



YOMITAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

June 2012, Issue #2

Haitai Yomitan members!!!

Newsletter Update

This is our second newsletter, coming on the heels of our first newsletter which was mailed just a few weeks ago. We encourage feedback from our readers and members as this newsletter is to keep all Yomitan members informed of what is going on in the club, in the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) as well as in Yomitan Village.

For your information, the return address on this newsletter is listed for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The reason is because we are utilizing the "Bulk Mail" program of the HUOA to help lower the cost of mailing over 400 newsletters to our members. The requirement for this program is the return address must be to whoever owns the bulk rate permit, in this case its HUOA. All HUOA member clubs are authorized to utilize this benefit to help defray some the cost of keeping its members informed. Savings for the club is over \$125 per mailing occurrence.

As mentioned earlier, we encourage feedback on how we can improve the newsletter. We also welcome members to submit pictures and news articles which may be of interest to club members. Keep in mind that we will honor the privacy of individuals, so before submitting news articles, insure permission to print names and activities is granted.

Yomitan Village Work - Study Program

In the previous newsletter, we mentioned the Yomitan Village Work - Study Program for 2012 which we reluctantly declined to participate in due to the short suspense we had to respond. We sent a letter to Mayor Denjitsu Ishimine asking for permission to submit names by December to participate in 2013 program instead. We have not received a response to our request as yet. We will follow up with the Mayor in the near future.

Interested members must be 18 - 35 years of age, speak some Japanese, and live with a host Yomitan Village family, preferably a family relative. Yomitan Village will pay for airfare, tuition and books for the mandatory 2-month school of the members choice, then must work in the community for 4 months. Selected members must provide their own spending money.

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 2012 Yomitan Annual Picnic is scheduled for August 5, Areas 8 & 9. Start time is 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the picnic, mainly in the games committee. Please contact us if you want to help out this fun event. Planning is still ongoing for the upcoming picnic. The next scheduled picnic meeting is set for July 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the International Baptist Church at 20 Dowsett off the Pali Hwy. Call Fred Higa at 864-3408 to volunteer your help.

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:

2012 - 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 2012 HUOA Okinawan Festival scheduled for September 1 & 2 at Kapiolani Park and Bandstand. Yomitan Club and Aza Yogi Club are again joining forces to work in the Country Store. Volunteers are needed on both days, shift hours are being coordinated between both clubs. Festival coordinator for Yomitan Club is Ronlynn Arakaki, so please give her all the support she needs. Your help and support will allow the club to generate some revenue from the store sales.

It is a great opportunity to work with fellow Yomitan Club members as well our good friends of Aza Yogi. This is also a good chance to meet Okinawans from Okinawa and other parts of the world.

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 this year. Helen M. Sakumoto, Richard M. Higa, Chris Okuhara, Leslie Yamashita, Rose Nagahama, Nellie N. Yeda and Masao Oshiro. 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 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.

JUNE - Children's Cultural Day Camp; Maui Okinawan Festival (6/16); Senior Health and Awareness Fair (6/22); Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Event (6/23)

AUGUST - Hui Okinawa - Haari Boat Festival (8/17-8/18)

SEPTEMBER - Okinawan Festival Preparation Activities; Okinawan Festival (9/1 & 9/2) Autumn Okinawa Dance Festival

OCTOBER - TBD

NOVEMBER - Winter Craft Fair (11/24 & 11/25)

DECEMBER - Senior Luncheon by Young Okinawans of Hawaii; Evening in Waipio Craft Fair

We have received inquiries from some Yomitan members about participating and representing the Yomitan Club in the upcoming Haari Boat Race in Hilo in August. Team applications are currently being accepted but the number of team entries are limited. Let the Board of Directors know if interested in forming a Yomitan Haari Boat team. Applications and hotel information is available at www.haariboatraces.com or check out the link on the Yomitan Club and HUOA websites.

Okinawan Festival Scrip Sale

We have received our Club allocation for the Okinawan Festival Scrip Presale. This is our opportunity to receive a percentage of the sale of the club allocation. Members are encouraged to purchase scrip tickets in advance from club representatives to help the club earn some much needed revenue. Contact any club officer to reserve your tickets. We will have to turn in all proceeds or unsold tickets right after our annual picnic so call and reserve your tickets early.

An Evening with Daiichi and Yoko Hirata

Last month, some Yomitan Club members had the honor of hosting Daiichi and Yoko Hirata at a potluck dinner. Mr. Hirata is the Director-General for Tourism and Culture in Okinawa, working directly for the Governor of Okinawa. Daiichi-san was the director/producer of the opening and closing ceremony at last year's Taikai in Okinawa. They both live in Yomitan Village which was the main reason for our club hosting them for dinner. Much thanks goes to Jon Itomura who is a personal friend of Daiichi-san and he recommended we have a short notice get together. We had the unique opportunity to have an Okinawan "jam session", complete with sanshin, flutes and karaoke singing. Daiichi-san and Yoko-san were here to help in the planning and choreography of the 2nd Eisa Festival held at Kapiolani Community College.

Yoko-san now has a talk show every Thursday afternoon at 3:00. On your computer, link to www.fmyomitan.co.jp. It's a "live streaming" broadcast in Japanese but she is fluent in English

as well. It's an informative show to watch direct from Yomitan Village.

Message from the President

Haisai everyone! This is our second Yomitan newsletter coming right on the heels of our first one. I understand not everyone in the Club received a newsletter. We're trying to figure out where the problem is, i.e., lost in the mail, address label got dislodged, wrong mailing address. We apologize for that, but we do need your help in letting us know. Make sure our address listing is correct by either emailing or calling your Club officers.

There will be a concert at the Jikoen Reception Hall in July by the popular Okinawan group, Begin. They will be having a special VIP concert, by invitation only, to honor those Hawaii Okinawan issei and nisei who were directly responsible for sending 550 pigs to Okinawa after World War II ended. HUOA is requesting names and contact information of those special individuals and their immediate families so that invitations could be sent to them. If you know of any of those families, contact the HUOA so they can make the proper contact and arrangements.

As the bon dance season approaches, it occurred to me that it would be great if Yomitan Club could form a "bon dance" club, complete with its own distinct "happi-coat", and maybe even some original dance steps and routines from Yomitan Village. How about having our own Eisa Drum team as well as sanshin musicians? It is kinda late for the outfits but maybe we could get some of our obaa-chan and oji-chan as well as our young members together to come up with something for next year. That would give us almost a year to plan and practice our dance moves!!! Let us know what you think.

I am curious to know where all of our Club families roots are in Yomitan Village. The Village is made up of many towns, i.e., Namihira, Nagahama, Uza, Gima, Uechi, Zakimi, Toya, etc. It would be interesting to find out how many of Yomitan Village towns are represented in our Club. Need feedback on this too.

Yes, some of these brainstorm ideas will require some "seed money" to get started. Your continued support with dues and donations is greatly appreciated and will certainly help us honor our issei and nisei by perpetuating our culture and heritage.

Arigato for your continued support.

Fred Higa, President, Yomitan Club

**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.

