



# CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI 2006 NEW YEARS EDITION NEWSLETTER



今年は戌（犬）年 "Year of the Dog" です

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WWW.CHICAGOOKINAWAKENJINKAI

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

I cannot thank each of you enough for the wonderful volunteer spirit and love you've shown to the Kenjinkai. Due to your tireless contribution of time and effort we were able to label all of our 2005 annual events completed successfully.

Two big events await us in 2006 - our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in May; and, in October the World-Wide Uchinanchu Festival and the Fourth Joint Performance with the Kariyushi-Kai in Okinawa. I know these exciting events are going to be not only memorable, but also tremendously enjoyable.

2006 is the year of "DOG." I don't want to announce my age too openly, but this year is MY year and I know it's going to be a very special one with very special things taking place. To make this dream come true and to make the Kenjinkai an even more enjoyable organization, I plan on giving my best-in-show performance as your president, and of course, I am counting on your support and advice that you have been giving us, Officers. There'll be no WHINING or BITING or YAPPING but rather a lot of joyful BARKING being done if we all cooperate in making this **YEAR OF THE DOG** a **HOWLING** success.

In closing, I would like to offer a special prayer that the "Year of Dog" is a peaceful and prosperous year with no repetitions of the many tragedies and disasters experienced last year.

Taeko Ayala



メンバーの皆様、明けましておめでとうございます。

皆様の惜しみないボランティア精神と県人会を大切に下さるチムグクルのお陰で去年も全ての行事を滞りなくこなすことが出来、メンバーの一人一人に感謝の気持ちで一杯です。今年は、5月に40周年祝賀会、10月にはウチナーンチュ大会、そしてかりゆし会との第4回親睦公演と大きな催しを控えています。皆で一丸となって楽しいイベントにしましょうね。

2006年は“戌（イヌ）”年。これはヤーニンジュ（内輪）だけの話ですが今年は私の“当たり年”なのです。と言う訳でしょうか、例年にも増して素晴らしい年になるような“予感”が頭一杯に広がっています。この“素晴らしい予感”を実現させる為にもミーグルグル、ハナグルグルしてより一層楽しい県人会にしたいと思しますので、メンバーの皆様の揺るぎ無いご協力を今年も宜しくお願い致します。

去年はあまりにも天災、人災の多い一年でした。今年の“戌年”は平穏な年であるよう祈りたいものです。

アヤラ・タエコ

# Year of the Dog



**1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006**

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. In contrast to their goodness they can also find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. Dog people make **good leaders**. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

## CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI OFFICERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Tom Pressley** – Secretary: 55 E. Jeffery Ave. Wheeling IL 60030 - 1 (847) 459-9034 - Tom\_Pressley@comcast.net

**Etsuko Crary** – Treasurer: 30 A. Tyler Court Streamwood IL 60107 - etsukoc@att.net

**Thomas Corrao** – Newsletter Editor: 3309 30<sup>th</sup> St. Kenosha WI 53144 - 1(262) 656-1805 - email: tcorrao@wi.rr.com

## 2006 New Years Wishes

**Yoshiko Juravic** – Vice President: I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and are ready for a wonderful and healthy new year! For Matsuri Daiko members, let's review some of our "Old Dances" once again this year. I hope that we continue to perform and introduce our Okinawan culture to many people this year.

**Tom Pressley** – Secretary: The New Year brings with it great opportunity! We had a great year last year but now we look ahead and wonder what the New Year has in store for us. I look forward to serving the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai as we strengthen our friendships and share in Okinawa's rich culture and tradition.

**Etsuko Crary** – Treasurer: 沖縄県人会会員の皆様へ

新年 明けましておめでとうございます。早いもので私が役員になって もう一年 皆様のご支援をいただき 県人会の発展のために頑張ってきました。今年(2006年)は40周年記念のお祝いを5月に、10月には本土沖縄での演奏を控え たいへん忙しい年となりそうです。皆様 健康で 元気に力を合わせて頑張りましょう。悦子

**Dennis Potamites** – Sergeant at Arms: I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope that we will continue to share our camaraderie, fellowship, and culture throughout the coming year and well into the future as our kenjinkai continues to grow. I would also like to thank everyone who has allowed me to serve you as an officer of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai.

**Tom Corrao** - Newsletter Editor: Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu, 新しい年が最高にハッピーで良い年になりますように。

心想事成 萬事如意  
BEST WISHES FOR YOU

沖繩県人会の皆様へ  
大変お世話になりました。  
私は今、上海単身赴任5ヶ月と  
なりました。  
家族は日本ですが、賢太は2月に  
琉球大学を受験します。  
合格を祈って下さい。  
えうした、私も夢にみた沖繩大  
行く事ができます。  
2006年11月に大沖繩大会か  
あ子のですよね?  
楽しみです。  
本年も直にお願ひ申し上げます。  
2006年1月1日  
竹田博行

希望(Nozomi)は高校1年  
研斗(Kento)は中学1年  
弥理(Misato)は小学4年

謹賀新年

洋子(Yoko)は幼稚園パートタイム  
を始めました。時々、三線を弾  
いて歌います。  
いつか必ず、お  
さんとお会い  
できることを  
信じています。  
県人会の方々によるくお祝い  
ください。

新しい一年が飛躍の年になりますように  
お祈り申し上げます

住所が新しく変わりました  
(Tel) 099-262-6376

All Happy!!!!  
New Year!  
2006

本年も宜しくお願ひいたします

Luke

下記に引越しました。お近くにお越しの際はお立ち寄りください。

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## 2006 UPCOMING EVENTS

- February **TBA**- Lake Forest Academy
- February 12 - North Central College
- March - No New Year's Party this Year due to Anniversary in May
- May 27 - Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai 40th Anniversary Celebration
- June **TBA** - Japan Day, Arlington Heights
- June 30 to July 3 - Kyushu and Okinawa Food Fest at Mitsuwa
- August **TBA** - Mitsuwa Bon Odori Festival
- October 9 - Joint Performance with Kariyushi Kai in Okinawa
- October 11-15 The 4th Worldwide Uchinanchu Tai Kai in Okinawa

## Weekly Practice Gatherings

### Saturday Practice at Mitsuwa Market Place in Arlington Heights

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1:00 to 4:00 PM | Sanshin group |
| 4:00 to 6:00 PM | Matsuri Daiko |
| 6:00 to 6:30 PM | Break Time    |
| 6:30 to 7:40 PM | Odori         |



CONGRADULATIONS  
JOE & JENNIFER



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## A Farewell from Akiko Langford

この一年半、シカゴ県人会の皆様には大変お世話になり有難うございました。  
お一人お一人の温かい心に触れ、素敵な笑顔に囲まれて楽しく過ごせました事を感謝致しております。  
アメリカに住んでいても、メンバーの方々とのお交わりの中で沖縄を身近に感じ、沖縄を誇りとする熱い  
想いを再度思い起こす事ができた貴重な時となりました。  
故郷 沖縄を離れて生活していく中で、沖縄伝統・芸能に深い関心を抱き、県人会を通して、その事に触れ  
学ぶ事ができました事は、私にとって大きな収穫でした。  
サンシングループでは、リーダーの米子さんやトムさんからのご指導を受け初めて触れる三線を弾けるよう  
になった事は大きな喜びであり、自信へとつながりました。  
共に練習に励んだサンシングループの皆様の支えを励ましに感謝致します。  
新しい地でもサンシン仲間が与えられる事を願うばかりです。

皆様のご健康と県人会の益々の発展を心よりお祈り申し上げます。  
情熱あふれる沖縄県人会のこれからのご活躍を期待しております。

晶子・ラングフォード

## A Letter from Tomoko Lutz

Hello,

As most of you know, I had a stroke on August 18. We had just returned from Owasippe four days earlier. I was in ICU at Decatur Memorial Hospital for three days, and then in a ward for four days. They thought that I would benefit from a more aggressive therapy program, so I went to Provena Covenant Medical Center in Urbana, IL for two weeks. Now I go to outpatient therapy at Decatur Memorial three days a week.

The stroke affected my right hand and arm, my right leg, and my speech a little. I can walk with a cane, and my hand and arm are getting stronger every day. Jerry has taken the semester off from school so that he can take care of me.

Many of you sent very nice cards and letters. Your kind thoughts and prayers have helped so much and mean so much to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you all.

With love, Tomoko Lutz

## Former Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai Vice President Married

Congratulations to our former Vice President, Jennifer Cabel, on her marriage to Joe. Yoneko Cabel was smiling as she walked her daughter down the aisle at the November 19 wedding. We wish them all well.

## Information from Reg Fox about a publication for Okinawan people

Hi, My name is Reg Fox. I'm a former member of Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai. I thought some of the current members might be interested in hearing about a web site I found called "The Ryukyuanist." It is for Okinawan people and culture. There is a new issue published every six months. The research is rather interesting.

The Ryukyuanist can be found online at:  
<http://www.uchinanchu.org/uchinanchu/ryukyuanist.htm>

Reg and Yosh Fox of Orem, Utah  
kitsune@smartfella.com

## Thank You from Emily Zimmerman

Dear Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai members,  
Please accept our donation in memoriam of my mother, Yoshiko Zimmerman. My father and I hope that this donation will aid your organization in one way or another. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely, Emily Zimmerman

# A TRIP TO OKINAWA IN SEARCH OF A SANSHIN

By Thomas Pressley

I had the unique experience to travel to Okinawa in November to purchase a new sanshin and to practice with Oshiro sensei and other Kariyushikai members. How could I pass up an opportunity to study with Oshiro sensei, purchase a sanshin, meet and play with some of Okinawa's most famous folk legends, and do it all by motor scooter! You see, currently I am studying for the second degree of proficiency (called "yushusho") in Okinawan classical music. Classical Okinawan music is typified by very long vocal phrasing that floats along over a sparse slow sanshin part. I have to admit that this type of music was not easy to listen to when I first heard it, but as you listen to it and study it something happens to your way of listening. After a time you start to understand the music's form and you begin to appreciate its nuance and grace.



In 2004, I took and passed the first test, called shinjinsho, for classical Okinawan music. The shinjinsho or new comers' award for classical music only required me to memorize and sing one predetermined song which I was able to study for here in the USA, without having to travel to Okinawa until it was actually time for the exam. With the test I am studying for now, yushusho, I have to study and be ready for a total of 10 songs of which, I will only be tested on 2. With this large amount of material I found it very helpful to go to Okinawa and spend time with Oshiro sensei for one on one instruction. I was also lucky enough to have Mr. Oshiro offer advice on how to buy an instrument and he even helped me shop for my new one. Most of my problems with the songs come in the way of pronunciation, as all the classical music in Okinawa is sung in a poetic version of Okinawan dialect. I received translation help from Oshiro sans son Hidekazu san, Ms. Miyazato san, and Ms. Shinjo san, as well as Mr. Oshiro who corrected me in each of my "problem areas". I try and keep a good attitude about it all, I am happy that I have someone to correct me and I feel especially privileged because there are not many who have had an opportunity to study as I have! Learning about these songs is fascinating to me, and little by little I gain insight and a greater appreciation for Okinawa's traditional performing arts.



Inside the sanshin shop of Mr. Shingaki.



Oshiro Sensei, me, Oshiro Emiko Sensei & Kishimoto San.

It was great spending my evenings at Oshiro sensei's house practicing and visiting with everybody. Oshiro sensei, Emiko sensei, Shinjo san, Nakasone san, and Kishimoto san, all send a warm "Yoroshiku" to the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai. I was in Okinawa for only a week, but it seems like I accomplished about a months worth of activity in that short time!

Tom Pressley

P.S. I was also lucky to sing and play with legends Yamazato Yuki-san and Yohen Katsuko san



## The New Year in Japan

New Year's, or Ganjitsu, is Japan's most popular annual holiday. In preparing for the New Year, a welcome "mukaeru" for a New Year spirit or "kami" is traditional. For weeks building up to the New Year's celebration, Japanese people clean their houses, pay off their debts and attempt to mend broken relationships, hoping to start the New Year fresh. Hence, the end of the year clean-up "haraikiyomete" is done with the idea of preparing oneself for the New Year. Japanese people make dishes of traditional food, the familiar "osechi-ryori". Then there is another well known activity, the "mochi-tsuki" or the pounding of cooked rice with a large wooden mallet which has its beginnings as a ceremony to prepare a welcome for the God of the New Year. Similarly, when the "Shimenawa bow" is put out on display it signals that preparations are complete and that the New Years Spirit is now welcome. While welcoming to good spirits the Shimenawa knot is also considered a talisman that wards off evil spirits!



## **YOSHIKO ZIMMERMAN** **OCTOBER 1941 – NOVEMBER 2005**



**It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of one of our members, Yoshiko Zimmerman. "Yoshi" was an outstanding generous friend, a dedicated and hard working wife, and loving mother. She was a resident of Kenosha Wisconsin where she lived with her husband James. Yoshiko is survived by her husband James, Daughter Emily, and her three brothers Shizuo, Sadao, and Toshiji Kushima.**

**The Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai would like to express that in this time of sadness our thoughts of heartfelt sympathy are with Yoshiko's family. We will truly miss her presence and the joy she brought to each and every one of us.**

## EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Taeko-san and I had an opportunity to attend the Emperor's Birthday Party. (He is 72 years old now.) The Consul General organized this occasion by inviting Governor Blagojevich, Mayor Daley, and local Japanese business people. We were honored to be a part of this celebration. We met Christian and Paula Schmidling there. It was so nice to see familiar faces because I was a little bit nervous. Pictures of the Emperor were displayed in a picture frame with the Chrysanthemum Crest. While we enjoyed conversing with each other, we enjoyed Koto music, drinks, and appetizers. It was a delightful party.

Yoshiko Juravic