

Keep the Date



- March 14
The World of Japanese Quilting
- March 14
Thailand Shipment Opens
- March 17
St. Patrick's Day
- March 31
Annual Art Auction



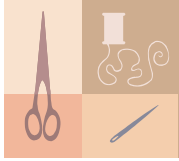
NAVAL OFFICERS' SPOUSES' CLUB OF OKINAWA
AND
KANDA'S ART GALLERY BOQ
PRESENT THEIR

ANNUAL ART AUCTION MARCH 31, 2007

START TIME: 5:30 PM FOR PREVIEWING
AND PRE SALES

START TIME AUCTION: 7:00 PM
BUTLER OFFICERS' CLUB

RADIO AUCTION MARCH 30, 2007
7:00-10:00 AM ON AFN RADIO



NAVAL OFFICERS' SPOUSES' CLUB OF OKINAWA PRESENTS
THE WORLD OF JAPANESE QUILTING
WE WILL BE VISITING "HEARTLAND," A JAPANESE QUILTING SHOP
AND THEN GOING TO LUNCH AT "THE LOOP"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

10:00 A.M.....MEET AT KADENA USO OR BUTLER OFFICERS' CLUB TO CAR POOL
10:30 A.M..... VISIT TO HEARTLAND QUILTING SHOP
11:45 A.M.....TRAVEL TO LUNCH
12:00 P.M..... LUNCH AT THE LOOP
1:45 P.M..... RETURN TO CARS
2:00 P.M..... DEPART

WE WILL HAVE GIFT BAGS FOR ALL AND DOOR PRIZES TO BE WON. LIMIT OF 20 PEOPLE.
PAYMENT WILL BE IN YEN ONLY: \$15.00

DEADLINE: MARCH 7, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CARRIE WOOD 633-0389
RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY SIGNING UP AND PAYING THE FEE AT THE NAVY FLEET GIFT SHOP!!!

Message from our President:

March Greetings!

Spring is upon us, and so is our annual biggest event, Our Art Auction on March 31. This is one event you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars now.

Here is how the night will work:

We are teaming with Kanda's Art Gallery BOQ to bring you some wonderful Japanese art, and raise money for our non-profit organization. The evening will consist of free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Admission is free and for those wanting to participate in our auction and have an opportunity for our door prizes; Bid Books are available for purchase for only \$5 each. You can start out the evening by Previewing and Pre-buying any one of several pieces of art from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. At 7:00 pm, the auction will begin. We expect to have approximately 100 items for our auction, some brand new to the island for this event. The evening is packed full of fun, and I hope to see each of you there.

Our Gift Shop is always full of great opportunities to shop with your money going to charity, both Japanese and American, as well as many volunteer opportunities. Please get to know some of our Gift Shop staff by reading further in this issue. Thailand is just around the corner; with unpack on March 6, and the Opening on March 14. Remember, with just four hours of help with unpack week, and four hours of help with opening week, you can qualify to Pre-buy.

Also, we would like to feature the Kadena Thrift Shop this month. Check out how this shop gives free shopping dollars to those that are eligible. Pass this word within your Commands.

Vickie York and I were fortunate to participate in our annual AWWA Off-Island trip, returning March 1. Look forward to April's issue for a recap of our visits to 22 Japanese facilities that we are proud to support with our Gift Shop profits. It was a life changing experience, and definitely reaffirms the great things that can be done from our gift-shopping dollars. Thanks again for supporting our Gift Shop.

Don't forget to RSVP for our March Monthly Event sponsored by our Chaplain's Coffee Group. This quilting event is one that you will enjoy even if you don't quilt. We are truly privileged to have this opportunity for our membership.

Laina Bell, NOSCO President



Navy Fleet Gift Shop

OUR THAILAND SHIPMENT IS EARLY!!! SHIPMENT OPENING MARCH 14

Don't miss the outdoor furniture, unique fun pottery, purple Celadon, adorable kid's clothing, and elegant jewelry. Great Easter Gifts and More!

VENDORS AT THE HOME STORE

Fong's Pearls – March 4-17

NEW Musubi Designs (Obi purses and wraps) – March 14-17

NEW Lucas Sterling Creations (hand-crafted jewelry) – March 21-24

Mel Thai (jewelry and Photography) – March 27-31

JANE WAYNE GEAR

COMING IN MARCH!

Jane Wayne Gear is the first and original designers of “trendy gear” products. Their clothing has a traditional military flair in camouflage hot pink and other “girlie” fabrics. **Exclusive to the NFGS.**

LOOKING FOR AN ORIGINAL PLACE TO HOST YOUR SOCIAL GATHERING?

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

KIDS COTTAGE

Sign up for the Baby Registry and check out the **NEW** June Bug Baby Slings!

KOKESHI CONNECTION

We are your headquarters for Kokeshi dolls. We have a huge selection of these traditional Japanese Dolls!

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!

Sara Sladeczek (Director)

Sara has been our Merchandising Director and has now moved into the position of Director. Sara has been married to Paul for over eight years and they have two children Gabriel 5 and Paige 2. They moved to Okinawa from New River Air Station in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Her home town is Swansboro, North Carolina. (I didn't ask if she was a “tarheel”.)

Sara has worked in the non-profit world as Director with a Community Health Organization, Administrator of an HIV Consortium, and Director of a Free Clinic. She loves to read and travel with her family, books by Nicholas Sparks and shopping at UniQlo. She finds her biggest challenge and biggest gift are the same – being a mother. Sara is a fan of CoCo's Curry Restaurant and reading a book without interruption. She says the strangest thing she has seen on this island is the ability to interact with the animals at the parks and zoo.

Sara thank you for your willingness to “run the fleet”.

Tamra Collins (Bookkeeper)

Tamra has been married to Timothy for 20 years and they have four boys. Joshua 14, Corey 13, Brandon, 12 and Christian 8. They have one dog “Yoda” who is an Oki-mix. They moved to Okinawa from Vandenberg AFB in California. Her home town is Muncie, Indiana.

Tamra has been in production planning and purchasing; however, her last position was at the Chapel in Vandenberg AFB as the bookkeeper. She loves snorkeling, reading, studying Japanese, and playing basketball with the kids. She finds her biggest challenge is getting up in the morning. Tamra loves CoCo's Curry Restaurant, shopping at UniQlo and a rainy day reading books. She says the strangest thing she has seen on this island is the fruit bats!

Tamra welcome to the NFGS!

Kelly E. Varner (Merchandising Manager)

All of you know Kelly, but did you know...Kelly has been married to James for 16 years and has three children Rachel 21, Patrick 15 and Alicia 13. They have a dog named "Gordy" who is a Lab-Pit mix pound puppy. They moved to Okinawa from Camp Pendleton, California. Her home town is Angola, New York.

Kelly was in the Navy for six years and then worked for Morgan Stanley before finding her way to the NFGS. She loves to read, going to movies, and exploring the island. She finds her biggest challenges are her children (AMEN!). Kelly loves Sam's By the Sea, Gone with the Wind, and our NFGS. She says the strangest thing she has seen on this island is people who don't like it here!

Thank you Kelly for your hard work at the NFGS!

Next Month we will tell you about Tina, Erina, Mindy, Suzie Kline and Kelli Richardson

SHOPPING HOURS

Home Store: 643-7841
Wed. 10-6, Thurs.-Sat. 10-3
Kids Cottage: 645-8812
Wed.-Fri. 10-3, Sat. 12-2

Events and Things to Do



Need Help at the Annual Art Auction

It's that time of year again to help with our Annual Art Auction. It takes a lot of people to pull together this kind of event and we need your help!

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

2007 Navy Dragon Boat Team

This is open to anyone interested in joining the Men's or Women's **NAVY** Team. Practice starts Monday, March 5, 2007. So, come out and share your enthusiasm and experience! Call Tamara Schulz at 098-958-2455 (cntschulz@ybb.ne.jp) to get all the details!

Cultural Events OIWC

**(Okinawa International Women's Club)
Luncheon
March 5, 2007**

Visit our site at: www.freewebs.com/oiwc

Hot stuff from our coffee groups

CTF-76 Coffee Group

Our CTF-76 February coffee was held at Vicky Reed's. We had a fun evening playing "Cupid" bingo and of course how can you celebrate Valentine's Day without chocolate. Vicky brought out her infamous chocolate fountain and each wife brought something to dip.

The last weekend in March we will be hosting a Spring Party for our kids at White Beach. We'll have an Easter egg hunt and even got a volunteer bunny to hop around to entertain the kids. Our planning committee will be meeting March 2 to finalize the details.

Dental Coffee Group

We want to thank Margy Metzler for hosting our Feb. bunko. The theme was "Death by Chocolate"- what a perfect theme for February. She had a little surprise for everyone that of course included chocolate--so no one went home empty handed. Also, we had people who are PCSing sign the bunko table. We all had a great time. Thanks again Margy.

The next bunko will be hosted by Samantha Babinec. More information about this function will be distributed via email.

Chaplains Coffee Group



In February, we hosted a "Sweetheart Dinner" for all the Chaplains and their spouses. Our spouses with deployed Chaplains also attended and gazed into recent photos sent for the occasion. It was a beautiful, romantic evening for all who attended. The Globe and Anchor did a wonderful job with the decorations and food! We had a Chocolate Tasting and music provided by our own Mindy Manuel. What a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Our retreat will be March 8-10 in White Beach. Our March meeting will be learning to make Squash Photo Albums.

In March we will be hosting the NOSCO group as we sponsor "The World of Japanese Quilting" on March 14, 2007. You won't want to miss this event. Price includes lunch. Please join us!

The Third Medical Group



On Friday (February 23) evening, the Third Medical Group mixed it up with the Dental Battalion at the Butlers Officers' Club for a Toga Party! The togas were creative and what a variety of costumes! Fun was had by all who attended!! The best toga left with a teak Navy chair and pillow! Congratulations Lauren!! A Big thank you to the McNalley's who bought drinks for all patrons in toga that night!

Chinese Cooking at Peter's Place

3rd Medical Battalion Coffee Group joined forces with the Hospital Coffee Group on February 22 to host a NOSCO luncheon at Peter's Place. All who attended enjoyed Peter's humor and cooking secrets as we watched him prepare a delicious five dish meal. We learned how to make "real" fried rice and beef with spinach among other things. After lunch, ice cream was served, fabulous door prizes were given away and Mary shared some of her Chinese antique knowledge with us before we toured her Chinese antiques down stairs. We would like to thank all that came and we hope you had a great time!!





BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
Samantha	Babinec	Mar 3
Janel	Paulk	Mar 5
Megumi	Lawler	Mar 8
Tanja	Groesbeck	Mar 9
Sarah	O' Brien	Mar 10
Melanie	Hardy	Mar 14
Melonie	Koss	Mar 15
Diane	Liddell	Mar 17
Stacy	Perry	Mar 17
Allison	Evers	Mar 18
Irisha	Johnson	Mar 19
Cindy	Vroman	Mar 21
Dana	Davies	Mar 21
Cindy	Vroman	Mar 21
Karina	Dick	Mar 22
Suzanne	Landrum	Mar 24
Jody	Facey	Mar 25
Jennifer	Adams	Mar 26
Lisa	Drew	Mar 31



BIRTHS

NOSCO member Susan Levoy delivered a baby boy named Conner on February 9.

NOSCO member Katy Talerico recently delivered a baby boy named Andrew

2006-2007 NOSCO Board

Honorary President	Vacant
President	Laina Bell
1 st Vice President	Lissete 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	Vicki Lane
Seagull Editor	Elizabeth Biddle
Ways and Means	Margaret Beaubien
Web Site Editor	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

NOMINATIONS

It's that time again. We are preparing to compile next year's NOSCO Board and WE NEED YOU! Please consider serving as we have many openings. Getting involved is sometimes difficult; however, we ask you to consider giving a little of your time to serve this dynamic organization that helps our community with actions and money. For more information, please contact Melanie Hardy. 646-5843

LOOK AT THE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY AWWA ...

Shyla Hale, AWWA Representative

AWWA Member Organizations include the following:

Army Community Group of Okinawa (ACGO)
Kadena Enlisted Spouses' Club (KESC)
Kadena Officers' Spouses' Club (KOSC)
Marine Officers' Spouses' Club (MOSC)
Naval Officers' Spouses' Club on Okinawa (NOSCO)

The KESC offers a great program - keep reading. Have you been to the new location of the KESC Thrift Shop? It is time to check it out! The Kadena enlisted Spouses' Club operates the Thrift Shop.

The Thrift shop donates to AWWA. Also, if you are considering donating goods this is an excellent place. They offer a program called "Thrift Shop Bucks". This allows military members (all services) E1-E4 to spend \$80 in Thrift Shop Bucks a month, every month. A single service member E1-E4 is given \$40 in Thrift Shop Bucks to use every month. A married service member (with 1 or more children and/or single parent with 2 children) is given \$80 in Thrift Shop Bucks every month. It is called Uncle Sam's USA Attic. It is open to all services.

They are located on Kadena. From Gate 3 at the first intersection, turn RIGHT. At the next four way stop, turn LEFT. Drive up the hill and they are in building 859 on the LEFT.

Please call 633-0436 for further information.

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 to 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 Scholarships

NOSCO is currently taking Scholarship Applications for the 2007 - 2008 school year. Requirements and application are available at noscokinawa.com Contact: Lissette Mize at colycal@yahoo.com or 633-6910.

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 (gclcwood@oasis.mediatti.net)

Scrap Booking

Vicky York (reddahlia@hotmail.com)

Stamping

Paula Blivin (blivin000@yahoo.com)

Travel

Monica Butler (miskoala2004@yahoo.com)

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

2006-2007 EVENT PLANNING

Month	Coffee Group	Event
March	Chaplains	Japanese Quilting
April	NOSCO	Art Auction
May	NOSCO	Scholarship Reception
June	NOSCO	End of Year Picnic



Why Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March 17th? One theory is that that is the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17th. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17th is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.

In American cities with a large Irish population, St. Patrick's Day is a very big deal. Big cities and small towns alike celebrate with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink, and activities for kids such as crafts, coloring and games. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green!

A Good Laugh

Three little boys were concerned because they couldn't get anyone to play with them. They decided it was because they had not been baptized and didn't go to Sunday school. So they went to the nearest Church. But, only the Janitor was there.

One little boy said, "We need to be baptized because no one will come out and play with us. Will you baptize us?"

"Sure," said the Janitor. He took them into the bathroom and dunked their little heads in the toilet bowl, one at a time. Then He said, "You are now baptized!"

When they got outside, one of them asked, "What religion do you think we are?" The oldest one said, "We're not Kathlick, because they pour the water on you. We're not Babtis, because they dunk all of you in the water. We're not Lutrans, because they just sprinkle water on you."

The littlest one said, "Didn't you smell that water?!" They all joined in asking, "Yeah! What do you think that means?"

"I think it means we're Pisscopailians."