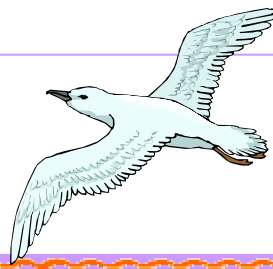


The Seagull



April 2007

Newsletter of Naval Officers' Spouses' Club of Okinawa (NOSCO)
www.noscookinawa.com

E. Biddle, Editor

Keep the Date



April 2	Passover Begins
April 6	Good Friday
April 8	Easter Sunday
April 22	Earth Day
April 25	Administrative Professional Day
May 3	National Day of Prayer
May 6-12	National Nurses' Week "A Profession and a Passion"
May 13	Mother's Day
May 20	End of the Year NOSCO and Navy Fleet Gift Shop Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

ANNUAL ART AUCTION MARCH 31, 2007



Radio Auction Melinda and Laina



The Work Party

Look for details on our
successful auction next
month!

Message from our President

Hello Members!

March was a great NOSCO month. Just this past weekend, we had our Annual Art Auction along with the help of Kanda's Art Gallery BOQ. This event is always a wonderful time and raises a lot of money for our club, which means more money for our charities and scholarships. A huge thank you to Margaret Beaubien for all of her hard work and leadership. It takes a lot of work to pull off this big of an event. Thanks to all of the volunteers that gave us your Saturday. A special thanks to all that came out and purchased art, your generosity is much appreciated!

The Chaplain's Coffee Group brought us our March Monthly Event. Look within this issue for all the details and pictures too. Thanks to the Chaplains' Spouses and to Carrie Wood for all your work on this event. A great time was had by all, and the prizes were fabulous.

It is that time again for electing your 2007-2008 NOSCO Board. Please print off your enclosed ballot and place your vote and nominate your friends today. This is a great way to get involved and build friendships. As a NOSCO Board member, you are involved in choosing the policies that govern NOSCO and the Navy Fleet Gift Shop. We need dedicated people who are willing to step up and get involved.

The Gift Shop had a successful Thailand opening in March and April brings Vietnam and the much awaited Jane Wayne Gear. Be sure to come by the Kid's Cottage to check these new bags out, as well as our large selection of children's Easter Dresses.

Looking ahead to April, we will have our Scholarship Selection Committee meeting. This is an exciting time for us, as we prepare to support many of our Navy families in their educational endeavors. Keep checking out our latest news on our website at www.noscokinawa.com

Thank you for making this the best Spouses' Club on Okinawa!

I can have my opinion, can't I?

Laina Bell, NOSCO President



Navy Fleet Gift Shop

TUESDAY IN THE STARS AND STRIPES

Remember to check the Tuesday issue of the Stars and Stripes for our weekly ads.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED

NFGS welcomes NOSCO members to volunteer at the shops. It is an opportunity to make new friends, browse the merchandise early and earn “funny money” to spend in the store. Stop by or call for more information.

GETTING TO THE KNOW THE NFGS TEAM!

Susan Klein (Suzie)

Suzie has been married to Dave for more than five years and they have two dogs, Roscoe and Dozer. They moved to Okinawa from Fairchild AFB, Washington State. Her home town is Homestead, Florida.

Suzie has worked in the non-profit world as Executive Assistant with Inland Empire Council of Girl Scouts USA. She loves to read, travel and cook. She is a fan of the Soba shop in Navel Kadena and shopping at the NFGS. She says the strangest thing she has seen on this island are the “Caution Animal” signs on the expressway depicting a wild boar running across the road.

Suzie welcome aboard.

Next Month you will get to know Erina and Kelli Richardson

Navy Fleet Gift Shop

Vietnam Unveils!

Wednesday, April 4th 10am-6pm

Come and see beautiful Spring Celebration Dresses for girls, Baskets, Patio Furniture, Fun Purses and lots of Kid's Goodies perfect for filling those Spring Baskets!

Exciting In-store Vendors

- ▲ Uptight (Home Linens) April 4-7
- ▲ Jewels of the Sea (sea glass jewelry) April 4-7
- ▲ Fong's Pearls April 11-21
- ▲ Raymond Ko April 25-28

Looking for an original place to host your social gathering?

Quickly reserve a time and let the NFGS open up exclusively for your group to shop and mingle. Mondays, Tuesdays and evenings are available.

DON'T FORGET!

- ▲ Sign up for the Baby Registry and check out the New June Bug Baby Slings at the Kids Cottage.
 - ▲ NFGS is the KOKESHI CONNECTION with a HUGE selection of these traditional Japanese Dolls!

Jane Wayne Gear

Coming to the Kids Cottage!

The First & Original Designers of "trendy gear" products decked out in camouflage with hot pink and "girly" fabrics dressed in traditional military flair! Exclusive to the NFGS on Okinawa!

NFGS welcomes NOSCO members to volunteer at the shops. It is an opportunity to make new friends, browse the merchandise early, and earn funny money to spend in the store!

Stop by or call for more information.

HOME STORE Wed. 10-6, Thurs-Sat 10-3, 643-7841-KIDS COTTAGE Wed.-Fri. 10-3, Sat 12-2, 645-8812

Events and Things to Do



This program has already started two libraries on the island – please continue to support it with your donations.

Army Community Group of Okinawa with the cooperation of the American Women's Welfare Association, MOSC, KOSC and NOSCO

Will be sponsoring an ongoing Book Drive to Benefit the Ryukyu America Historical Research Society

Look for collection boxes located in various gift shops/thrift shops, libraries and BX's on Kadena, Foster and Torii Station. Please direct inquiries to Wendy Lundgren 633-9075

Resource for Okinawa Sent from Kelly Garcia

My friend has a wonderful website called www.okimama.wordpress.com that I wanted to share with you. It's written by her and a couple of other people on the island as kind of an island guide/discussion/advice site. It's really fun and would be an excellent resource for families PCSing to the island. We're trying to grow the site so that it can benefit as many people as possible. Enjoy!

Hot stuff from our coffee groups

CTF-76 Coffee Group

CTF-76 wives have been busy preparing for our April 7, Spring Party for the children in the command. Lari Howard was kind enough to have a meeting at her house on March 21 to go over the final details for the party. It should be a lot of fun with a lot of arts and craft activities, pictures with the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt, cake walk, games and the bouncy.

April's coffee will once again be at Vicky Reed's house. We will be decorating Easter cupcakes for our families and the chocolate fountain (again) will be the evenings highlight.

May 4, Vicky will be hosting a baby shower for Amanda Harrington

Dental Coffee Group

"Spring Fling!" What a great theme for our March bunko. We had a great turnout- it was wonderful to see so many members supporting our monthly function. Special thanks to Samantha Babinec for being such a gracious host.

April bunko will be hosted by Rebecca Peterson. More info will become available via email.

Remember that the 3rd. Sat. of the month is Dental Sat. at the Navy Gift Shop. It is a good opportunity to volunteer and contribute to a good cause since proceeds from the store go to Japanese and American Charities. So come out and volunteer/shop at the Navy Store. We could always use more volunteers especially as we are approaching PCS time.

Chaplains Coffee Group



Our retreat on March 8-10 in White Beach was fabulous. We had only a small group but we had many hours of eating, talking and praying. We did facials and drank delicious coffee drinks prepared by Carrie Wood and her awesome coffee machine.



At our March meeting we learned to make Squash Photo Albums. Our hostesses a wonderful meal and taught us a new craft.

In March we hosted the NOSCO group as we sponsor "The World of Japanese Quilting" on March 14, 2007. We had a wonderful time, great lunch and the door prizes were GREAT! Thank you Carrie Wood for coordinating this for us!

We are planning a trip to the NFGS in April and May will be our Farewell meeting for those PCSing.

The World of Japanese Quilting



The Group



Eiko, Carrie, Katsuko



Katsuko, Laina

On Wednesday, March 14, NOSCO Members and Guests visited Heartland quilt shop where Katsuko Higa amazed us with her art. Katsuko Higa is an award winning quilter many times over and not only showed us her winning quilts, but demonstrated the sewing and quilting process. Katsuko's mother, Eiko Higa can be found running the quilt shop most days and can be a great

source of help when looking for items. Following the demonstrations and some shopping, the group next visited The Loop for lunch. Everyone received goodie bags with Longaberger quilting kits, and three lucky ladies walked away with great door prizes.



BIRTHDAYS

Monica Butler	April 4
Margy Metzler	April 4
Mary Henderson	April 7
Gale Rodgers	April 8
Shyla Hale	April 10
Melody Howard	April 11
Sara Sladeczek	April 13
Kelly Varner	April 18
Anna Vanbrunt	April 23
Laura Witham	April 24
Margaret Beaubien	April 25
Teresa Godinez	April 28
Roxane Hixson	April 29
Lissette Mize	April 30
Christine Morse	April 30
Katy Talerico	April 30
Kelli Richardson	April 30

2006-2007 NOSCO Board

Honorary President	Vacant
President	Laina Bell
1 st Vice President	Lissette Mize
2 nd Vice President	Stephanie Johnson
Secretary	Debra Bola
Treasurer	Sara Bailey
Parliamentarian	Melanie Hardy

Committee Chairs

AWWA	Shyla Hale
Consumer Affairs	Steve Emerick
Gift Shop Director	Sara Sladeczek
Hospitality	Cindy Barrington
Membership	Paula Blivin

Publicity
Seagull Editor
Ways and Means
Web Site Editor

Vicki Lane
Elizabeth Biddle
Margaret Beaubien
Shannon GaNun

Coffee Reps

CTF76	Vicky Reed
CFAO	<i>Vacant</i>
Chaplains	Carrie Wood
USNDC	Mimi Brenyo
	Chris Morse
USNHO	Tami Cooper
	Angie Ehle
3 rd Medical	Andrea McCoy

Advisors

CTF76	Vickie York
	Lari Howard
CFAO	<i>Vacant</i>
Chaplains	<i>Vacant</i>
USNDC	Ann Leonard
USNHO	Cathi Cox
3 rd Medical	Debbie McCue

All contact information on website

Board News

END OF YEAR PICNIC

Stephanie Johnson, 2nd VP

Due to many folks PCSing in June, we are moving our End of the Year NOSCO and Navy Fleet Gift Shop Volunteer Appreciation picnic to **Saturday, May 19th.**

Look in the May newsletter for more details.

MEALS FOR NEW MOMS Shannon GaNun, Coordinator

A Great Benefit of NOSCO Membership

A Great gift to the new mother

The gift of a prepared meal during those first hectic weeks with a newborn is always appreciated. If you or another NOSCO member has just had or is about to have a baby, please let Shannon GaNun know. Don't count on the new mom to ask you! Often they are too busy and overwhelmed to ask for any help. You get the "ball rolling" by contacting

Shannon who will organize a few weeks of meals to be brought to the family. Make sure you include the new mom's email, phone number, and address. If you are interested in volunteering to cook meals, let her know and she will contact you regarding menu, timing etc. (shannon@shannonganun.com or 633-1199)

INTEREST GROUPS /SCHOLARSHIP

Lissette Mize, First Vice President

Special Interest Groups

We are looking for someone to coordinate the Travel Special Interest Group. Please contact me at colycal@yahoo.com if interested
Lissette Mize

It is never too late to join and Interest Group. Below is a list of current groups. Simply email the coordinator and attend. You'll be glad you did.

Baby Lunch Bunch

Casey Daily (caseydaily@yahoo.com)

Bible Study

Katrina Pringle
(pringleko@oki10.med.navy.mil)

Board Gaming

Meghan Capp (meghan.capp@gmail.com)

Book Club

Kelly Reddy-Heffner
(reddyheffner@hotmail.com)

Cooking

Jen Denevan (jenniferdenevan@hotmail.com)

Dining Divas and Dudes

Shyla Hale (srmhale@yahoo.com) and
Lissette Mize (colycal@yahoo.com)

If you have a favorite restaurant and you would like to share it with us. Please email me or call me. We will be meeting the second Thursday of every month so join us in discovering a new restaurant every month.

Hiking/Geocaching

Kelly Reddy-Heffner
(reddyheffner@hotmail.com)

Playgroup

Tami Cooper (tnccooper@mac.com)

Quilting

Carrie Wood (gclwood@oasis.mediatti.net)

Scrap Booking

Vicky York (reddahlia@hotmail.com)

Stamping

Paula Blivin (blivin000@yahoo.com)

Travel

Monica Butler (mlskoala2004@yahoo.com)

Don't see a group you want to join? Start your own!

2006-2007 EVENT PLANNING

Month	Coffee Group	Event
May	NOSCO	Scholarship Reception and End of Year Picnic



"Here comes Peter Cottontail hoppin' down
the bunny trail Hippity hoppity
Easters on its way!"...

The Easter bunny has its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. The Hare and the Rabbit were the most fertile animals known and they served as symbols of the new life during the spring season.

The bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s. The first edible Easter bunnies were made in

Germany during the early 1800s. And were made of pastry and sugar

The Easter bunny was introduced to American folklore by the German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch Country during the 1700s. The arrival of the "*Oschter Haws*" was considered "childhood's greatest pleasure" next to a visit from Christ-Kindel on Christmas Eve. The children believed that if they were good the "*Oschter Haws*" would lay a nest of colored eggs.

The children would build their nest in a secluded place in the home, the barn or the garden. Boys would use their caps and girls their bonnets to make the nests. The use of elaborate Easter baskets would come later as the tradition of the Easter bunny spread through out the country.

A Good Laugh



2007-2008 NOSCO Ballot

OFFICERS

President

- Chris Morse
 Other _____

Secretary

- Wendy Hicks
 Other _____

1st Vice President

- Elizabeth Biddle
 Other _____

Treasurer

- Vicki Lane
 Other _____

2nd Vice President

- Other _____

Parliamentarian

- _____

BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS

The NOSCO board is looking for individuals interested in filling the following board member positions. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please write in a name in the space provided.

Seagull Editor _____

Compile, edit, publish, and distribute monthly newsletter.

Hospitality _____

Dispersing gifts to NOSCO members, involved with Welcome Aboard Coffee

Publicity _____

Notifies news media outlets of any NOSCO function

Ways and Means _____

Chairs the annual NOSCO art auction

Web Site Editor _____

Maintain and update the NOSCO website

All active NOSCO members are eligible and encouraged to vote. You may cast your vote at the Navy Home Store from April 1 – April 15.

**PLEASE PRINT, COMPLETE
AND BRING TO GIFT SHOP TO
VOTE**