



*MOSC and NOSCO  
cordially invite  
you to a ...*

## *Welcome Aboard Reception*

**Who:** Officer's spouses and civilians on Okinawa  
**When:** Monday, September 22, 2008, 9:30am  
**Where:** Butler Officers' Club  
**Cost:** No charge

*Limited Childcare available.*

*E-mail [moscokinawa@yahoo.com](mailto:moscokinawa@yahoo.com) for more information.*

MOSC (Marine Officers' Spouses' Club) and NOSCO (Naval Officers' Spouses' Club of Okinawa) are social and service clubs that offer members the opportunity to meet other spouses and to serve the community.

**Questions? Please contact...**

Nesly Stahl (MOSC)  
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or  
Michael Toone (NOSCO)  
[mike@toone.us](mailto:mike@toone.us)



Please see [www.noscokinawa.com](http://www.noscokinawa.com) for more details.

## ...from our president

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the brand new Okinawa residents and potential NOSCO members who have recently arrived on island. I am sure your heads are swimming with the many opportunities for activities that are offered here on Okinawa. I hope that you will consider our organization. We have fun, network, and do good deeds for the community at large. Please visit our website [www.noscokinawa.com](http://www.noscokinawa.com) for further information and for our very convenient electronic application process. To our returning members, we hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready for the year to begin.



We hope you will all join us and spread the word about our annual **Welcome Aboard Reception** scheduled for September 22, 2008 at 9:30 am at the Butler Officers' Club. This is a FREE joint event with the Marine Officers' Spouses' Club open to any spouse eligible to join NOSCO and MOSC. There will be a free brunch, information, speakers, a goody bag and, of course, many door prizes. You will be able to sign up for the clubs, make new acquaintances and learn about all that NOSCO and MOSC have to offer. We do recommend that you avoid the line at check-in and use our new convenient electronic procedure to sign up in advance. Again, our website mentioned above has that information. Finally, we are excited to offer childcare for the Welcome Aboard in a limited capacity. It will be a first come, first served basis, so please email [moscokinawa@yahoo.com](mailto:moscokinawa@yahoo.com) for further information and to get your name on the list.

We also need your help to spread the word about our very last auction with **Kanda's Art Gallery** on October 25, 2008. We are still working out the details, but as soon as everything is approved we will be advertising the event. It will be everyone's last chance to purchase amazing Japanese art at an auction with Kanda's. While we are very sad about this turn of events, we look forward to our final event with them.

Calling all **volunteers, WE NEED YOU!** The Navy Fleet Gift Shop is always on the lookout for some great new volunteers. It is a great way to meet people, earn some funny money to spend in the store, possibly go on a buy trip and give your time to CHARITY! The work that we do in the Gift Shops translates into funds donated via the American Women's Welfare Association to American and Japanese charities. Speaking of the Gift Shop and volunteers, we are anticipating the arrival of our Shanghai shipment on September 9 with a 24-hour turnaround. We need your help to accomplish this mighty feat! Be among the first to buy, volunteer to help with the unload and you can qualify to pre-buy. Please contact our Navy Fleet Gift Shop for further information.

We look forward to the beginning of this year and all of the fun and activities that will start to happen. Please watch for an email from me regarding our Interest Groups. We will be looking for volunteers to get the groups started. The leaders we are looking for include bible study, book club, diving, playgroup, travel, outdoors, and golf. If you would be interested in leading one of these interest groups, please email me at [morsechristine@hotmail.com](mailto:morsechristine@hotmail.com).

I'll look forward to meeting many of you at the Welcome Aboard!

Cheers,  
Chris

# 3rd Dental BN

By Chris Morse

The Dental Coffee Group had a Welcome Coffee on August 24 hosted by our brand new CO's spouse, Angie Wolfgang. Angie provided a lovely spread of finger sandwiches and desserts. We welcomed our new members and made plans for the upcoming year. As usual, we will have bunco and a chinese gift exchange starting in September at Amy Colaianni's. We look forward to getting together again and stealing each others' gifts.



# 3rd Medical BN

By Kelly Kaup

The 3rd Medical Battalion wives had a wonderful time at their welcome coffee on the 26th. We welcomed delightful Marnie Gire to our group and can't wait until we can meet the other spouses that are new to the island as well. We may not be many in numbers, but we sure know how to have a good time. I am really looking forward to this coming year ladies, and I will see you all for dinner on September 23.

# Naval Hospital



By Lori Tramont

The Naval Hospital Spouses coffee group had a Food, Fun and Fitness event on August 26th. Margy Metzler organized this fun day and graciously opened her home. Her guest speakers included the Naval Hospital nutritionist, LTJG Stephanie Clapper; Personal Trainer and Boot Camp Instructor, Daniela Lararatta; Yoga and Pilates Instructor, Amanda Wiesner-Groff; and Waterfit Instructor, Angel Lono. Margy put on quite the spread with delicious low fat foods that tasted like they were full of calories but were not! We all learned a lot about fitness and food and enjoyed sampling Margy's cooking!

# CTF-76



By Colleen Cooney

It was an evening of food, wine and jewelry for the ladies of CTF-76, as we kicked off our Bunco Rocks plans with a Lia Sophia representative. It was a chance to get some early Christmas shopping done, and thanks to Bernadette Castillo for hosting! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Welcome Aboard reception!





# Spotlight

*on Louise Tower*

Each year, the National Military Family Association awards 200 spouses service-wide with the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program.

This year, Louise Tower, a member of NOSCO and a spouse of CTF-76, was chosen for the program. The fellowship covers the costs associated with completing the Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC) training and testing.

Over the next two years, Louise will complete between 400 and 1000 practicum hours, after which she will be an Accredited Financial Counselor, able to assist families and individuals with financial decision-making.

An Economics major, Louise is also very active with NOSCO, the command, and of course a full home life with her husband and 5 children. How does she do it?

*"I struggle with this everyday. My family comes first. When I received this fellowship I had many conversations with God to show me whether or not this path was for me right now. Every person I met was encouraging, I realized that in fact more than 200 people had applied and I was fortunate to receive this fellowship. So I took a deep breath, signed the papers and the rest I'll figure out as I go along!"*

To learn more about the program, go to [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org).

*Congratulations, Louise!*

**Don't forget to send in your 2008 membership dues!**

*Here's how:*

- Download application from [www.nosco-kinawa.com](http://www.nosco-kinawa.com) and type your info into the spaces provided
- Save as a new file, as "NOSCO(your name)" - ie, NOSCOLouiseTower.doc
- E-mail the completed application to [noscomembership@yahoo.com](mailto:noscomembership@yahoo.com)
- Go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) to pay your membership dues, using the above e-mail address

Of course, you can always use the traditional method...

- Download (from [www.nosco-kinawa.com](http://www.nosco-kinawa.com)) and print your application
- Drop off your completed application at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop on Camp Lester along with a check or cash  
**or**
- Mail your application with a check to:  
Louise Tower  
PSC 557 Box 71  
FPO AP 96379

*\*Membership Dues: \$25/yr or \$12.50 if PSCing before March*

*\*\*Please make check payable to NOSCO*

**Thank you!**

# Do you, or does someone you know, have a home-based business?

Need to spread the word?

The Welcome Aboard Reception  
on Monday, September 22nd

is the perfect opportunity to reach

*over 300 potential customers.*

*Each attendee will receive a "goodie bag" filled with a variety of information about programs, businesses and opportunities on Okinawa.*

You can participate by providing business cards, flyers, or brochures to place in the bags or by donating an item or two to be given away as a door prize.  
**Or do both!!!**

For more information please contact Mike Toone at [mike@toone.us](mailto:mike@toone.us) or call (098) 933-3646.



# BUNCO Rocks



*What:* BUNCO ROCKS 2008

*When:* NOVEMBER 14, AT 6 P.M.

*Where:* TENGAN CASTLE, CAMP COURTNEY

*Who:* ANY NOSCO MEMBER

Tickets are \$20 and include hors d'oeuvres and two raffle tickets. Additional raffle tickets will be sold at the event.

To reserve your space at a bunco table, or if you make or sell jewelry, contact Amy Dahlin at [amylydahlin@aol.com](mailto:amylydahlin@aol.com) or 622-8111.

*Prizes feature fantastic jewelry from popular vendors all around the island*



*First 20 guests to buy their ticket will receive a free gift!*

# Navy Fleet Gift Shop

September 11  
is Patriot's Day

to say *thank you*, we are offering

## 10% off

*for service members in uniform*  
(Excluding vendor items and Kokeshi dolls)

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Upcoming in-store vendors:

*Venus Jewelry*  
Sept 3-6 & 24-27

*Raymond Ko Jewelry*  
Sept 17-20

*Uptight*  
Oct 1-4

*Royal Phoenix*  
Oct 8-18

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Shanghai Shipment is Coming Soon!*

For more information, contact Kelli Dillon at  
navyfleetgiftshop@hotmail.com or call 645-8812

# 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). We are able to fund this through your Navy Gift Shop dollars and your Navy Fleet Gift Shop volunteer hours. Your continued support makes this possible!

Here's how NOSCO pledged our funds from the Navy Fleet Gift Shop July 2008 profits. Please keep in mind that the Japanese percentages may be higher since half our allotted American funds go toward our Navy families college scholarships.

## Recent Grants

*Japanese:*

- Washi No Sato/Ohama Koubou, \$252 (vacuum packaging machine)

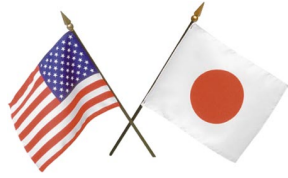
*American:*

- ASYMCA Children's Waiting Room, \$495 (storage equipment, toys, and art supplies)

*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](mailto:awwaokinawa@yahoo.com). Please contact me directly with any questions concerning AWWA at [ampettle@yahoo.com](mailto:ampettle@yahoo.com).*

Any comments or suggestions about The Seagull can be submitted to Editor Colleen Cooney at [cmcooney77@gmail.com](mailto:cmcooney77@gmail.com) or 098-979-7415.

# Culture Corner



## Obon Festival

(excerpt from Wikipedia.com)

During Obon, ancestors are believed to gather en masse with their living relatives. Prayers and offerings such as incense, food, alcohol, and flowers are all made three times a day.



Like Shiiiii and New Year's Eve (v.s.), Obon is a significant holiday in the ancestors worship of Ryukyu religion, and the attendance of members of extended families is almost required. The first day of Obon is called *unkee*. The family altar and memorial tablets cleaned and decked with incense, fruit, and sugarcane (*uji*) offerings.

ing for their ancestors. A large meal with the best food is presented. Then incense and paper money called *uchikabi* (representing money for the world of the dead, like Chinese Joss paper or Hell Bank Notes) is burned. All remaining offerings are gathered and set outdoors, and ancestors are sent away. Eisa dancing traditionally ends Obon, the drums sending the ancestors away with respect and blessings.



A simple offering of rice, beans, and water (*minnuku*) is prepared for spirits who receive no regular attention and accompany ancestors into the home.

The second day (*naka nu hi*) is rather uneventful. At close to midnight on the third day (*uukui*), people have a farewell gather-

## Happy Birthday

Lynn O'Brien	Sept 1
Denise Nenichka	Sept 6
Meg Oberman	Sept 8
Barbara Fernandez	Sept 10
Kathleen Lennard	Sept 11
Kelly Kaup	Sept 15
Nicole Applehans	Sept 19
Sherri Vizcarra	Sept 21
Tammy Stacks	Sept 24