



The Okinawa American Association of New York (OAANY)

ニューヨーク沖縄県人会

<http://oki-ny.jimdo.com/>

NYOkinawa83@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OAANY/>



OAANY

3 Montclair Drive

Voorhees, N.J. 08043

To _____

Announcement お知らせ

Great events are coming up, mark your calendar please!

December 2nd (Sunday) The Year Ending Party 忘年会

From Noon... 5 p.m.

At: American Legion: 1165 River Road, Edgewater, N. J. 07020

We need volunteers from 10 a.m. on... to set up the hall.

November 2018

We wanted to thank everyone that managed to attend the picnic this year. The weather was not that cooperative and at times we thought it was going to start raining but thankfully, it all worked out in the end. We had a chance to meet your family and friends including new members. We had over 70 people that shared food and fun times together.

We hope next year we can get more family and friends to come, join the OAANY and maybe have some volunteers to help with the food, setup, and clean up. There was so much food this year from burgers and hot dogs, deserts to other members making on the spot Okinawan dishes. I have to say that the goya champuru was really good!

We also had a chance to get some picnic games like Frisbees, Badminton Rackets, horse shoe toss to name a few. The traditional watermelons were also a big hit with all the kids taking turns trying to break them.

We had lots of fun and hopefully next year we have more people come and join us. The more the merrier and

of course, if there are any suggestions or ideas for anything regarding the picnic or any other event we are open to suggestions.



Mark your calendars for our **忘年会 BōnenKai-Party (The Year Ending Party)**. **It will be held on Sunday, December 2nd, 2018.** At the American Legion at 1165 River Road, Edgewater, N.J. 07020. As you all know, this is a get-together party for celebrating the end of 2018. Please bring your favorite potluck dish. We can always cook some simple food at the party, too, like we did at the last picnic. You can bring marinated meat, washed and ready to cook vegetables, etc. New ideas for fun games / other fun ideas for the party are welcomed!

Thank you !

OAANY



Spring 2018 By Angela Michiko Ospina Matsumoto



Uchinanchu is a word that describes people who were born, lived/living, or have any Okinawan background from their families. Generation from generation, many Okinawans still consider themselves as an Uchinanchu, and so do I because I am a Yonsei. My mother's family came from Okinawa and my father came from Colombia which makes me half Okinawan and half Hispanic. I would love to have the opportunity

to visit my family who lives in Okinawa and learn more about their past. One of my interests is to know more about my great grandparents who lived in Okinawa at the beginning of the twentieth century. I am also interested in learning about Okinawan history.

My race is quite unique because I am fifty percent Japanese from my mother's side, and fifty percent Colombian from my father's side. Even though my mother was born in Peru, she is a Japanese descendant because my great grandparents were born in Okinawa and migrated to Peru in the mid-1920s due to economic reasons.

Since I was born in the United States, I would like to learn a lot more about the Okinawan culture. I have been exposed to the Hispanic side of my family more than the Japanese side of my family due to geographical location. Therefore, I am most interested in this program because it will provide me with the perfect opportunity to find out more about my Okinawan heritage.

I would like to visit Okinawa and learn about the language, history, foods, customs, and family. My great grandparents were both born in a small town called Katsuren, which in today's day is part of Uruma. My great grandma's name was Ushii Naka (Matsumoto) and she was born in 1910. My great grandpa's name was Matsuei Matsumoto, and he was born in 1907. I would like to visit Katsuren to see where my great grandparents lived.

Page 4 Since I am fourteen years old, I feel that I have the maturity to appreciate the opportunity if given to travel to Okinawa. I believe through my accomplishments that I well prepared me for this opportunity. The following are some of my accomplishments:

(1). I am a freshman in high school. (2). I am a Color Guard member where I performed acrobatics with flags, rifles, and sabers during football games and competition events. I learned something new by performing with flags, rifles, and sabers. Even though I didn't play an instrument in marching band, I still play an instrument in symphonic band. I have been playing the oboe for five years, and next year I will be in wind ensemble. Wind ensemble is an honors symphonic band class which gives you credits for college, and only certain students get into wind ensemble.

I also take private piano lessons at Montclair State University. I have been playing the piano for nine years. At the end of each semester, I am required to participate in piano recitals to demonstrate my piano accomplishments.

Another good thing that makes me feel good is to participate in sports such as swimming. In high school, I joined the swim team. I am very proud of the girls on the swim team since we did well during the winter season. We made it to states.

The last club that I joined was photography club. I have learned so much about using a camera in that club that now I love taking pictures because every picture can show a thousand words. I especially love taking landscape pictures with a nice sunset in the background. I would love to use my photography skills to capture the beauty and history of the Okinawan island.

If I am given the opportunity to travel to Okinawa, I would like to share my experience with my family and other teenagers that are living in the United States. Teenagers should know about their families' background because they will better understand where their ancestors came from. This knowledge can be passed from generation to generation. This program offers the perfect opportunity for kids to expand their knowledge about their family roots. I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to apply to this

program. I have already learned a lot more information about my Japanese family roots and about myself being an Uchinanchu.

課題：「ウチナンチュとしての アイデンティティー について」 JSP 2018 年 By アンジェラ ミチコ オスピナ マツモト (Angela Michiko Ospina Matsumoto)

「ウチナンチュとは、沖縄で生まれ、育ち・生活し、又は沖縄の背景をもつ人を描写する言葉である」とネットで知りました。異国で世代から世代に渡って多くの沖縄人は未だ自分達をウチナンチュと呼ぶ。それでは私も四世のウチナンチュです。私の母の祖先は沖縄から、父はコロンビア、それで私はハーフ沖縄人、ハーフ スペイン人になるので、私はユニークな人種になります。

沖縄に住んでいる私の親戚を訪ね、彼らの過去を知りたいと思っています。その為に、私は沖縄へ行く機会が得られたらと願っています。興味があり知りたいことは、私の層祖父母が 20 世紀の初め頃に沖縄に住んでいたのもっとその事柄を知りたいのです。彼らは 1920 年に経済の理由でペルーに移動しました。それから昔、王・女王が制覇した時代の琉球の歴史などにも興味があります。それに沖縄での日常生活などに関しても知りたいと思っています。

私は U.S. 生まれなので沖縄の文化についてもっと学習したいです。地理的な理由から、今まで私は母の沖縄側の親戚より、父側のスペイン系の親戚の方に接してきました。だから、私はこの JSP に大変興味があります。沖縄の文化遺産についても もっと知りたいと考えていますので、このプログラムは絶好な機会にもなります。既にコロンビアは訪問したので、今度は沖縄を訪問するというチャンスが得られ、沖縄の言語・歴史・食べ物・習慣そして親戚の事を知りたいと願っています。

私の層祖父母たちは現在のウルマ市の「勝連」という小さい町で生まれました。層祖父母の名前は マツモト・ナカ・ウシ 1910 年生まれで、曾祖父の名前は マツエイ・マツモト 1907 年生まれです。私はその勝連の町を訪ね、私の曾祖父母がどこに住んでいたか、その場所を見たい気持ちで一杯です。もし沖縄へ行けたら、私はもう 14 歳なので、そんなチャンスを感じることができる程度に成長しています。

私の未だ短い人生で今まで達成した成果が、このチャンスの為に自分を準備させている、と信じています。下記の内容は私の今までの業績の一部です：現在、私は高校 9 年生（日本の中学三年）で、クラブ活動やスポーツを出来る限りやろうと決心しました。それらは次の通りです。

始めたのがマーチング・バンドのカラーガードで 5 年やっています。フットボール試合大会などで旗だけの演技だけでなく、ライフル、刀などの曲芸もします。バンドで他の楽器なども出来るのでこれらが大学入学への条件ともなります。

それからニュージャージー州・モンテクレア州立大学でピアノの個人指導を受けています。過去 9 年間ピアノを弾いています。学期の修了ごとにピアノ・リサイトルがあり、それまで学習した内容を披露することを期待されます。水泳チームに参加した事で自信が付きとても嬉しいです。冬の期間には女子水泳クラブ活動です。州まで出場できるレベルになったので、女子水泳チームの一員として誇りを感じます。

最後にやり出したクラブ活動は写真です。カメラの使い方を習い始めると興味深くなりました。

なぜなら一枚の写真が 1,000 の言葉表現するからです。沖縄の島の美と歴史を撮影する為に、自分の写真スキルを使いたいと自分に期待をかけています。

沖縄へ行くチャンスが与えられると、沖縄での私の体験を家族と米国に住んでいる十代の人達と分かち合いたいと思っています。十代の人達は自分達の家族の背景を知るべきだと思います。何故なら先祖がどこから来たのか、もっと理解できるからです。そして、この知識は世代から世代へと継がれていくからです。この JSP の企画は、青少年達が家族のルーツについての知識を拡大する為に完璧なチャンスを彼らに与えています。私は、このプログラムに応募できるチャンスが与えられたという事で、興奮してうきうきしています。私はも早 自分の日本側のファミリー・ルーツ、そして自分がウチナンチュであることを既に学び初めました。

Feedback Re. JSP by "Angela Ospina" August 14, 2018



Angela at the far right

During my time at the Junior Study Program, I learned many wonderful things at my two weeks stay in Okinawa. I learned their culture, history, and how to be more social with people from all around the world even if there were language barriers. I made many friends from many different countries, and I would have never imagined that I could have friends from all over the world. Communicating with people in Okinawa made me realize that their culture is very different to mine, I was fascinated to find out how every country and every culture is different.

The first day when I arrived at Okinawa, I was very nervous because I didn't know how to speak any Japanese. I have only met my homestay aunt once in my life which also made me feel a little bit uneasy coming to Okinawa by myself. I started to feel a lot better when I met most of the people from the Uchina Junior Study Program at the airport. Everyone was super nice and friendly to me which made me feel more comfortable and easygoing with my stay at Okinawa. The first day at the airport, I met people from the United States, Canada, England, Australia, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, and many other countries. We all took pictures with our flags and we were all very excited for the upcoming next two weeks.

The next day, my aunt surprised me, and she told me we were going **Page 7** parasailing. I have never gone parasailing. Since Okinawa has very beautiful crystal-clear oceans I was very excited to see a bird's eye view of the Pacific Ocean when parasailing. Even though Okinawa is a very tiny island, there are many places to visit and learn about their history. The next couple of days when I was with my homestay, we went to the Katsuren Castle. It was right across my aunt's apartment, and the view to the island was very beautiful. I learned that during the Okinawa war many people hid in that castle, so they wouldn't be found by the Americans. They would also dig holes underneath to hide inside, so they would protect themselves from any bombs.

A couple days later, after my visit to the Katsuren Castle, I went to the program which gave me the opportunity to visit many places with the group in Okinawa. I learned about the Okinawa war, and I was surprised to find out that after the war everyone in Okinawa wanted peace because many innocent people died. They believe that violence is never the option to anything because it can lead to many deaths and tragedies.

In the program, we went to the Himeyuri Peace Museum, and they talked about the Battle of Okinawa. When we went to the Himeyuri Peace Museum, we were assigned a speaker who was talking about her personal experiences when she was little. She said that she wished she could forget certain things that she saw during the war. These memories were too painful for her, and she wished no one should ever experience them.

Her story was that one day her family told her to go and retrieve water because they were low on water and supplies. She went to get water and when she came back to her family, she found them all dead. The Americans found her family, and they shot all her family members. She told us that she lost everything and everyone that day.

If she hadn't gone to get water that day than she wouldn't have been alive to this day. I also learned that when people die in Okinawa, they don't have cemetery fields like we do in the United States. The graves in Okinawa are huge, and they look like houses. You can fit families in one grave, and the shape of them are supposed to look like a mother's womb. The graves represent that the deceased people are replaced back into their mother's womb.

During the rest of my stay in Okinawa, I also tasted so much food that I have never tried before. I tried Okinawa soba, ramen, sushi, beni imo, grape seaweed, and ate lots and lots of rice. All the food is very fresh compared to the food we eat

Page 8 in the United States, and you can taste the difference. Also, the street market in Naha is huge. It was a very cool experience to see what people sold. When I went to the market, I touched a pig's snout and a lot of other animals that they were selling. I also loved how big the market was and how everyone sold different things. I found out that mangoes are crazy expensive. For example, to buy two mangoes it can cost around eighty dollars. While I was at the market, I bought many cool souvenirs and gifts like the Okinawa sand bottles.

The Okinawan culture was also something completely different that I have never experienced. Everyone is very nice, kind and genuine to visitors. Even though I was an outsider, and I could not understand or speak the language, everyone treated me very nicely. I felt like I was accepted into their culture once I stepped into Okinawa.

I am going to deeply miss everyone and everything at Okinawa. I really want to go back there soon and stay longer. This experience is something that I will never forget, and now it is my turn to help other people to try and apply for the Uchina Junior Study Program. Many children now don't know much about their ancestors, but this program would give them an opportunity to learn where their ancestors came from and learn the wonderful things that they can experience in Okinawa.

