



UTAH OKINAWA KENJINKAI Newsletter



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OKINAWAN WARMTH IN UTAH THIS FALL OKINAWA SOBA-MAKING EVENT & MEMBER NEWS



Hello everyone,
Fall is here in Utah, with cooler mornings, crisp evenings, and beautiful colors beginning to spread across the mountains.

This month, we're looking forward to celebrating Okinawa Soba Day together on October 17 with a fun soba-making event.

It will be a wonderful chance to enjoy Okinawan food, culture, and time together across generations.

October 30 is Worldwide Uchinanchu Day, a day that celebrates Uchinanchu communities around the world. While UOKK does not have a separate event planned for that day, we're happy to celebrate our Okinawan connection by coming together earlier in the month for Okinawa Soba Day.

We're also happy to share updates and news from our UOKK members and community.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and feel a little bit of Okinawa here in Utah this fall.

Upcoming Annual Events

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Kenjinkai events. More details will be shared as each date gets closer.

2026 -Oct. 17 (Sat.)

Okinawa Soba Day
Cooking Class
-Nov. 7 (Sat.)
End of Year Party

2027 -Jan. 16 (Sat.)

Mochi Making Class
-Feb. 20 (Sat.)
New Year Celebration
Apr. 3 (Sat.)
-Shisa Making Class

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Our Kenjinkai activities are supported by membership fees. Thank you for your continued support.

Family: \$25

Couple: \$20

Individual: \$15

If you would like to pay by check, please make your payment to our treasurer, Mikari LeBlanc.



Our newsletter is sent out from time to time.



CELEBRATING 92 WONDERFUL YEARS HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MICHİ-SAN!



In September, we celebrated the 92nd birthday of Michiko, affectionately known to everyone as "Michi-san."

Michi-san previously served as president of the UOKK and has devoted many years to strengthening the connection between Utah and Okinawa. In recognition of her contributions, she has also been recognized as an Okinawa Prefecture Distinguished Overseas Contributor.

Hosted by her family, the birthday celebration was filled with warmth and began beautifully with "Kagiyadefu." Members of the performing arts group also shared Okinawan songs and dances, bringing even more joy and color to the celebration.

The gathering ended with everyone joining in for kachashi, filling the room with smiles. Surrounded by family and friends, it was a truly heartwarming and memorable celebration. Happy 92nd birthday, Michi-san! We wish you continued happiness and good health.



You can also see more photos and highlights from the celebration on the UOKK official [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. We hope you'll enjoy them as well!



UCHINANCHU COMMUNITY NEWS

Share your news with us!

Happy updates, activities, events, or anything you'd like to share with the UOKK community are always welcome.

Happy Wedding, Boone & Angelica!



Boone, our UOKK event manager, got married in September.

Congratulations to Boone and his wife, Angelica! Wishing you both lots of love and happiness!

Passing Okinawan Sounds to the Next Generation — Miranda

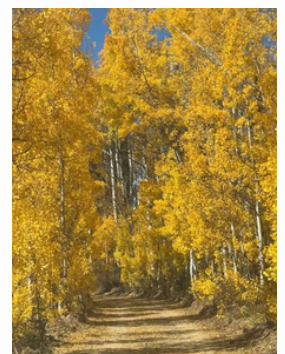
Miranda, daughter of UOKK Vice President Mikari, is currently learning to play the Ryukyu koto.

It's wonderful to see a young Uchinanchu growing up in Utah enjoying Okinawan traditional culture. We're so happy to see the sounds and traditions of Okinawa being passed on to the next generation.



Sharing Utah's Fall Colors with Japan — Maki on NHK "Chikyu Radio"

Maki, UOKK's Uchina Goodwill Ambassador, will appear on NHK's radio program Chikyu Radio to share the beauty of Utah's fall colors. The program is scheduled to air on Sunday, October 18 at 5:25 p.m. Japan time. Through the radio, she'll introduce listeners in Japan to the beautiful autumn scenery that makes Utah so special. For more information, please visit the official [Chikyu Radio website](#).



Maki also shares stories on her [blog](#) about the UOKK and the lives and connections of Uchinanchu around the world. Recent posts include Michi-san's 92nd birthday celebration and the Uchinanchu story of UOKK President Miyoko.

We hope you'll also enjoy these stories about Okinawan spirit and community connections being carried on here in Utah.

UCHINANCHU COMMUNITY NEWS



We are proud to celebrate longtime Utah Okinawa Kenjinkai (UOKK) and Atlanta Okinawa Kenjinkai (AOKK) leader Mayumi Cole for a remarkable season of recognition and service

Korea Revisit Program



In September, Mayumi was selected for and participated in this prestigious KDVA-sponsored program, returning to South Korea to witness firsthand the remarkable growth of the nation she once served to protect.

Georgia's 25 Most Influential AAPIs

In July, Mayumi was named to the Georgia AsianTimes annual list honoring exceptional leaders for their professional achievement, civic engagement, and cultural enrichment.



Global Karate Volunteer Service



As a devoted fan of traditional karate, Mayumi traveled back to Okinawa twice this year to support major martial arts milestones, first volunteering at the youth tournament qualifying rounds in January, and later serving on the volunteer floor crew in July at the Ginowan Convention Center for the 3rd Okinawa Karate World Tournament, which brought together over 3,000 participants from 49 countries and regions.

Georgia Tech 2026 Buzz Award

In May, Mayumi received this esteemed Ivan Allen College staff recognition, celebrating her tangible, positive impact on students, faculty, and colleagues on campus.



Please join us in congratulating Mayumi on these incredible honors and her enduring impact!

OKINAWAN TRADITIONAL ARTS CLASSES

If you are interested in Okinawan traditional arts classes, please contact the UOKK. After confirming the details, we will connect you with the appropriate instructor or group representative.



Maekawa Ryu Seigenkai Ryukyu Minyo Institute

(Sanshin, Ryukyu Dance,
Ryukyu Koto)
Instructor: Akiko Kaneshiro
Currently active as a club



Yamada Ryu Davies Chinen Mitsuko Ryukyu Dance Class

Instructor: Mitsuko Davies

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



If you have Facebook or Instagram, please follow us to see event updates and photos.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

We welcome news and updates from our members. If you have something you would like us to share in the UOKK newsletter or on social media, please let us know. Examples include weddings, births, awards, achievements, activities, or other happy news from our members. After reviewing the information, we will be happy to share it with the Kenjinkai community.

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT EVENT!

Our next event will be the Okinawa Soba Day Cooking Class on Saturday, October 17. We hope it will be a fun time to make Okinawa soba together, connect with one another, and enjoy a little taste of Okinawa. We're looking forward to seeing everyone there!

The mornings and evenings are getting colder, so please stay warm and take good care of yourselves. We hope you enjoy the beautiful fall season here in Utah.