, and Advisor. This year, she co-chaired Hui Makaala’s 60th year celebration since being chartered at our 38th annual fashion show with design headliners from Okinawa, Japan.

Patsy and husband, Minoru (but affectionately called Mino), are also great supporters of the HUOA Okinawan Festival where they have worked endlessly at the Hui Makaala food booth. Mino is a great supporter of his wife’s endeavors and should also be recognized by Hui Makaala.

Patsy and Mino have a son, Mel. Mel and wife, Shirley, reside on Maui with Patsy’s sole grandson, Jake. They love to visit with their grandson who is now 4 years old. Patsy was born in Pepeekeo on the Big Island.

Patsy has many talents, some of which are: cooking, baking, arts and crafts, hula, acting. Her claim to fame was an unprecedented appearance on the stage of Carnegie Hall playing the okoto.

Her entire work career spanned 25 years with C. Brewer and Company as an Administrative Assistant.
Let’s play ball!

SOFTBALL
League: March - May
Sundays at Halawa District Park
If you are interested in playing, please contact
Vaughn Arakaki @ 224-6917 (cel.)

VOLLEYBALL
League: January - April
Sundays at Waipahu High School Gymnasium
Hui Makaala has two (2) teams.
Volleyball experience preferred.
If you are interested in playing, please contact
Lisa Tobar Inouye @ 597-8588 (res.), 722-0517 (cel.), or ikea-luvr@hotmail.com
or
Deanna Lee @ 525-7611 (bus.) or 341-3884 (cel.) by mid-January.

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Congratulations to AMY TAMARIBUCHI on the birth of her son, Jake. Mother Amy says she is so busy and so tired and to tell everyone “hi” and to take care. You may contact Amy at amymiki@yahoo.com

Congratulations also to MARCIA and MARK FUKEDA on the birth of their son, Marques, who already turned one last month. The Fukeda’s are part of the entourage attending the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans along with the Shishido’s (Dean, Lisa (2005 HM President), Evan, Karen (1993 HM President), Treyson). GO WARRIORS! Heard Ryan Okunaga might also be attending. After the Sugar Bowl win, the Shishido’s are off to DisneyWorld with the kids for another week.

Continued on Page Three
I was just going over some old issues and saw the call for names of old scholarship recipients. I don’t know which ones are missing, but here are the ones I remember:

1950: Jane Adaniya, graduated from Farrington. She was the oldest of nine children, lived in Kalihi Valley, pig farmers. She is now married to Professor Minoru Oshiro, head of a Christian University in Okinawa. Have you read the book, “Mother’s story of the Battle of Okinawa”? Well, he is the son who loses a leg in the battle, about middle school age. After the war, he attends UH then goes to seminary on the mainland. When he comes back to Hawaii, he meets Jane, I think at a Hui Makaala Christmas Party. Got married, is a minister at a Baptist Church in Itoman, then relocates and starts this Christian College. Jane and I were in Hui Makaala at the same time, and remember Dynamite Takushi well. Her younger sister was Ruth Adaniya…I don’t know if you remember her…taught at Leeward College, helped put together the thick book “Uchinanchu…a History of Okinawans in Hawaii”, and died of cancer. Jane has another sister Mildred, who lives with her 95-year old mother in Pearl City. I met Jane and husband when I went to Okinawa this past April. All info above needs to be verified.

1953: Toshio Higa from Kealia, Kauai. I remember this one because I applied for the scholarship too, but he got it. We both majored in science teaching. I don’t know how to get in touch with him.

1955: Rick (nickname) Higashionna, graduated from Farrington. Went on to get his Ph.D.

That’s all I know about scholarship recipients.

Another article that might be interesting…Hui Makaala Bowling. My husband and I were reading about the closing of MAK Bowl and we’re reminiscing about Hui Makaala bowling and the lanes we bowled at: Waikiki, Aloha, Varsity, Bowling City, Classic…wow!

Would be interesting to ask if older members can remember other alleys that they visited. Playmor, HCA3 by the airport, the one at the corner of Young/Kalakaua, Waialae, Kaimuki, Bowl O’Drome, Kalihi, Boulevard, Kelly’s, Kapiolani and, of course, the ones outside the city…in Wahiawa, Kailua, Kaneohe.

I wish I had time to be an investigator and reporter for you, but sorry, cannot. Gotta do my own newsletters. Good luck!

Signing off, your roving reporter

JANE TAKAYESU

Congratulations to CHARLIE HIGA on being inducted into the Hawaii Restaurant Association’s inaugural Hall of Fame. These inductees were selected from among food industry leaders who gained prominence before 1960. A celebratory dinner was held for these inductees on September 17, 2007 and proceeds benefited the restaurant association’s culinary scholarship program.

Continued on Page Six
Seven Graduates Awarded Scholarships in 2007

After careful deliberation, the Scholarship Committee selected seven outstanding recipients for Hui Makaala’s 2007 Scholarships. Ruby Uehara, Reid Yamashiro, Ryan Okunaga, Jennifer Waihee, Rena Reid, and Valerie Kato read through approximately 50 applications from eminently qualified and exceptional high school seniors across Hawaii to select recipients who are well-rounded, academically talented and who have exhibited a keen interest in the Okinawan culture.

On July 22, 2007, these recipients were celebrated for their achievements at a banquet at the Ala Moana Hotel. Members in attendance were honored by an inspirational and heartwarming speech by “2007 Mother of the Year”, Sally Okubo Lee. In addition, recipient Ellise Uyema beautifully sang “Someone to Watch Over Me” and recipient, Marlene Shimamura, and friends performed two traditional Okinawan songs to the delight of the audience. We are proud to award the Hui Makaala 2007 Scholarship to the following graduates who began their college education this past Fall, and wish them all the best in the future:

Sarah Fong - Parents, Dan & Jean Fong (members of Kin Chojin Kai)
Castle High School/Northern Arizona University ($2,000 Scholarship)

Ai Kobashigawa - Parents, Katsuyoshi Kobashigawa & Editha Dela Cruz
Farrington High School/University of Hawaii ($2,500 Scholarship)

Case Miyahira - Parents, Robin & Lily Miyahira
Iolani School/Occidental ($2,000 Scholarship)

Rendi-Ann Nagata - Parents, Naoki & Stacy Nagata
Waipahu High School/UC San Diego ($2,500 Scholarship)

Marlene Shimamura - Parents, Mitchel & Chikako Shimamura
Roosevelt High School/University of San Francisco ($2,500 Scholarship)

Ellise Uyema - Parents, Raymond & Fay Uyema (members of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai) Punahou School/University of Washington ($2,500 Scholarship)

Liane Yoshitsugu - Parents, Wallace & Lynn Yoshitsugu (members of Onna Sonjinkai)
Kaimuki High School/University of Hawaii ($2,000 Scholarship)
What a successful celebration of Hui Makaala’s 60th commemorative year since being chartered as an organization that was established to perpetuate the art and culture of the Okinawan people immigrating to Hawaii. The all-day scene began with 30-plus boutiques sharing their wares to the 1,000 or so attendees. Boutiques were made up of vendors with clothing attire, jewelry, gifts, arts, crafts, shoes, shampoos, snack items, sushi, sambaizuke, plants, and many other items of interest.

Raffle items dazzled the audience with handcrafted necklaces donated by Kensei, a jade bracelet donated by Dr. Lawrence Tseu, and a custom-made Victorian blouse by Jeanie Chun. In abundance were silent auction items welcoming the audience to bid for their favorite items. In the end, every silent auction item was sold.

Doors to the ballroom were opened at 11:30 a.m. and guests were greeted to the beautiful sounds of Dale Senaga at the piano. The tables were beautifully decorated with a plant and each setting received a wrapped CD of Okinawan songs, compliments of Hui Makaala.

A special commemorative program booklet was also placed at each individual setting as a memento. Hui Makaala was proud to have Linda Taira as our honorary emcee. Ms. Taira was a 4-year scholarship recipient and graduated as the class Valedictorian of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Hawaii. She received her Master’s Degree in Journalism from Columbia University in New York City. Linda kindly consented to come back home and donate her time for our 60th celebration.

As a special salute to our armed forces, Mandy Thronas-Brown began our event with the singing invocation of the Lord’s Prayer. It was a beautiful touch to our special event.

Hui Makaala pays tribute to MILLIE MORIYAMA, the Honorary Chair of this year’s fashion show for her many years of loyal support and assistance.

The entertainment during lunch was arranged and directed by none other than Keiko Ura of Radio KZOO and the most notable emcee in the Okinawan community. The program was, undeniably, a great achievement of all the sounds and colors of the Okinawan culture wrapped up in just 30 minutes—something we shall all remember for a long time to come.

And, then, the culminating portion of the day—the fashion show and all its glory!

Continued on Page Eight
Hui Makaala dishes out Oki-dogs at 25th Okinawan Festival

Once every year, the mysterious Oki-dog (a $6 concoction of flour tortilla, hot dog, shoyu chicken, chili and lettuce) becomes all the rage and the only place to get them is at the Okinawan Festival. Held at Kapiolani Bandstand Park on September 1-2, 2007, the festival attracted a record number of attendees who enjoyed a bon dance, performances by talented entertainers such as Rinken Band, Ryusei Daiko, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu, a concert by the Royal Hawaiian Band, and lots of delicious Okinawan food.

Thank you to everyone who helped to fundraise by pre-purchasing festival tickets from Hui Makaala (approximately $400 was raised for the benefit of our scholarship program). Thank you also to the following volunteers who, in good spirits, manned the Oki-dog booth on behalf of Hui Makaala. These volunteers gamely donned plastic gloves and caps and made sure the hungry masses were supplied with chili frank plates and Oki-Dogs on the last day of the festival.

Volunteers: Kevin Agena, Vaughn Arakaki, Joy Awakuni, Lloyd Higa, Lisa Inouye, Al Kakazu, Valerie Kato, Kuniko Kobashigawa, Kern Nishioka, Eric Nitta, Michele Nitta, Ryan Okunaga, Roxanne Ota (Former Scholarship Recipient), Corey Shibata, Wayne Shibata, Dennis Shimabukuro, Brent Suezaki, Grant Sumida, Mino Takaesu, Patsy Takaesu, Jenna Tamashiro (2006 Scholarship Recipient), Kira Tamashiro, Patrick Tomiyasu, Keith Ushijima, Jennifer Waihee, Lynne Waihee, Reid Yamashiro (and anyone else whose name was inadvertently missed on this list. Mahalo!).

Yamasato honored and Arakawa appointed

Continued from Page Three
More congratulations are in order for Hui Makaala members:

MAURICE YAMASATO for recently being honored at the 2007 Legacy Award Luncheon for his long-time support of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Maurice also served as the 1994-95 Hui Makaala President. Maurice’s wife, Jeanne, has also been a long-time supporter of Hui Makaala serving as Chair and committee member of the Scholarship Selection Committee for many years. Maurice is President of Yamasato Fujiwara Higa Associates.

DAVID ARAKAWA was recently named executive director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii and is the current President of the Hawaii United Okinawan Association.

Continued on Page Nine
HUOA Leadership Tour to Okinawa

This past year, the Hawaii United Okinawan Association sponsored a Leadership Tour to Okinawa for club leaders to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the Okinawan Culture. Hui Makaala nominated three club members, Jennifer Waihee, Valerie Kato, and Rena Takushi (Reid) to attend the tour from September 26 to October 8, 2007. Their trip was subsidized in part by HUOA and Hui Makaala. Jennifer, Valerie and Rena are deeply grateful and thankful to HUOA and Hui Makaala for this opportunity to visit Okinawa and learn about its rich culture and history. After their return to Hawaii, they were each asked to write an essay on their reflections of the tour. Their essays are as follows:

RENA TAKUSHI

I would like to give my sincere mahalo to the Hawaii United Okinawan Association, the Okinawan Prefectural Government, and most of all, to my club, Hui Makaala for nominating me for the HUOA Leadership Study Tour 2007.

There are no words or phrase that can summon the sincere appreciation for having this once in a lifetime journey to Okinawa. This was my first time to Okinawa, and the spirit of its people and culture will continue to resonate with me forever.

I was impressed and joyfully overwhelmed by the Okinawa’s beautiful landscape and the resilient nature of the Okinawan people. After learning much about the atrocities of war and its impact on Okinawa’s livelihood, the most important value that has been imbued within me is ichiru takara or “life is precious”. I enjoyed listening to the stories of war survivors, the history of the Battle of Okinawa, and deeply reflecting on the enormous amounts of courage it must have taken to rebuild families, businesses and communities within Okinawa. I was mesmerized by the survivors’ determination and passion for world peace, not only for Okinawa, but for the entire world of humanity.

Our trip to Katsuren was the most memorable turning point for me. We were able to spend the evening with Daiichi Hirata and the children of his drama production who were middle and high school students. Learning and dancing with the children was a great hands-on experiential activity and I felt like a child again. It is rare to be able to go back into time and remember what it feels like to be a child especially when you have great demands as an adult!

After our dance activity, we were able to watch a part of a drama scene that was filled with music, dance and emotion. My eyes filled with tears as the children exuded enthusiasm and tenacity in their performance and story telling. These tears were for the realization that the Uchinanchu spirit binds and connects together, and even more so, that this wonderful spirit continues to reside within me. This reflection was very powerful as I felt somewhat disconnected from my heritage of being fourth generation Uchinanchu.

I was able to truly feel, from the bottom of my heart, a deep sense of appreciation for my family and most importantly for my own life. I come home to Hawaii with more opportunity to reflect on how I would like to live the rest of my life, and the kind of legacy I want to impart onto my children.

The reality of my generation is filled with a sense of hopelessness and war. I hope to strengthen the relationship between Hawaii and Okinawa and improve the quality of life for its people. My greatest wish is for the other regions of the world that are experiencing the hardships of war to learn from the experiences of Hawaii and Okinawa to cultivate the resiliency and humanistic qualities that we are truly capable of.

I’d like to again sincerely thank all the individuals and organizations in helping to make this trip very memorable.

Choo kukuru ru dee ichi
The heart is the most essential human quality,
- Rena Takushi

Continued on Page Ten
A few words from President Waihee

Continued from Page One

We also put forth other successful events, including the installation luncheon and the scholarship luncheon. I would especially like to thank Lisa Shishido and Valerie Kato for organizing these events, and Valerie Kato for chairing the scholarship committee.

I would also like to thank the executive officers and board members who served on our executive board and our board of directors. Without their direction and support, we would not realize the goals of our organization.

This year was an incredible experience, and your participation in and support of Hui Makaala have been invaluable. While I look back at what a great year we had, I also look forward to the year ahead.

My best wishes go to Val Kato as she assumes leadership of this fine organization. As the outgoing president, I ask that you support Val, just as you did me. With everyone’s help, Hui Makaala will continue to inspire and educate Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart.

Ippee nifee deebiru!
Did you know?

Continued from Page Six

ROBERT KAMEMOTO has joined Ohana Pacific Bank as the Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer after leaving Central Pacific Bank. Robert was the 1991 President of Hui Makaala. Robert and wife, Sharyn, are also staunch supporters of UH athletics.

LIZ TERUYA seems to be keeping herself busy at work and also taking good care of her mom. Liz has been flying back and forth to the mainland for mom’s treatments.

Congratulations to JON ITOMURA on being sworn in as the Hawaii United Okinawan Association’s President for year 2008 on January 12.

Congratulations to Co-Chairs of this year’s 60th anniversary commemorative celebration with the headlining scholarship luncheon and fashion show, PATSY TAKAESU and KAREN SHISHIDO.
VALERIE KATO

When I reflect upon my experiences in Okinawa, I am reminded of my earliest memories of Sunday school. As a child I recited “The Golden Chain”, a pledge reminding me that we are all golden links in a vast chain stretching around the world. In order to keep my link bright and strong, I promised to “think pure and beautiful thoughts, . . . say pure and beautiful words, and . . . do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends not only upon my happiness or unhappiness, but also those of others.” In doing so, it is the hope that “we all attain perfect peace.” I understood this to be a lesson of how interconnected we all are and how the actions of a single person can significantly affect many other people. This lesson was reaffirmed during my journey to Okinawa.

Never have I been to a land so similar to my own, full of faces that perfectly reflected mine, but whose recent history is so full of an alien sadness and tragedy. Four generations of my family in Hawaii have never had to live through anything remotely similar to the “Typhoon of Steel” endured by the people of Okinawa. Yet, despite this history, the “Okinawan Heart”, full of inspiring spirit, has endured with dignity. In our visit to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, Himeyuri Peace Museum, and Haebaru underground army hospital, I learned about the shocking devastation of the Battle of Okinawa. By seeing these places first-hand and speaking with survivors, I gained a glimpse – a brief understanding of the hardship, sacrifices, and ultimately the sheer will of the Okinawan Heart to flourish in the face of adversity. It is the same Okinawan Heart that I saw in the wish to teach future generations the lessons of that war and the value of peace. It is the same Okinawan Heart I saw in the people attending a massive rally to protest the ministry’s instruction to delete from history textbooks the fact that Okinawan civilians were forced to commit “mass suicide” by Japanese military during the war. As I was swallowed up by the crowd, I stood in awe over the sheer number of people, over 110,000, who came together on an unbearably hot and humid day because they were so passionate about the truth. Each individual had the commitment to making a difference and doing the right thing to make sure history is not forgotten so that future generations can learn from the past.

More than courage in the face of adversity, the Okinawan Heart is a palpable thing full of kindness, generosity, and optimism. The people I met in Okinawa always had a kind word to say and went out of their way to make me comfortable or make my experience a better one. From Governor Nakaima and Vice Governors Nakazato and Asato, who took time out of their extremely busy schedules to personally meet with our group, to my homestay family who opened their home to me and thought of my comfort above their own, to the cheerfulness of Gabe-san and Okuda-san who knowledgeably guided us through our journey, and to even the shopkeeper in Heiwa-dori who served me cookies while helping me to repackage my bulky souvenirs, the instant thoughtfulness and steady optimistic spirit I encountered touched me deeply and will never be forgotten.

When I left Okinawa, I gained more than the friendships I made with my fellow travelers. I gained more than the memories of a wonderful tour of a beautiful island full of castles steeped in Ryukyu history alongside the march of modern construction. When I left Okinawa, I think I finally understood what it means to be Uchinanchu.

I now see how important it is to preserve the Okinawan culture and spirit – this “Okinawan Heart” through which we are all connected. I am thankful to my club, Hui Makaala, HUOA, our leaders Jane Serikaku, David Arakawa and Laverne Higa-Nance, as well as the Okinawan Government and people who made this leadership tour possible. I feel invigorated and inspired by the Okinawan Heart I encountered and it is my hope to keep my link bright and strong by passing along what I learned and experienced so that I can make a difference, for my club, my community and for Hawaii.

-Valerie Kato
JENNIFER WAIHEE

As I reflect now on my experiences in Okinawa, I realize that what I discovered there is that the “the heart is the most essential human quality: choo kukuru ru dee ichi.”

In Okinawa, I discovered what true generosity and kindness entail. There’s no denying that the people of Okinawa are incredibly generous, not only with material things, but with words, gestures, and even precious time. My family in Nishihara, whom I have not been in contact with in many years, took two days from their busy schedules to take care of my friend Valerie and me, and made the difficult task look effortless. Our entire leadership group encountered the same generosity everywhere we went. Being in Okinawa brought out the best in everyone in the leadership group. Everyone seemed to want to spread the generosity and the kindness that we had been experiencing. We instinctively formed a familial community. In a mere two weeks, I felt a close bond to 17 individuals who, for the most part, were really little more than casual acquaintances a few days before.

In Okinawa, I discovered that kindness did not mean weakness, that generosity did not always mean complacency. On September 29, 2007, more than 110,000 people rallied in Ginowan to show their protest against the textbook revisions proposed by the Japanese government that would effectively deny that Okinawans had been coerced into massed suicides by Imperial troops during World War II. Though it was only a few days after I arrived, being at the rally was the pinnacle of my experience of Okinawa. Even today, when I think of that moment, I can feel it again. The odd sensation in my chest, the indescribable culmination of all my impressions, all my feelings of a country, a culture, a people—all at once, all in one place. The moment when I realized that the heart of Okinawa wasn’t just its generosity, its kindness, or its appreciation for life, but, rather, its indomitable spirit.

The feeling in the air that day was palpable. There was a strong sense of purpose and unity, everyone a part of this tremendous force coming together with singleness of mind. At that moment, a strong feeling overcame me that I couldn’t recognize or describe. For a moment, I was suddenly a part of it all. I was a part of something bigger: a force that included more than myself.

In Okinawa, I discovered myself. Returning home, I quickly resumed my regular lifestyle. I almost forgot the person I had become in Okinawa. I was so busy helping my club prepare for our annual fashion show that any free time I had I wanted to focus solely on myself. After the show finished, though, I was reminded of what that trip to Okinawa was really about.

Following the show I visited with the designers in their room and Kanna Yamauchi beckoned me to a corner. Given my nonexistent Japanese and her limited English, we had rarely spoken. Still, Kanna made me feel that we had established a friendship and a bond. She took out a beautiful green blouse from her suitcase and held it up for me to see. “Gift.” She said, smiling. This was much more generous than I could expect, so it took someone else to interpret it before I understood her intent. She wanted me to have it.

And there it was. It was like being in Okinawa again. Receiving something I’d done nothing to deserve for no other reason than that a generous person had a good feeling about me. It was then that I remembered Okinawa again and the person I was. The Yamauchis thought that people in Hawaii were generous and warm, but it was they who were. Through their kindness and generosity, they brought out a better side of me. The person I wanted to be. The person I could be.

I think about Okinawa now and the people I met there and experiences I had. I think about how generous people were and how they gave their hearts to us without a second thought of whether we deserved it. I think about that time when more than 110,000 people came together and how in one moment I could almost comprehend a spirit so strong that it overwhelmed me. I think of a young lady who carried that spirit to another country just to remind me and show me that strength of heart is not limited to a place.

Most of all, I think of the person I was in Okinawa and the person I want to be today. A person who can take the spirit I found in those islands and bring it back to my own. So my report is about saying thanks to the people of Okinawa for opening up their hearts and helping me find mine.
Gentle Reminder!
Hui Makaala Dues for 2008

If you haven’t already done so, please send in your $10 membership dues for Year 2008:
Gail Taira
c/o Hawaiian Candies and Nuts
707 Waiakamilo Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Name: ____________________________________________________________
(please print)

Address: ___________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________ Res. _________________ Bus. _________________ Cel.

E-Mail Address: _____________________________________________________________

Amount Enclosed: