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Military Spouses Participate in Sen Shu Ikenobo Flower Show



By Margy Metzler

Living in a foreign country provides us with the wonderful opportunity to explore the local culture and meet the local people. The spouses that participated in the flower show held at the Plaza House shopping center January 29 to the 31st not only are exploring but actively involved in the centuries-old art of Japanese flower arranging, or Ikebana. The show coincided with the

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Nakajima Robins Sensei

...from our president



Happy Valentine's Day!

Hello, I hope you all have a FABULOUS Valentine's Day! January ended with a fantastic fundraiser at Oriental Place! We had a wonderful turn out and did very well! Thank you to Yuki and her Staff at Oriental Place for making it a grand event, and a very special Thank you to everyone who attended! Friday's Wine & Cheese reception was a big hit with many people in attendance, followed by a great weekend of sales as well.

February begins with a Thailand opening at Navy Fleet Gift Shop! Tons of great things as usual so please stop by. New teak furniture, soap, apothecary jars and more! Remember they are also always looking for great volunteers. To volunteer just stop by, sign up and they will be happy to put you to work. It is a lot of fun and the store depends greatly on the volunteer support. Also, every month the Saturdays are divided according to coffee groups. The goal is to have volunteers from each coffee group on their designated Saturday. Please read the Seagull to find out which week is your group's Saturday to volunteer and stop by and help out on that day as well.

Bunco Rocks is back!!! Join us February 26th at 6:30 PM for an evening of fun and fabulous prizes at the Crows Nest on Camp Shields. See the flyer in the Seagull for more information or contact Amy Oxner.

It is that time of year when we start looking for fabulous spouses who would like to take an active roll on our NOSCO board. We have several available positions this year and are looking for eager people to fill them. Please contact any NOSCO member if you are interested in being on the 2010-2011 NOSCO board. You can also contact me at apatangan@yahoo.com for more information.

We also have a great "travel group" that is up and running if you would like to join that please contact Margy Metzler. The group has fabulous outings each month and they always have a great time!

I would also like to put a very special THANK YOU in *The Seagull* this month to Colleen Cooney our Editor. She and her family will be PCS-ing and I wish them all the luck in the world. She has done an excellent job and will be greatly missed! Thank you Colleen!

I hope that February is filled with wonderful family experiences and fun activities all month for each of you!

Sincerely,
Angela Patangan
NOSCO President

CTF-76/CFAO

By Colleen Cooney

This month we held a bake sale fundraiser at the CTF-76 command and raised about \$200 for our spouse group. Special thanks to Kim and Suzy for organizing the fundraiser and to all those who donated baked goods! We had our monthly meeting Feb. 2. We'll be planning a lunch or dinner near the end of the month to say farewell to a few members.



3rd Med

By Kelly Kaup

Our January coffee was dinner at Tsubaki-Ya near Camp Courtney. We had a great showing of ladies. It was great to see everyone after our long break over the holidays. Don't miss next month, Monday, February 22nd, when we will meet at Elizabeth's choice of dining facilities!



Naval Hospital

By Maureen Domery

This month the USNH Coffee Group traveled to an Okinawan woman's home where we enjoyed a traditional tea ceremony. It was a beautiful, cultural experience for us all.



There will be a "General" coffee group starting for those spouses who don't fall into a specific command or those who would like to participate in a separate group. Please contact Kaylin Palmer at 932-1778 or apalmer515@aol.com for more information.

Dental

By Lindsay Platt

The Dental Coffee Group met on January 20 at Lindsay Platt's home in Awase. Thirteen members attended to eat baked potatoes, catch up with friends and play a round of Bunco. Everyone had a fun time!

BUNCO Rocks 2010

When: FEBRUARY 26, AT 6:30 P.M.

Where: THE CROW'S NEST,
CAMP SHIELDS

Who: NOSCO MEMBERS (APPLICATIONS ARE
AVAILABLE AT NFGS OR ONLINE AT
WWW.NOSCOKINAWA.COM PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL)
PLUS ONE GUEST

Why: TO HAVE FUN ROLLING THE DICE
AND WINNING JEWELRY!

Cost: \$20 PER PERSON (INCLUDES HORS
D'OEUVRES AND TWO RAFFLE TICKETS)



**Everything's in place,
except you...**

*Generous donations made by
local jewelry vendors to give away as
Bunco and raffle prizes!!*



*Diamonds, Pearls, Jade,
Onyx, Crystals, Beads,
Charms, Gold, Silver,
Bracelets, Rings,
Necklaces, Earrings...
Oh, my!*

Everyone will go home a winner!!



*Limited seating available –
so reserve your place today*

*Sign up here at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop
on Camp Lester*

**QUESTIONS? CALL AMY OXNER:
090-1949-5170
ALOXNER@YAHOO.COM**

- *Additional raffle tickets will be
available for sale at the event!*
- *Cash Bar!*
- *Door Prizes!*

Navy Fleet Gift Shop

HOME STORE & KIDS COTTAGE | CAMP LESTER

THAILAND is HERE!

Opening Wednesday, Feb. 3rd at 10AM
Stop by the Home Store & Kids Cottage to
check out our exciting new shipment!

VIETNAM & THE PHILIPPINES
TO ARRIVE IN MARCH!

February 2010

The Navy Fleet Gift Shop is hiring! We are looking for an Operational Supervisor & Shop Assistant. For more information about these positions please email Ana at: rfgsdirector@yahoo.com.

KOKESHI
NATIVITIES
ARRIVING
THIS MONTH!

VENDORS AT THE HOME STORE IN FEBRUARY

FEB 3-6: ZAHARA BOUTIQUE

FEB 10-13: ROYAL PHOENIX

FEB 17-20: ROYAL PHOENIX

FEB 24-27: UPTIGHT

AWWA Corner

By Amy Pettle, AWWA Chairperson

Each month, NOSCO donates money to various American and Japanese charities through AWWA (American Women's Welfare Association). Your Navy Fleet Gift Shop dollars and volunteer hours make these donations possible!

With gift shop profits from October and November 2009, NOSCO was able to pledge funds to several organizations at the January AWWA meeting. Please keep in mind that the Japanese percentages may be higher since half our allotted American funds also go toward our Navy families college scholarships.

Recent Grants:

Japanese

- Corporation Mazu, **\$720** (equipment for vegetable production business)

American

- Friends of the Stork's Nest, **\$180** (quarterly cleaning contract)
- Torii Station Wolfpack Football Team, **\$300** (helmets for adult football team)

If your organization would like to apply for a grant through AWWA, applications can be obtained by emailing our AWWA Board at awwaokinawa@yahoo.com. Please contact me directly with any questions concerning AWWA at ampettle@yahoo.com.



Other AWWA news

January 25th On-Island Trip

On January 25th, Angela Patangan, Amy Oxner, and I along with other AWWA representatives had the opportunity to visit two Okinawan facilities that are currently requesting funds from AWWA.

We visited the Uruma City Welfare Council and toured their facilities. They provide training, education, welfare support, counseling, and fitness facilities for the disabled, aged, and youth in Uruma City.



We also visited Corporation Namakarado in Nago City. This organization provides day care services, home visit services and transportation

services to the elderly and disabled in northern Okinawa.



It was a great opportunity to interact with the local community and see how these organizations use our charitable donations.

March 15th On-Island Trip

Our next on-island trip will be March 15th. We currently have eight spaces for NOSCO members on the bus, and we would love to have more people attend. If you are interested in joining us in March, please contact me at 646-8503 or ampettle@yahoo.com.



The Travel Group (The Amelia's) Goes Mikan Picking



By Margy Metzler

I have renamed the Travel Group to "The Amelia's" even though they keep pointing out that she did not return. But the new name brought us luck on January 11th, the day of our Mikan picking. Seven of us went north to Izumi on the only beautiful, hot and sunny day of the week. For those of you new to Okinawa, Mikans are like small tangerines—in the states they are sometimes called Clementines—usually seedless, but not always. We were met at the orchard by the owner and shown to the best and easiest trees from which to pick our fruit. Lunch was a gourmet picnic lunch near Nago Castle. My Amelia's can really cook!

For directions and more pictures go to www.travelswithmargy.com

Future Outings:

February 4th: Cherry Blossom Hike
March: Whale Watching - more information to come.

If you would like to join the Travel Group e-mail me at margymetzler@yahoo.com

Naval Officers' Spouses' Club of Okinawa (NOSCO) is offering

scholarships

to eligible U.S. Navy family members on Okinawa with SOFA status.

Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors, continuing college students, and spouses. All scholarships will be awarded for an accredited college, university, or vocational/trade school studies.

Please help us spread the word about NOSCO's scholarship program! More information is available at www.noscokinawa.com/scholarships.

Scholarship Applications are due

March 31, 2010

and can be found online at

www.noscokinawa.com

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

WWW.NOSCOKINAWA.COM



Ikebana

...from p. 1

yearlong celebration of the beloved Ikebana Sensei (teacher) Keiko Nakajima Robins 85th birthday. She is truly a National Treasure and has been honored by the Prime Minister of Japan for her work in building international relationships through her flowers. She is still teaching at the Kadena USO Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30.

If you would like to join a class either contact the USO or e-mail me at margymetzler@yahoo.com

They say a picture is worth a thousand words so I will tell the rest of this story in pictures.



The Navy Fleet Gift Shop

Thailand is Here!

Please come visit the Gift Shop to see our unique and exciting shipment from Thailand!
Opens February 3rd 10am!

Home Store

Spa Items, Essential Oils, Soaps, Gift Sets, Floor Mirrors, Lamps, Ceramic Dishes, Thai Roll Mats, Floor Cushions, Garden Lanterns, Picture Frames, Orchid Jewelry, Rattan, Reclaimed Teak, Monkey Pod, and Teak Furniture, and So Much More!!

Kids Cottage

Teak Desks, Rockers, Piggy Banks, Lamps, and Much More!





Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Camp Foster: Bldg. 5674, 645-7808, M-Fri 0830-1600
Camp Hansen: Bldg. 2339, 623-5043, M-Fri 1000-1400**

Did you know that . . .

Military Saves Week is from February 22-26.

NMCRS Okinawa will be hosting a Financial Education Class for E-5's and below, February 25, in the West Chapel from 0900-1200. Topics to be discussed include: preparing a spending plan; how to read a LES; how to balance a checkbook; and how to use credit. For more information please call 623-5043 or 645-7808.

Did you know that . . .

NMCRS Okinawa disbursed more than \$600,000 in emergency aid; over \$23,000 in education assistance and \$10,786 in grants for 2009. Our volunteers logged more than 6400 hours in volunteer hours; saw 920 cases resulting in financial assistance; crocheted/knitted 92 blankets and traveled over 6300 miles to assist service members.

Did you know that . . .

The Budget for Baby program is an informative class and at its conclusion parents are presented with a Volunteer- assembled layette? The layette includes terry sleepers, handmade blankets, sheets, towels, and more. In 2008 there were 6,230 families that participated in the Budget for Baby program. Classes are held the first three Thursday's of the month. Please call our offices for more information.

Military Spouse State Residency Status

White House Press Release

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 11, 2009
Statement by the President on S.475

Today I have signed into law S. 475, the "Military Spouses Residency Relief Act." This Act, among other things, would provide that when a service member leaves his or her home State in accord with military or naval orders, the service member's spouse may retain residency in his or her home State for voting and tax purposes, after relocating from that State to accompany the service member. When the military orders service members to move, spouses who move with them often have to pay taxes in a new State or locality and lose the right to vote in the place considered to be home. This legislation will alleviate these and other burdens on our military families. As the Congress has recognized, and as the legislative history reflects, this legislation is an important means of maintaining the morale and readiness of our Armed Forces and significantly enhances the ability of our military to effectively recruit and retain these highly valued service personnel.

BARACK OBAMA



Jaunel Lee	Feb 2
Wendy Pete	Feb 2
Susanna Petersen	Feb 4
Tina Orr	Feb 8
Kelly Cavanaugh	Feb 8
Rene Pachuta	Feb 10
Eun Hye Kim	Feb 20
Jill Hunter	Feb 24
Lorene Roth	Feb 25
Susan Bossert	Feb 26

To make a
submission for *The
Seagull*, please e-mail
Editor Margy Metzler at
margymetzler@yahoo.com

Hearty Beef Stew

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 pound beef for stew | 1 can sliced mushrooms |
| 1 Tbsp oil | 1 can diced tomatoes |
| 2 medium carrots | 1 small can peas |
| 2 stalks celery | 4 large potatoes |
| 1 small onion | Cornstarch |

Directions:

- Cut beef into bitesize pieces and brown in large pan with oil. Add salt & pepper to taste. When browned, cover meat with water and let boil for about an hour - add water as it boils off.
- Add chopped carrots, celery and onion. Cook until just soft. Add mushrooms, tomatoes and peas.
- To thicken stew: Stir small amounts of cornstarch into about 1/2 C cold water until slightly thickened. Stir into stew and heat through until thick and bubbly.
- Meanwhile, peel and cube potatoes and boil in large saucepan of water until easily pierced with fork. Mash potatoes with a splash of milk and pat of butter.
- Pour stew over mashed potatoes and enjoy!

To share your favorite recipe, please submit by email to margymetzler@yahoo.com.



*Peak cherry blossom season is upon us -
be sure to get out and enjoy the beautiful
Sakura while they last!*