



**OKINAWA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.** (aka 北米沖縄県人会)

16500 South Western Avenue, Suite #203, Gardena, California 90247 (310) 532-1929 Fax (310) 808-9280  
E-mail: mensore@earthlink.net Website: www.oaamensore.org

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Yuko (310) 532-1929**  
**oaacentennial@gmail.com**

**OAA, INC. Announces 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events Calendar**  
*August 22<sup>nd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> designated for commemoration festivities*

**Gardena, CA--(May 4, 2009)** The Okinawa Association of America, Inc. (OAA) is pleased to announce its centennial events calendar. The commemoration activities will kick off with a memorial service on August 22, 2009, at the OAA Center in Gardena, California. The following weekend, August 27<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, is slated for the main festival.

The theme for this year is "Ichi Nu Ichimadin," which means, "From Generation to Generation" (in the Okinawan dialect). Lectures, entertainment and other events have been planned throughout the year to highlight this theme.

"We would like our Okinawan brothers and sisters and all Okinawans at heart to join us in celebrating this milestone," said Chogi Higa, 2009 OAA President, "We chose Ichi Nu Ichimadin as our theme because it reflects the history and growth of our organization as we have descendents from our Issei (first generation) pioneers in our diverse membership as well as generations of families from all over the world who share a tie to Okinawa."

Among the distinctive events during the festival, will be an "exclusive" musical incorporating modern, up-tempo music into an ancient Okinawan story. Director Daiichi Hirata, of Okinawa, is creating this unique show about Okinawa's first king, King Sho Hashi. Mr. Hirata's artistic talents have garnered acclaim from people of all ages in Okinawa and Hawaii.

The anniversary banquet and outdoor cultural festival, Bunka-sai, will feature Okinawan music, dance and martial arts. Lectures on Okinawan identity will examine the history of the community and current generational issues.

There will be entrance fees for some events. For more information, please call the OAA Center at (310) 532-1929 or email us at: [oaacentennial@gmail.com](mailto:oaacentennial@gmail.com). Please check our website: [www.oaamensore.org](http://www.oaamensore.org) for upcoming details. We are on MySpace : OAA Centennial group and Facebook: Okinawa Association of America Centennial group. Our Facebook fan page: Okinawa Association of America 2009.

**(MORE)**

The Okinawa Association of America, Inc. (OAA) is a 501c (3) nonprofit corporation. Its purpose is to preserve and perpetuate, as well as to promote the appreciation of Okinawan culture through education, local and international exchanges. It also promotes mutual friendship and aid to its members.

## OAA 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
May 24 <sup>th</sup>		Utayabira Wuduyabira, Performing Arts	James Armstong Theater, Torrance, CA
July 16 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>		Okinawa Food Fair <i>*endorsed by OAA</i>	Torrance, Costa Mesa, San Diego, Chicago, San Jose and New York
July 19 <sup>th</sup>		Annual OAA Picnic	Whittier Narrows Rec. Park South El Monte
<b>OAA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival</b>			
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Memorial Service	OAA Center, Gardena
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Open House	OAA Center, Gardena
	7pm	Zenyasai- Welcome Party	Holiday Inn, Harbor Gateway
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Kenjinkai Leaders' Meeting	Gardena Buddhist Church
	1:30pm	Wakamu nu Miati-Young People's Goal Forum	Gardena Buddhist Church
	3:30pm	Professor Hateruma (Ryudai University, Okinawa) Lecture	Gardena Buddhist Church
	7pm	King Sho Hashi Musical	Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	11am	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet	Torrance Marriott
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	History of the Okinawan Community Lecture	Little Tokyo, Downtown Los Angeles
	11am	Uchinaa Identity Inter-generational Panel	Little Tokyo, Downtown Los Angeles
	2pm	Bunka-Sai- Cultural Festival	Little Tokyo, Downtown Los Angeles
September 27 <sup>th</sup>		Annual OAA Golf Tournament	Chester Washington Golf Course, Los Angeles
October 11 <sup>th</sup>		Annual OAA Bazaar	OAA Center, Gardena

