



YOMITAN CLUB

August 2012, Issue #3

Haitai Yomitan members!!!

Shinnen-Enkai Update

A couple of months ago I received a list of those members who donated pupus at the Shinnen-Enkai party this past February. We would be remiss if we didn't mention all those individuals who participated and continue to support the ever-growing pupu servings. Arigato to: Karen and Ralph Okuhara (tropic and Greek salad); Joy and Kristen Murashige (corn salsa); Elva Furuya (mini riceballs); Sandy Tomita (furikake party mix); Melvin Horimoto (salsa); Gary Jitchaku (smoked marlin and cherry cheesecake); Willie Lam (chow mein); Margaret Muramoto (gandori rice and ogo); Dawn Fraser (soybeans and chips w/salsa); Nancy Gakiya (stuffed eggs); Jane Fujii (chips and ocean salad); Yvonne Higa (chow mein); Tracy and Nigel Hart (poke); Richard Nakasone (chips and dip); Thelma Lam (haupia mochi potato, haupia sweet potato pie and noodles); Yurie Takai (kinpira gobo and li hing apples); Sandra Tamasaka (chip and dip); Ichiro Tamashiro (namasu bitter melon); Sonya Yara (kamaboko dip); Karen Takara (veggie platter and dip and vegetarian rolls); Faye Ann Sasaoka (tofu poke); Janet Sasaoka (gau gee); Gary and Jacqueline Oyler (ogo); Casey Lam (edamame rice); Roxanne Yoshida (chikuya); Janice Ohisa (boiled peanuts); Linda Shishido (aburage salad); Ernest Nomura (soybean quinoa salad); Christine Sadoy (chicken w/cake noodles); Jeanette Kobayashi (peanuts); Tracey Okuhara (soybeans). **But wait, there's more:** Charlotte Higa (peanut butter mochi); Sandy Tomita (furikake crispix); Miyoko Iha (poi andagi); Nancy Ichikawa (taro chips); Wanda Miyashiro (mandoo); Lynn Suehiro (brownies); Doris Oshiro (assorted mochi); Larry Muramoto (assorted mochi); June Nakasone (pumpkin mochi); Liane Kaneshiro (grapes); Lillian Nakama (pineapple squares); Thelma Higa

(banana nut cake); Kaneshige's (nantu); Alice Sakumoto (pretzel treat); Roy Uyeda (fruit and nut scones); Haru Higa (dobash cake); Ed Higa (sweet chex mix); Laurie Yonamine (okoshi); Barbara Okada (pie); Dan Manalo (coffee cake). Whew. Arigato again for your outstanding support of our "pupu program". It keeps growing every year!

Yomitan Village Work - Study Program

We have not received a response to our request to Mayor Ishimine as yet. We will follow up with the Mayor in the near future.

Contact Fred Higa or Linda Takushi if interested in participating. Yomitan Village will select between 1 to 3 individuals to participate, depending on funding availability. Fred has talked to one member of the Kin Club who participated a couple of years ago and he says it was the best experience of his young life.

Yomitan Events Planning

The next major event for Yomitan Club was the Country Store at the 30th Okinawan Festival on September 1 & 2 at Kapiolani Park. Due to time constraints and picnic planning, we lost sight of the planning for the festival. All things considered, the Country Store did well. Much aloha and mahalo to all the volunteers who came out to support the event. Yomitan Club again partnered with Aza Yogi to sponsor the Country Store and worked well as a team. Lots of new products were put on sale as well as the normal produce items. Happy to say we sold just about everything we had in the "store". More info in the next issue.

In an effort to keep everyone informed on which families will be responsible for planning various Yomitan events, we will insure we send out a schedule via newsletters and posted to our website.

We encourage all member families to participate in the planning process. Yomitan Club normally has 3 major events every year, the Shinnen-Enkai, Picnic and Okinawan Festival. Participation in special events sponsored by HUOA are based on a rotation of HUOA member clubs. The **current schedule** for families to events are as follows:

2013 - Shinnen-Enkai - Ichikawa to Roxburgh

2012 - Picnic - Sadoy to Zakahi

2012 - Okinawan Festival - Abe to Howerton

The Board of Directors will be reviewing the process in how families are aligned for each event. It makes sense to "spread the wealth" so that the same families are not planning for the same events every year. We will be looking at different options/combinations to insure the process is an equitable one. All families are encouraged to "volunteer" in planning the Club's events, regardless if it's your scheduled turn or not. More suggestions to improve the events, to make it more fun and exciting is what we encourage.

Right around the corner is the 2013 Shinnen-Enkai Party, currently scheduled for Feb 23, 2013. Planning meeting is scheduled for September 28 at the Jikoen Reception Hall at 7:00. The Ichikawa to Roxburgh families are the primary families this year, however, everyone is welcome to come out to help plan the next party. Be ready to join in the fun.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru for participating in past events. Your continued support is always welcome.

In Memoriam

Please take a moment to reflect and remember the following Yomitan members who passed on recently: Doris Mashita and George Shimabukuro and Grace Tsuchiya. The thoughts and prayers of the Yomitan Club goes out to the families.

If member families need help and assistance with funeral arrangements and support, do not hesitate to call any officer or Board member.

Yomitan Club Website

The Yomitan Club has had a website for several years now, thanks to the hard work put in by Ronlynn and Clayton Arakaki. We have embarked

on a new and exciting technological journey, and Clayton and Ronlynn have upgraded and improved our website tremendously. The following is the link to our website:

www.yomitanclub.org

Recommend members visit the website often, browse through the various links to get current information as well as some historical information. Links include HUOA, and Yomitan Village as well as other informational links. Members can also email us at:

yomitanhawaii@gmail.com

We encourage members to use the media above, let us know if anything on the site can be improved or added to make the website a better one. The website is still a work in progress, so your suggestions and recommendations are really important to us.

We also encourage members to send us your email address so that we can start compiling a Yomitan email listing to improve the communications process, especially when short suspense announcements must be made. Many HUOA clubs have started this new process and say it has improved communications and decreased cost for mailing.

HUOA Events

The Board of Directors encourages all Yomitan Club members to participate in any and all events sponsored by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) and it's member clubs. Events schedule are listed on the HUOA website and listed below as well.

Sept 15 - HUOA Autumn (Bon) Dance at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Kurochi Tree Planting Project - Yomitan Village

Last issue I mentioned plans to start planting "kurochi trees" in Yomitan Village. Kazufumi Miyazawa is the brainchild for this project and is working with Daiichi Hirata-san who is the Director-General of the Culture, Tourism and Sports Department of the Okinawa Prefectural Government. Daiichi and his wife, Yoko, both now reside in Yomitan Village which is a good thing for the village as well as our Yomitan Club.

During the Battle of Okinawa in WWII, there was a tremendous loss of life on the main Okinawan island. Because of the fierce fighting, artillery bombardment of the island took a devastating toll on the people and landscape of the island. Although much progress has been made since the end of the war, much more needs to be done.

Many of us have gone to Okinawa and purchased various Okinawan musical instruments such as sanshin, odaiko, shime-daiko and paranku drums, samba, etc. Although the instruments are made in Okinawa, the materials used to make the sanshin is actually imported from other countries like Viet Nam and Thailand as well as mainland Japan. Yomitan Village was once the main village where the kurochi tree was grown. The center of the tree is what is needed to make the "neck" of the sanshin because of its natural hardwood core.

Miyazawa-san and Hirata-san presented his plan to Mayor Denjitsu Ishimine and his staff to conduct a "kurochi tree planting ceremony" in Yomitan Village in October 2012 to mark the renaissance of the kurochi tree forests in the village

since sanshin music and the instruments were first introduced to Okinawa from Yomitan Village. The Mayor and his staff listened intently to the plans and whole-heartedly approved this new project.

Planning and implementation is now underway by the Mayor's staff to help make this project a reality. It takes almost a hundred years to grow the kurochi tree to maturity. The outer bark of the tree protects the inner hardwood into maturity. That inner wood is much like the ebony wood we know, and if you notice current sanshin instruments, the neck of the sanshin is a dark black color. "Kuro" means black, and that is the part of the tree which is needed to make the sanshin. Additional information will be forthcoming from the project planners on how we, as part of the worldwide Uchinanchu community, and specifically Yomitan family, can assist in making this project a success.

Much mahalo goes to Yoko Hirata-san for providing the picture and information on this project.



Yomitan-Son Mayor and his staff who attended the Kurochi Tree Planting project presentation on June 25.

1st row from left: Seisyu Chibana, (Past Pres of preservation society), Takeshi Kodaira (Pres Yomitan Tourism Assoc), Denjitsu Ishimine (Mayor and Pres of Kurochi Project), Daiichi Hirata (Okinawa Dir General of Culture, Tourism and Sports), Eijun Ikehara (Vice Mayor Yomitan Village), Katsunori Toyama (Pres of Youth Assoc, Yomitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Secr-General of Kurochi project.

2nd row from left: Mamoru Furugen (Dir City Planning), Shoden Shinzato (Dir Child & Family Div), Koji Kakegawa (Yomitan supporter), Yoshino Shimabukuro (City Planning Div), Tomoharu Nakasone (Pres of FM Yomitan Radio), Ryoji Toma (Vice Pres of Youth Assoc), Hideki Kiyuna (board member of Youth Assoc), Kazuhiro Kamiya, Yoko Hirata, Hikaru Toma, Miyuki Higa and Maki Aoyama (all members of the Youth Assoc, Yomitan Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

Hawaii United Okinawa Association
94-587 Ukee St
Waipahu, HI 96797

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 659

Address Service Requested

YOMITAN Newsletter, June 2012, is a Bi-Monthly newsletter for Yomitan Club, a member of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, whose corporate address is 94-587 Ukee, St, Waipahu, HI 96797.

