

CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 721 GENEVA, IL 60134

WWW.CHICAGOOKINAWAKENJINKAI.COM

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW KENJINKAI PRESIDENT



Nobuko Gonzales & Paula Schmidling

Dear Okinawa Kenjinkai Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President. I am honored and humbled to serve this organization. Thank you so much for your support. Thank you to Mieko Zukeran and all the former and present officers. I will do my best to serve the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai.

The Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai has been part of my family for two generations. My mother, Nobuko Gonzales, pictured with me, has been one of the longest standing members of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai. It is safe to say I have been a member all my life! My oldest daughter, Theresa, was one of the first children to dance Matsuri Daiko. Theresa was also one of the first to receive the \$1000 scholarship when she left for college. I am happy to report that she will graduate with honors from The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in June.

It is through the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai that I have learned the true meaning of community. In this day and age of email, texts and other non- face to face communication, it is nice to know that there are real people that will help, support (and feed you!) in the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai. My husband's father passed away five years ago around this time of year, and he and I will never forget that members of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai drove out to Marengo, Illinois to attend the memorial service. It is very easy to attend a birthday party or some other celebration where there is happiness and joy. But when one attends a funeral, it shows true support. True community. We laugh, we cry, we do it together. Thank you again. We will never forget it.

To my fellow Nisei: It is my hope to get more people in their 20's, 30's and 40's to take a more active role in the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai. I realize that if you don't want to dance, play shamisen or learn karate, there is no reason for you to show up on Saturday. So I ask – what would you like to do? Language lessons? Cooking classes? Kanji lessons? Texas Hold 'em? What would make you come, on your own, once a month? - On the flip side, what would you like your parents to learn? Having trouble teaching your mother to text? Wouldn't it be nice if Obachan could Skype? Imagine us getting together and teaching them!

Thank you all again for this opportunity to give back to this wonderful organization! I can be reached at (847) 877-2987, English only please, (Gomen – nasai!) or send an email to me at president@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com. I invite you to visit us on Facebook and "like" our new Facebook page and group. Just follow the links on our official Website.

I hope to see you all at the picnic! Please pray for nice weather!

Sincerely,
Paula Schmidling

2011 A YEAR TO TRIUMPH OVER TRAGEDY

2011 has been shaping up so far to be a year of catastrophe with the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, flooding along the Mississippi river and scores of tornadoes across the United States. Some of these catastrophes have struck very close to home for us affecting both members of our Kenjinkai and other friends that we know through out the world. The catastrophic earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan affected everyone with even a slight connection to Japan. I can't begin to tell you how many people I know that came up to me asking if my wife's family in Japan were okay. I told them that Okinawa where she is from is nearly a three hour flight by plane from the devastation. I did inform them

however that we had spoken to my wife's sister who lives in Yokohama via skype who had informed us that while their house was rocked by the quake they didn't have any major damage. They were enduring many aftershocks though and the power was being rationed due to the problem with the power plants. Mostly, the people I spoke with didn't have a very good understand of the geography of Japan and believed the entire country was affected. It gave many a sinking feeling in their stomach as they believed someone they knew had probably been touched by the tragedy and was now dealing with a problem almost beyond comprehension. Many were relieved to hear that while the mainland of Japan was hit hard there was almost no problem in Okinawa.



The catastrophe affected the mindset of the people everywhere and it was quite evident to me that many people had been touched in their hearts by this tragedy. This was especially evident to me at our annual new year's party where attendance was down from most years with the party happening just days after the tragedy. Some of our members were

affected more than others specifically because they were from the part of Japan where the tsunami hit and were in shock from the news. Some were missing family members or could not reach friends they knew that were living there. It was a very difficult time for all of us. The Kenjinkai decided to use all of our resources to raise funds for the disaster relief efforts. Donations were collected and all of the raffle money collected was also donated to the disaster relief in Japan. Even though the attendance was down we collected a total of \$1383.00. Of the money collected \$383.00 was given to the American Red Cross as designated for the Japan Disaster Relief and \$1000.00 was given to the Japan Red Cross through JCCC (Japanese Chamber of Industry of Chicago). The JCCC matched our contribution so \$2000 was actually given to the relief efforts.

Unfortunately, Japan was not the only disaster to touch our Kenjinkai so far this year. On April 11th 2011, Scott and Keiko Zindars, members of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai, barely escaped into their Cottonville Wisconsin basement before a tornado devastated their home and business. They had just returned home after walking their dog when the tornado hit. Fortunately, they were not injured but their home and business was a complete loss. A short video of Scott after the storm has been posted on my blog which can be reached from the main page of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai's website.



Then, In Alabama a close friend from Okinawa called to tell us that they were expected to be without power for a week after many tornadoes had ravaged the south during the last week of April. Fortunately our friend's home was not damaged and they expected to return to normal once the power was turned back on.

It is tests like these that will bring out the best in us as human beings. While our minds will race and our hearts may ache we will persevere and overcome the material obstacles of our lives by working together with love and caring in our hearts. After all, we are all brothers and sisters in this world! Thank You all for your effort. The Okinawa Kenjinkai will continue to collect for the Japan relief effort until July 30th 2011. Contact Tomiko Schumaier if you want to help at treasurer@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com

CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI MEMBER ASSISTING WITH DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS IN JAPAN

Compiled by Tom Corrao from Information Taken for Air Force News

Sometimes it amazes me how fast our young people grow. This is a story about a young woman named Veronica Cox who is the daughter of current member Mayumi Cox. I've known this young lady for several years, first meeting her and her twin sister Jessica when they were around 15 years old. After graduating from high school one sister decided to pursue college and the other decided to join the US military. "Ronnie" as she is known to us was the one who decided to go into the military. After attending Air Force Technical School in Texas she was sent to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Japan.

Trained in Air Force intelligence, Ronnie has already been deployed to the Philippines and Afghanistan during the first two years of her enlistment. It didn't take long for her unit to realize what a tremendous asset she could be to the Air Force mission in Japan. Being fluent in Japanese she was chosen to participate as an interpreter flying with an HH-60 Helicopter in support of operation "Tomodachi."

Ronnie was assigned to the mission of flying with Airmen from the 33rd Air Rescue Squadron delivering food, water, and medical supplies to displaced people of Kessenuma City. The city is situated along Japan's northeastern coast, in an area which received a devastating blow from the tsunami on March 11th.



KESSENUMA CITY, Japan -- A Japanese relief worker shows his appreciation to Airman 1st Class Veronica Cox, after a pair of HH-60 helicopters delivers food, water, and medical supplies there on March 20th.



Kessenuma City lost much of its ocean front property when the tsunami hit causing many of those who lost their homes to take shelter at the nearby Hashigami Middle School. That is where the two HH-60s helicopters traveled to from Yokota AB the day the pictures on this page were taken. They landed in a nearby field where they were met by relief workers. Despite the turmoil these survivors endured a week before; they were in relatively good physical condition. Among the roughly 500 pounds of goods transported on the mission were basic medical supplies, like Pepto Bismol and Pedialyte. Colonel St. Onge praised the Japanese government for the orderly and efficient manner in which they were handling the recovery effort. The Colonel said "Each prefecture identifies its respective needs and sends the message up to the central government. They handle what they can; and what they can't handle, they send to us."

Colonel St. Onge also praised Ronnie saying: "We're singing Airman Cox's praises. Through her interactions with the displaced Japanese, Airman Cox has been able to learn about various nuances in Japanese culture and has helped to shape the way the 33rd now conducts its missions." The 33rd Rescue Squadron is fortunate to have an Airman like Veronica Cox. She has flown on multiple missions with the 33rd and put her talents to good use in speaking directly with the Japanese people on the scene. When asked about how the Japanese have responded to help from the 33rd, Airman Cox noted: "They're grateful that we're here." Of course that gratefulness was evident in the faces of those present to receive the supplies in Kessenuma, as well as in their waves and handshakes. Isn't it a wonderful feeling when our children make us this proud! Way to go Ronnie!

NEW CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI OFFICERS ELECTED

On March 19 2011 the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai held elections for new officers at its annual New Years gathering. The following members were elected as new Okinawa Kenjinkai officers: Paula Schmidling (President), Miko Honjo (Vice President), Yujiro Uza (Vice President), Tomiko Schumaier (Treasurer), and Yukie Saucedo (Secretary). Two officers retained their positions. Both Dennis Potamites (Sergeant at Arms) and Tom Corrao (Public Relations Officer) accepted another term in their current position. Officers are elected for a two year terms. Officer emails are located below. Please see our web site for additional contact information.

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| President | Paula Schmidling | president@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |
| Vice president 1 | Miko Honjo | vicepresident1@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |
| Vice President 2 | Yujiro Uza | vicepresident2@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |
| Treasurer | Tomiko Schumaier | treasurer@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |
| Secretary | Yukie Saucedo | secretary@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |
| Public Relations Officer | Tom Corrao | pro@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |
| Sergeant at Arms | Dennis Potamites | sergeantatarms@chicagookinawakenjinkai.com |

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI

It makes us proud that even though the economy is tough and everyone has been feeling the pinch we still receive donations from the generosity of our membership. We Sincerely Thank the members listed for their contributions. They will be put to good use by helping us share Okinawan culture and fellowship in Chicago.

Tim & Linda Ringstad, Diotoko & Laura Kiam, Robert K. & Lily Oshiro, Cyrielle Lozada, Fujiko Asa, Mary Kanashiro, Helen Uehara, Yoneko Berenz, Thomas Uyechi, Anne Asato, Dale & Shigeko Schlehin, Kazuko Lowdermilk, Kazumi & Eric Corzine, Alvin & Jenny Tamura, Thomas & Sachiko Lamb, Taeko Ayala, Kazuko Hooten, Toshiko Shimabukuro, Takashi & Kaoru Kakazu, Ruth Kaneshiro, Yusuke Arakaki, Paul & Ryuko Charapata, Mike & Kathy Higa, Kiyoshi & June Tamanaha, Willy & Juana Wong, Kenneth Yoza, Tom & Nozomi Corrao, Tsuruko Van Tassel, Frank & Mary Kajikawa, Kathleen Nichols, Mark McGinnis, Dennis & Sumiko Potamites, Keiko Ando, Etsuko Otsuka, Hatsue Petry, Miyuki Shiroshima, Arika Swanson, Sachiko & Richard Wiseburg, and Mieko Zukeran.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KENJINKAI - NOT ALWAYS MONETARY



Not all contributions to the Kenjinkai are monetary and we appreciate them very much. Many times what is needed is manpower or woman power which ever the case may be. Many things happen behind the scenes that unfortunately many times go unrecognized. People who monitor the kitchen and foods during the New Years party, people who sew costumes, people who collect membership forms, people who set up and clean up afterwards. All these contributors to the Kenjinkai deserve a great deal of recognition from us. Unfortunately we do not always do that great of a job recognizing everyone's efforts. Take for instance the bag pictured to the left. Someone spent a bunch of time preparing these bags for our youngest performers so that they would have a keepsake bag filled with goodies after their tremendous effort at the New Years performance. I'm told a lot of work also went into making of the programs which involved Mayumi Seino and Tomoe san which has since moved back to Japan. So for all those

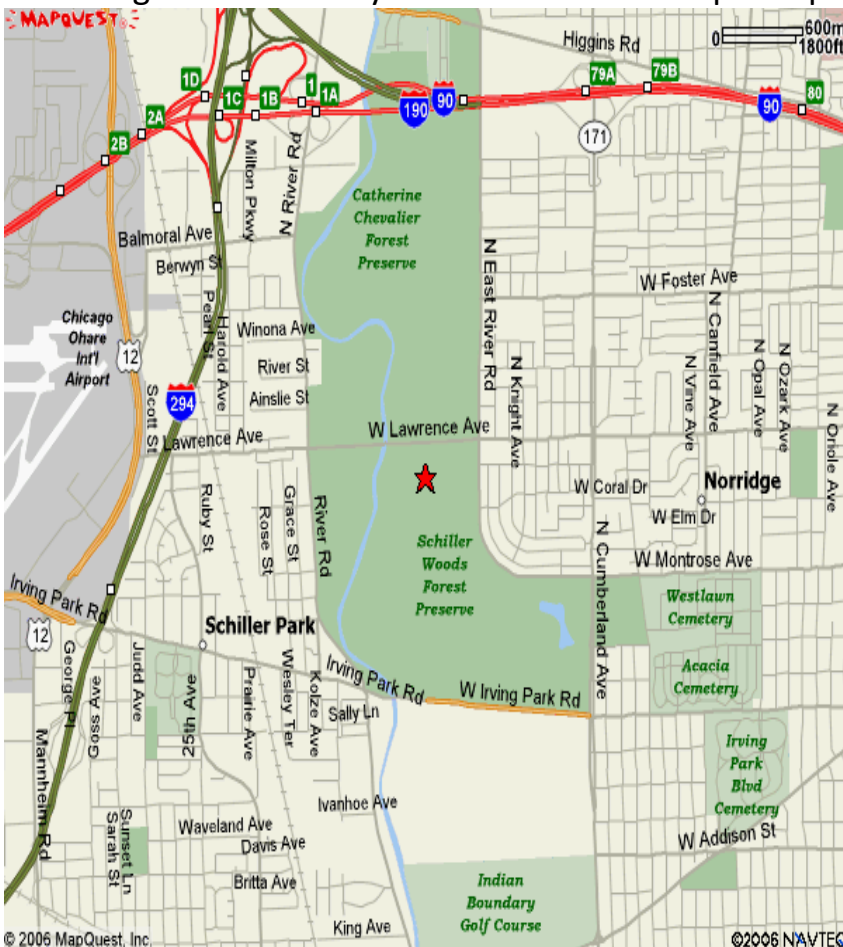
whose name has not been mentioned and to those who have lent us your backs in times of need we Wish to thank you all for all that you do and your selfless devotion to the cause. We could not be successful without you. Thank You all very much for all you do!

WANT TO HELP THE KENJINKAI PROSPER WITH VERY LITTLE EFFORT?

Every three months the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai publishes its quarterly newsletter. When we first started to do this the internet was not as predominant in American life as it has become today. The membership was smaller and all of the newsletters required mailing. A couple of years back I began asking members if I could email them a copy of our newsletter in a PDF format that could be printed or simply read online at their leisure. Currently I have about 50 members that have agreed to receive their newsletter via email. What I am now proposing is that more members elect to receive their newsletter via email. Every Quarter the Kenjinkai spends quite a bit of money on printing, mailing materials, and postage. All of these expenses can be saved for each person who agrees to an email newsletter. Granted we do have older members and people who do not have access to a computer or the internet but in today's day and age many of us know our way around a computer. Accepting your newsletter via email would save the Kenjinkai around \$3.00 pre subscriber. If you are interested in helping us out this way please email me (Tom Corrao) at: tcorrao@wi.rr.com and tell me you are willing to accept an email only subscription to our newsletter.

2011 CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI SUMMER PICNIC

The Annual Summer Okinawan Picnic has been scheduled for July 30th 2011 at the Cook County Robinson Woods Picnic Groves. These are the same picnic groves we have been using for years so for most of you regulars you should be able to get there quite easily by now. Once again we will have a Pot luck Banquet with lot of delicious Okinawan and American favorites. Following the meal everyone will be invited to participate in



Ragyo Taiso the exercise/stretch routine of Japan. There will be Games like the tug o war so the gentlemen can redeem themselves after last years stunning defeat and a water balloon toss which is a fun game on a hot summer day. Don't forget we will be raffling off something very special as well as a bunch of other interesting items. If you have old Japanese books or magazines to share please bring them as we offer these books free to our members to exchange. Need more information? Please go to our web site at:

www.chicagookinawakenjinkai.com.

You'll find plenty of information there including printable maps of how to get there. Hope we see you there!

New Babies



Charley Puntillo Jorgensen

Charley Puntillo Jorgensen

Born to Kurt & Roberta Jorgensen
Born on 01/20/11 in Kenosha, WI
He weighed 8lbs 4oz
Charley's Grandmother is Naoko Puntillo and he has a brother Nick and sister Maddie.



Giovanni Thomas Corrao

Giovanni Thomas Corrao

Born to Tom Corrao & Catrina Rhoden.
Born on 04/22/11 in Bossier, LA
He weighed 7lbs 7 oz
Giovanni's Grandparents are Tom & Nozomi Corrao

MAJAC Japan Day Festival Changed to Concert for 2011

Every Year the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai participates in the annual MAJAC Japan Day festival. Normally the Festival is a two day event where various Japanese entities from around the Chicago land area reach out to share the culture of Japan with the local community. This Year because of the tragedy in Japan the event has been reformatted to a single day Charity event in aid of the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami relief. Instead of the normal open house type of atmosphere this year the program is being offered as a charity concert to be held on June 11th 2011 at the Forest View Educational Center located at 2121 S. Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights, Illinois. For more information on this concert please see the back cover of this newsletter.

Aharen Honryu Keisen Wanokai Okinawan Dance Recital

Mrs. Chibana Kazuko Volkmar is a Grand Master at the Aharen Honryu Keisen Wanokai, Okinawa Dance School. She will be hosting a dance recital featuring Special Guest Performers from Okinawa on June 4th, 2011 in Westerville, Ohio. We realize this is short notice to our membership but since this will possibly be one of the last chances to see Master Volkmer dance we decided to publish it. Here is the info:

Saturday, June 4, 2011, 3 P.M. Westerville South High School Auditorium 303 S, Offerbein Ave., Westerville, OH 43081
Admission \$15, Students \$10 For information contact June McVey at 513-377-0473, or email sail2camp@aol.com

COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN AT WEEKLY PRACTICE

SANSHIN GROUP MEETS 1 TO 4 PM
CHICAGO MATSURI DAIKO MEETS 4 TO 6 PM
ODORI GROUP MEETS 6:30 TO 7:40 PM
BREAK TIME IS FROM 6 TO 6:30
GUESTS ARE WELCOME

CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI PERFORMANCE GROUP
MEETING WEEKLY AT MITSUWA MARKETPLACE IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
PLEASE COME JOIN US. LESSONS AND PARTICIPATION IS FREE TO MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING!

VISITORS ARE WELCOMED

WHY NOT COME TO MITSUWA AND SEE WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT

SPRING 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

Starting Date

31 January 2011

\$18,336.26

Income

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Membership | 2,010.00 |
| Donations | 1,934.00 |
| Guest Dinners | 196.00 |
| Drinks | 35.00 |
| Bingo Game | |
| Raffle Tickets | |

Income Total

4,175.00

Sub Total

22,511.26

Expense

| | |
|--|--------|
| Printing Newsletter, Directory, Misc. | 495.01 |
| Stamps | 175.91 |
| Prize for New Year TVs | 372.49 |
| New Year Party Expense | 643.60 |
| Custodian for New year Party | 100.00 |
| Picnic Permit | 220.00 |
| Donation to Fayetteville Okinawa Kenjinkai | 100.00 |
| Donation to Hawaii Matsuri Daiko Group | 100.00 |
| Donation to Mr. & Mrs. Zindars (Tornado Victims) | 100.00 |
| Office Supplies | |

Expense Total

2,307.01

Statement Ended

30 April 2011

\$20,204.25



NEW MEMBERS TO THE CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI

Please join us in welcoming the newest members to the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai. Francisco Abad, Bernard & Sharon Crerand, Yoko Griffin, Helen Moss, Alif Muhammad, Luiz Rivera, Souzi-Stonis Strauss, Arika Swanson, John & Kandace (Teruya) Timm, Masaru & Sayaka Wachi, Jan & Physis Walker. Be sure to say hello and welcome them to our family in the true spirit of Ichariba Chode, for once we meet we are all brothers and sisters.

FREE OKINAWAN SHORIN RYU KARATE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP



The membership of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai is invited to partake in free Shorin Ryu Karate Classes with 4th Don Sensei Yujiro Uza each Saturday at 12 noon in the Mitsuwa Marketplace practice room. Hope to see you there!



MID AMERICA JAPANESE CLUB
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
DISTRICT 214 COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**CHARITY EVENT IN AID OF
JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND
TSUNAMI RELIEF**

"GAMBARO, NIPPON"

がんばろう日本

LET'S DO OUR BEST!



Community Education
District 214

Daily Herald
Big Picture - Local Focus

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011 1:30 PM
DOOR OPENS AT 12:30 PM

FOREST VIEW EDUCATIONAL CENTER
2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005



BENEFITING:

**JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY
FOR EASTERN JAPAN
EARTHQUAKE DISASTER
RELIEF FUND**

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS:

DAINIPPON SCREEN GRAPHICS (USA), LLC, DYNAMESH, INC.,
ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT, KOMORI AMERICA CORP.
MAYEKAWA U.S.A., INC. MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AUTOMATION, INC.
MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, MORITANI AMERICA, INC.
NIPPON SHARYO USA, INC., NISHIJIMA ACCOUNTING & TAX LLC
SUMITOMO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, TOPY AMERICA, INC.



JAPANESE MUSIC AND DANCES

Featuring Kokyo Taiko, Chicago "Koto" Group,
Midwest Conservatory of Music, Soran Dance by Chicago Futabakai
Japanese School, Kazume Mizuki (Japanese Classical Dance),
Aya Uchida (Singer and Radio Personality from Japan),
Choir Futaba, Chicago Okinawa Performing Group



TICKET: \$10 Seats are limited.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE OR MAIL.

PHONE: 847-718-7702

MAIL: PLEASE MAKE A CHECK PAYABLE TO MAJC
MAJC

855 E. GOLF ROAD, SUITE 2127
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60005

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, YOU MAY STILL
DONATE BY MAILING A CHECK TO MAJC.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: INFO@JAPANESECLUB.ORG OR 847-593-1633

Mid America Japanese Club (MAJC) is a U.S. 501(c)-3 non-profit charitable organization