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AWWA site visit

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A day of pampering
at Cocok's

NOSCO member participates in annual ikebana exhibition



Heather Upp, shown here in pink kimono, took part in Okinawa's Ikebana International Flower Exhibition March 27 - 29. She was kind enough to share her experience with *The Seagull*.

See page 4 for more...



...from our president

Spring Greetings NOSCO Members!



As my tenure as NOSCO President is coming to a close, **it is now time to elect your Board for 2009-2010**. We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful people already interested in serving NOSCO. My sincere thanks to each of the ladies who has already thrown her hat in the ring. I ask that you, the NOSCO members, take the time to fill out the ballot contained in this edition of *The Seagull* (page 10) and either drop it off at the Navy Fleet Home Store or send it via MPS. You can also stop by the Gift Shop and fill out a ballot while you're shopping or volunteering. We will be accepting ballots from April 1-15. If you are interested in one of the open positions, please contact me as soon as possible, we would love to have you serve on our Board! We are most in need of a Treasurer so that we can have a turnover at our regular June/July audit timeframe.

Thanks to the ladies of 3rd Dental for our very relaxing and fun Day of Pampering at Cocok's. Okay, you're right, I'm thanking myself but mostly Angela Patangan for the lovely day we recently experienced. We had 15 members enjoy a reduced-price pedicure and luncheon. Everyone received a handmade tote bag full of goodies. I am very sad to say that it is my last time planning and attending the event and I will be missing it next year while I am freezing in Chicago!

Our annual **NOSCO Scholarship** applications were due March 31. We will be meeting mid-April to determine who will be awarded the scholarships. We are putting together a Scholarship committee to determine the awardees. We require one member-at-large for our committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me at morsechristine@hotmail.com. We look forward to reviewing the applications and announcing the winners in our May edition of *The Seagull*.

March was a successful month at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop with an awesome combined Philippines/Vietnam opening. I was trying to volunteer but I could not stop shopping! I hope you stopped in to see all of the fun treasures at great prices. **Next up is our China shipment**. Please watch your email for announcements regarding the unload and opening. As always, **we need your help to survive**. If you have not already done so, PLEASE consider volunteering, every little bit helps! Also, we are currently **looking for a Director**. If you are interested in a fun and exciting job involving international business, travel, management, philanthropy and retail, our Director is all of those jobs rolled into one. Please contact Kelli Dillon at the Gift Shop for further information (645-8812).

Finally, Amy Pettle and I were most fortunate in that we were able to attend the **AWWA Off-island trip** last month. It was such an amazing opportunity to see with our own eyes the good that can be done with our efforts at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop. We visited 22 elderly care facilities, mentally and physically handicapped facilities and orphanages. We greeted the residents, sang, danced, ate and toured the facilities. It was very hectic, but worth every second. **If you ever have the opportunity to join us on an on-island visit, seize it!** Be sure to check out our pictures in *The Seagull*!

Please watch for announcements about our **End of the Year Party, tentatively scheduled for May 17**. All will be welcome!

Cheers,
Chris

3rd Med



By Kelly Kaup

The 3rd Med Coffee Group enjoyed a great evening out at Pizzeria Il Piccolino this month. Mmmm pizza and ice cream. We want to extend a great big welcome to our newest member Rieko Crain.



Naval Hospital



By Lori Tramont

The Hospital Coffee Group had a great time on March 9th at Rene Pachuta's home playing Bunco and Right, Left, Center! We will be meeting in April for lunch at the Tee House on the Kadena golf course.



Dental



By Angela Patangan

This month Angela Patangan hosted Bunco at her home and we enjoyed the "simple things that bring us joy." The gifts were an array of fun items from pottery to Japanese chairs to good old fashioned toilet paper! A good time was had by all!



Ikebana International Flower Exhibition

By Heather Upp

On March 27, 28 and 29, Ikebana International held their annual Flower Exhibition at Mitsukoshi Department store in Naha. Ikebana is the time-honored and beautiful Japanese art of arranging flowers by various techniques that focus on harmony between nature and mankind. This year's annual flower exhibition featured over 100 arrangements skillfully created by senseis and students from the various ikebana schools in Okinawa. The styles ranged from decorative to nature oriented, from traditional to modern, from simple to complex. They all shared in common the purpose of displaying the natural beauty of the flowers and branches in an eye-catching and elegant way.



some of the arrangements

The event commemorated Ikebana International Okinawa Chapter's 51st anniversary since it was founded by Sensei Keiko Nakajima Robins in 1958. Ikebana International (I.I) is a worldwide non-profit, cultural organization founded in Tokyo, Japan, in 1956 by American Ellen Gordon Allen. Today, I.I. boasts over 8,000 members in more than 50 countries including 32 states within the U.S. Their motto, "Friendship Through Flowers," shows that the organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other countries through ikebana. Participation and membership in Ikebana International is open to all persons interested in ikebana; experience is not required.

Heather Upp began taking ikebana classes at her local MCCA Arts and Crafts center over a year ago. After



making final preparations



continued next page...

There was a great turnout at the event, held in Naha

Ikebana

...continued

attending the 50th anniversary I.I. Flower Exhibition last March, she joined I.I. and is now a board member and participated in this year's flower exhibition. She enjoys the interaction and collaboration with delightful Japanese women during the monthly luncheons and cultural programs held by the Okinawa Chapter. Japanese, American, Chinese, Hawaiian and many more traditions have been shared through the cultural programs, which have included dance and music performances, holiday parties, tea ceremonies and more. Each month's event is an opportunity to see what ikebana is all about through the demonstration of flower arrangements and the fun of being together with international friends.

Ikebana classes are available weekly at Foster, Courtney, Kadena, Lester, and in the Hansen area. You are welcome to attend the next Ikebana International Okinawa Chapter luncheon held the fourth Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in learning ikebana or visiting the Ikebana International Okinawa Chapter, please contact an ikebana teacher at the Foster or Courtney MCCS Arts and Crafts Center or at Kadena USO.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony



Heather stands in front of the arrangement she worked on, shown left, with a team of three senseis. It was displayed at the entryway to the exhibit.

April News from the

Navy Fleet Gift Shop

Looking for a job?? Know someone who is?

Director of Gift Shops: 36 hrs/week. Salary paid position with select benefits including vacation & comp time. A great position for anyone seeking experience in international business, philanthropic work & getting to know great people around the island.

Shop Assistant: 20-30 hrs/month. This is an hourly paid position with the perks of a flexible schedule! Some Saturday daytime shifts and Wednesday evenings.

This job is a great way to meet people on-island and work in a fun environment!

Our April Vendors!!

Crafted by Sally, Op-tight, Royal Phoenix, Venus, Orbela Designs by Angela Patangan

Shanghai Shipment Arrives in April!

Keep an eye on your inbox for shipment opening date!

If you aren't signed up for our e-newsletter, please stop by the shop and sign up!

The faces of AWWA

Amy Pettle and Chris Morse visited 22 facilities during an AWWA off-island trip last month. They were happy to see the good that can be done with the donations from the Navy Fleet Gift Shop.



Amy and Chris greeted the residents of the elderly care facilities, mentally and physically handicapped facilities and orphanages. They also toured the facilities, sang, danced and ate.



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!

Recent Grants:

American

- Friends of the Stork's Nest, **\$935** (quarterly cleaning contract)
- Kubasaki Varsity Boys Soccer, **\$585.54** (Far East Tournament entry fees, lodging, and equipment)

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.

Happy Birthday

Rachel Veit	Apr 2
Carolyn Broccoli	Apr 2
Margy Metzler	Apr 4
Lori Tramont	Apr 4
Shannon Hawkins	Apr 6
Laura Seng	Apr 6
Larissa Traquair	Apr 13
Kelly Varner	Apr 18
Beth Landolt	Apr 22
Christine Morse	Apr 30

Girl Scouts need your help!

Foster Girl Scouts are seeking energetic and positive role models to help lead the next generation of girls!



Volunteer Positions Available! ➔

For more information on any of these positions, please email fostergirlscouts@yahoo.com or call Shan at 646-8379 or Shari at 646-2432

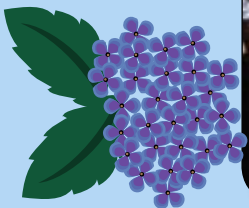
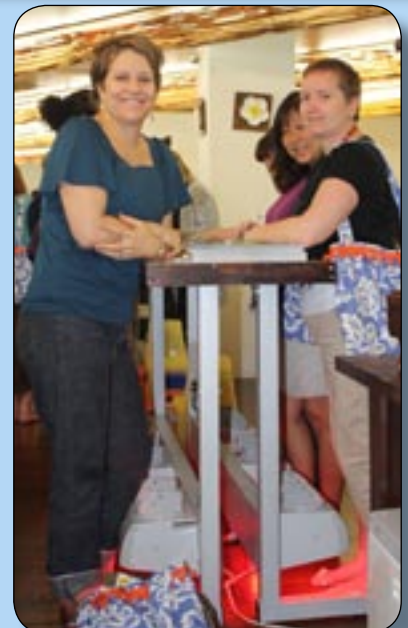
- Troop Leaders
- Assistant Leaders

Overseas Committee Members:

- Secretary
- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Trainer
- Community Liaison
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Special Events Coordinator
- Cookie Sales Manager

A Day of Pampering at *Cocok's*

Thanks to the ladies of 3rd Dental for a fabulous morning of pedicures, hand-made tote bags full of goodies, and a delicious luncheon! Fifteen members participated and showed off their pretty toes for the camera!



Please print this page!

2009-2010 NOSCO Election Ballot

All active NOSCO members are eligible and encouraged to vote for next year's Board members. You may cast your vote at the Navy Fleet Home Store from April 1-15, or print and mail this ballot via MPS to the Navy Fleet Gift Shop, PSC 482 Box 2962, FPO, AP 96362.

OFFICERS

President

- Angela Patangan
- Other _____

1st Vice President

- Caroline Hutto
- Other _____

2nd Vice President

- Amy Oxner
- Other _____

Secretary

- Meredith Bolton
- Other _____

Parliamentarian

- Kelli Dillon
- Other _____

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AWWA

- Amy Pettle
- Other _____

Membership

- Kim Carlson
- Other _____

Ways and Means

- Rachel Broom
- Other _____

Seagull Editor

- Colleen Cooney
- Other _____

Website Editor

- Suz Secrest
- Other _____

Consumer Affairs

- Britt Clark
- Other _____

ADDITIONAL OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

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

Treasurer_____

Maintains financial records, prepares monthly financial reports for NOSCO meeting and MCCA, prepares proposed budget.

Hospitality_____

Coordinates Newcomers' Brief representation, provides baby gifts to NOSCO Members, coordinates Meals for New Moms.

Publicity_____

Coordinates publicity for NOSCO functions and the Navy Fleet Gift Shop.