

F A L L 2 0 1 5

# Tayui

www.sfokk.org

## Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa

## 沖縄戦終戦70周年記念

Over 70 people attended the SFOKK commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa at the Nihonmachi Terrace Social Hall, in Japantown on June 27. Past President Matt Matayoshi gave the opening speech on the tragic significance of the Battle of Okinawa (April to June 1945), which some estimates say, killed one fourth to one third of Okinawa's population. Reverend Ronald Nakasone performed a Buddhist ceremony in honor of those who died in the battle. He then spoke passionately about the importance of committing ourselves to peace.

The Reverend Masato Kawahatsu from the Konko Church in Japantown also performed a ceremony in honor of the people who died and gave a heartfelt speech about his deep feelings of gratitude for the sacrifices of Okinawans during the battle that enabled many Japanese, such as himself, to survive World War II. He also expressed a sense of regret that Okinawans were put into harm's way by the Japanese military. SFOKK members Fujiko Dandoy and Toshiko Slagle gave firsthand accounts of the experiences



during the battle. Fujiko was a student nurse at the time and Toshiko was a young girl living on Ie Island. Both witnessed the horrible deaths of so many people around them. Akiko Kohler stood up to speak about how war is still very

much a tragic part of the lives of Okinawans even now. Following the formal part of the program, the people in attendance were asked to talk in small groups with the survivors of the Battle of Okinawa. This gave the survivors the opportunity to talk about their experiences in a more comfortable setting. Watching the survivors tell their stories to their captivated listeners was truly a touching site.



[continued from first column]

I would like to express gratitude to Alice Kawahatsu of the Konko Church and a resident of Nihonmachi Terrace for securing their social hall for us. Thank you also to the officers who helped with the event, including Juli Kodani, Julie Beal, and Kinuko Mototake, everything from set up the tables and chairs, serve food, usher people to their seats, and facilitate the small group discussion. Another thank you to Harry Hayashi who provided recordings of Okinawan music and homemade *saataa andagi*.



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If you would like a translation to Japanese of this article on the Battle of Okinawa, or the President's Message on page 2 of the newsletter, please contact Wesley Ueunten, SFOKK President.

## President's Message



There is a tinge of sadness in the air as we enter the fall season. The days are getting shorter, the nights longer. Flowers that were blooming in the spring and summer are mere memories. There is also sorrow over the goodbyes that have been said and will be said. My mother passed during the summer and my father is nearing the end of his long life soon.

Sad feelings remind us that life is all about change. I believe that many Okinawans are at least subliminally aware when we make constant reference to flowers or "hana (and sometimes fana, pana, and bana)." From the top of my head I can name such songs as *Yuuna no Hana*, *Kui nu Hana*, and *Sanshin no Hana*. In fact, one of the most famous Okinawan songs ever is simply called *Hana*. The song dearest to my heart is *Tinsagunu Hana*, which my late Nisei Okinawan mother learned from my Issei Okinawan grandmother. With only a few words, *Tinsagunu Hana* conveys the profound thought that although each generation disappears and is replaced by another, we are connected through time by our *chimu* or heart: Dye the tips of your fingernails with the petals of the *tinsagu* blossom/Dye the teachings of your parents onto your heart. Sadness becomes our friend as we go forward in the fall season and say goodbye to the bright spring and summer flowers. Grief is our traveling companion in this journey of life as we say goodbye to people who still live in our heart. Memories of people we once knew fade like the vivid colors of flowers over time, but the warm feeling of love stays with us even in the cold of winter. As surely as the seasons change and life waits to unfold anew, we can do our utmost to appreciate the present moment as we would a beautiful and fragile flower and always look forward to new flowers in the spring. – Wesley Ueuenten

## New SFOKK Board Members

### Minami Cohen



I am from Okinawa City and I moved to the Bay Area in 2009 with my family. I studied Music Education at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa. The great diversity of people here in California and respect for honoring different cultural backgrounds, led me to see that teaching music literacy to children through their own cultural heritage, plays an important role in establishing a sense of self and identity. In the future, I hope to foster a stronger connection between young Okinawans and their rich musical heritage by teaching music literacy through Okinawan songs. I currently teach Music at public schools in Hayward.

### Issa Cohen, Webmaster



I first went to Okinawa in 1999 to teach English at Okinawa Shogaku in Naha, where I lived for several years. While at school in Hawai'i, I studied classical Okinawan music and helped start a sanshin club at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa along with my teacher Norman Kaneshiro Sensei. I returned to Okinawa for a year as an exchange student at the University of the Ryukyus. I am passionate about Okinawan music and am happy to be a part of SFOKK. Here is a poem I wrote when I moved back to the US after living in Okinawa for the first time:

我心	My heart
永遠に	will always remain
沖縄にあり	in Okinawa

Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai U.S.A.  
 Kinuko Mototake Okinawan Dance Academy  
 Est. 1996  
 Okinawa Kenjin Kai Eisa Shima Daiko  
 Dance: Saturday 7-9 p.m.  
 Sunday 4-6 p.m.  
 Eisa: Sunday 2-4 p.m.  
 Master Kinuko Mototake  
 Director  
 510.708.6672  
 kinuko4@gmail.com

### Yayoi Arakaki, Membership Chair and Tayui co-editor



I'm a native San Franciscan, but didn't find my Japanese roots until I met and married an Okinawan native, Ryoji Arakaki, who came to Berkeley to realize his dream of owning a Japanese restaurant (Sushi California). I love Okinawan music and traditions, and want to keep them alive for years to come since I have two grown children who are proud of their Okinawan and Japanese heritage. As a former UC Berkeley student and recent retiree with 29+ years working at UCB's Office of Legal Affairs as a senior policy analyst and paralegal, I look forward to supporting SFOKK as Membership Chair.

2015 CALENDAR of EVENTS イベントカレンダー

- October 7-12** Kubasaki High School Reunion in Las Vegas – All Classes, (<http://www.hawaiidragns.com>)  
クバサキ・ハイスクール同窓会 in ラスベガス- 全クラス対象
- October 17** Potluck Talk Story Mixer ゆんたく会 at San Pablo, 時間 2 -5 pm; bring finger foods or snacks; RSVP Wesley at 510-579-2711 (See flyer below!)
- November 8** Keiro-kai (Senior Citizen's Day) 敬老会, San Mateo Buddhist Temple, サンマテオ仏教教会  
2 South Claremont Street, San Mateo 時間 12:30pm – 4pm

**Treasurer's Report**

<b>Beginning Bank Balance 5/29/15:</b>	\$10,800.58
<b>INCOME 収入:</b>	
Membership Dues (12) 7/1/15 - 9/8/15	240.00
Tayui Ad - Sushi California	100.00
Monetary Donations (3)	200.00
<b>Total Income 収入合計:</b>	<u>\$540.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES 出費:</b>	
Printing June Tayui and Irei no Hi flyers	409.84
Tayui Translation Services	50.00
Mailing June Tayui and Membership Roster Printing (Juli Kodani)	542.41
Condolence Kodan - Ueunten Family	50.00
Honorarium to Konkko Church of SF for Irei no Hi Services	100.00
NJAHS Awards Dinner Donation	300.00
<b>Total Expenses 出費合計:</b>	<u>\$1,452.25</u>
Total Income:	540.00
Total Expenses:	<u>(1,452.25)</u>
Net:	(912.25)
<b>Cash balance August 31 BEFORE reconciliation adjustments</b>	\$9,798.34

Treasurer 会計: Iuli Kodani

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you are interested in participating in the Okinawa Prefectural Government Junior Study Tour and the Kempri Ryugaku programs, please contact Wesley or go to SFOKK's website for further information: [www.sfokk.org](http://www.sfokk.org).

We are seeking members interested in becoming Regional Representatives for the following area codes: **831, 916, 925 and Others.** **Job:** to contact members in your telephone area code to pass on Kenjin-kai information. A listing of those in your area will be provided. There are usually no more than 20 persons to contact; most have much less. Some have email addresses, if you wish to contact them by email.

Keiro-kai (Senior Citizen's Day) will be held on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, to honor members 80 years and older as well as those born in 1943, Year of the Ram. Please contact Wesley if you fall into one of those categories. If you want to order bento, see the inserted flyer and driving directions, (in English and Japanese), or go to [www.sfokk.org](http://www.sfokk.org). Travel agents will also be available to help plan for 2016 Uchinanchu Taikai travel.

**SFOKK Website** is open for business. so please check out [www.sfokk.org](http://www.sfokk.org)

Recent photos of Dancers of the Miyagi Honryu Ohtori Kinsen-Kai, Arakaki Noriyoshi Ryubu Dojo



San Francisco Okinawa Kenjin Kai Presents:



**"Talk Story" Mixer**

**ゆんたく会**

A relaxed time to talk and meet with old and new friends!

**October 17, 2015 2-5 pm**  
2567 Kevin Rd., San Pablo

Potluck event (finger food dishes preferred)  
Contact Wesley at [wiluntin@gmail.com](mailto:wiluntin@gmail.com) or 510-579-2711 if you are interested

**Keara Fumiko Jozovich-McNiell**

**2015 SFOKK High School Scholarship Recipient**



The 2015 SFOKK High School Scholarship has been awarded to a deserving young woman. Congratulations to this year's recipient, **Miss Keara Fumiko Jozovich-McNiell, the daughter of SFOKK member Mrs. Akemi McNiell.** The SFOKK scholarship was open to all 2015 high school graduates whose parents are currently SFOKK members. The

winning essay covered Keara's significant life experiences, community involvement, educational and career goals. Below is her wonderful essay about herself, and her dreams. Good luck Keara in all your future endeavors!

Dancing has been a passion of mine since I was 7 and has impacted my life greatly. It opened my eyes to not only appreciate the Okinawan culture, but also allowed me to share the culture with the community around me. I've participated in many events such as the Japan Expo, San Francisco Ethnic Festival, San Francisco & Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festivals, and other Okinawan Kenjin Kai events. At these events, we performed numerous dances while teaching the audience about Okinawan culture and traditions. Dedicating endless hours towards dance, Kinuko Mototake Sensei enlightened me to more than just the Japanese traditions. She helped me become the independent woman that I am today. Dance has taught me many life lessons too. The biggest one being time management. This year I had to balance school, dance, and work which have helped prepare me for the future.

I plan to use this scholarship for college and to continue my education. In two years I see myself transferring to UC Santa Cruz to study psychology. Not only do I want to learn about human activities, but also to help people. Experiencing a traumatic event in my life and having a psychologist to talk to has helped me tremendously and affected my life more than I could have imagined. I want to be able to make the same difference for other people. My dream is to start at a firm, build up clientele, and eventually have my own office. I understand that my dream will take a long time, but I have the right mindset and motivation to make my dream a reality.



In college I do not plan to stop dancing since I've dedicated 11 years. Instead, I want to be more involved than ever before. Since the Okinawa Kenjin Kai has been a part of my life for many years, I wish for many more to come. Thank you very much. I can't wait for the future!

**Sayonara to Ryuji!**

We bid farewell to one of our tireless volunteers, Ryuji Ganaha, who will be leaving the Bay Area on October 21 to start a new career as an engineer. Four years ago he started learning *sanshin* which fueled his passion for music. Many of you have seen him perform at Shinnenkai and other events as part of the Okinawa Eisa Shimadaiko, but did you know that he single-handedly set up our Kenjin Kai website, sfokk.org?



Born in Itoman, Ryuji came to the U.S. as an international student at 18, studied Hotel Management in San Diego and attended San Francisco State University, graduating last September. When asked what he was most proud of, he replied, "earning a bachelor degree from an American university!"

I caught up with him for a one-on-one interview and asked him some "prying" questions. I found out that he likes to shop, watch movies and explore good restaurants in his spare time. Being in the Bay Area, he found that San Francisco was the best city for good eats. To Ryuji, his heroes are his parents, since they were always there, encouraging and supporting him to follow his dreams. If he were to win the lottery one day, he said that he would buy a house for his parents and another one for him with a "big soaking tub!"



He will miss the "perfect weather" in California and all the friends he made during his stay here. When asked to give a message to SFOKK, he said, "I had so much fun since I joined SFOKK in 2012. In three years, I attended many events and really enjoyed performing and promoting Okinawan culture. Thank you to everyone for letting me have such great experiences." We wish Ryuji all the best in his future endeavors and to keep in touch!

**Matt Matayoshi**  
Insurance and Financial Services Agent





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## Spotlight On Our Advertisers Sushi California



Often the dream of immigrants who arrive in this country is to own their own business and for Ryoji Arakaki, who came to California in 1972, his dream was to own a Japanese restaurant. In 1986, his dream was realized when he opened Sushi California. It has become a cozy Japanese dining spot in Berkeley and a neighborhood fixture for 29 years. Chef and owner Ryoji Arakaki has been serving sushi and other Japanese dishes to an international crowd of Berkeleyites (including students, professors and Lawrence Berkeley Lab employees) since opening his doors. Sushi Cal with its unassuming name and façade and its position just below street level, makes it easily overlooked.

Chef Arakaki, born and raised in Naha, Okinawa, prepares some Okinawan specialties not always on the menu. Try the black seaweed salad, a refreshing mix of slippery *mozuku* seaweed, crunchy okra, daikon, carrot and cucumber in a light vinegar dressing. Another dish, *sukugarasu* are tiny salted fish served atop tofu cubes to balance the brininess. Chef prepares Okinawan soba noodles made with wheat instead of buckwheat and served in a broth with pork belly boiled for 3 hours! If sushi is your weakness, then try the Dr. Choi roll (white and red tuna, grilled eel with garlic) or any number of vegetarian dishes.

Come on Monday and Friday nights to enjoy live music – mellow, electric guitar versions of oldies performed by Hideo Date. Some nights you may even hear *sanshin* music provided by our own President Wesley Ueunten!



[Photo credits - Anna Mindess]

## What the West Could Learn from Japan's Holiday for the Elderly

In Japan, Respect for the Aged Day, or Keiro No Hi is observed on the 3rd Monday of September. This holiday can be traced back to 1947, but became a national holiday in 1966. Traditionally it is a time for families to travel, spend time over meals with elderly members, and honor its aged citizens through volunteer work and gift-giving. However, issues like long-term health, nursing home living, welfare, and geriatric health made their way into the public and political arena. Of particular interest in recent years has been what the term "elderly" means. As the population grows older, lives longer, and has fewer children, the elderly population has begun to outgrow its own holiday.

We need to reflect on the contributions the elderly have made to our country. In Japan for example, the media focuses primarily on stories about its oldest living citizens, particularly, the longevity of the Okinawans. Moreover, it showcases its respect for the wisdom, memories and contributions that the elderly offer society. Respect for the Aged Day encourages young people to view old age as honorable, rather than taboo and something to be avoided. We can benefit greatly from similar priorities, especially with the graying of America.

### 日本の敬老の日から学べること

日本には、9月の第三月曜日に敬老の日というお年寄りに感謝を表す祝日があります。この祝日が生まれたのは1947年ですが、正式な国民の休日に選定されたのは1966年のことです。通例この日は家族で旅行したり、一緒に食事をしたり、お手伝いや贈り物をしてお年寄りの皆さんの長寿を称えるのです。しかし、老後のケア、自宅介護、福祉、高齢者の健康などといった問題が公的・政治的な場で取り上げられるようになりました。近年特に注目されているのは「高齢者」という言葉の意味についてであります。人々が古い、長く生きられるようになり、子どもが減っていく中で、高齢者たちは自分たちのための祝日を忘れ始めています。

私たちはご年配の方々がこの国に貢献されたことを反映するべきだと思います。例えば日本では、メディアは主にお年寄りの話題や、特に沖縄の人々の長寿についての話題を取り上げたりします。さらに、彼らの知恵、経験、そして軌跡に対して尊敬の念を表すのです。敬老の日に感謝することで、若者に高齢とは禁忌だとか避けたいものというよりかむしろ誇るべきものであると伝えていきます。同じように高齢化していくこのアメリカで、日本から学べることだと考えます。

## SPOTLIGHT ON SOME KEIRO MEMBERS

## An MIS Veteran

Frank Higashi was born in Los Angeles in 1918. At the age of three, he moved with his family back to their hometown of Nago, Okinawa. Frank, however, wanted to live in America so at 19, he returned alone. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1941, just 2 months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. During WWII, he served in the US Military Intelligence Service (MIS) as a linguist soldier and was part of an elite group attached to the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Ironically, they were sent near his home village of Nago.

While secretly searching for his family, he learned that they were alive. The reunion with his father was captured in a famous photograph taken by the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper. Frank and his team members were instrumental not only in saving Okinawan lives, but also in supporting their efforts to rebuild in the war's aftermath. His story was featured in a documentary short entitled, "Typhoon of Steel" by Gena Hamamoto, as well as a Fuji TV docudrama, newspaper articles and interviews over the years.

This year at 97, he visited Okinawa and Japan. His interest lies in what's happening on Okinawa, especially the American military base situation, what the Japanese government is doing about it and the disregard of the Okinawan people's voice. Originally from a family of 12, Frank still has two younger brothers, one younger sister and countless number of family members still there so he is interested in their history and that of Okinawa.

## Tsushima-maru Survivor

Little did 13-year old Tsuneko Miyagi (Maria Bartruff) know that the vessel, Tsushima-maru carrying 1,630 passengers (nearly half were children like herself), would on August 21, 1944 become one of the most monumental maritime catastrophes of the entire WWII. The Japanese vessel was serving as an evacuation ship, transporting Okinawan civilians out of harm's way since war in the Pacific was imminent. That fateful day, the ship was torpedoed by an American submarine, the USS Bowfin, and sank with the loss of 1,508 lives. Tsuneko was one of 59 Tsushima-maru children of the 177 total to survive 4 days at sea. Through her heroic efforts, a young boy was saved from drowning.

It took years after war's end, in the 1950's, before the tragedy was finally brought to light in Japan, breaking the long sorrow of silence. Additionally, it took more than 20 years for the crew of the Bowfin and the American public to learn of the tragedy and the death of the 767 children. Today, Maria is the oldest living survivor. On the 70th anniversary of the tragedy last year, Maria met face to face for the second time with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during their visit to Okinawa. The loss of lives from the Tsushima-maru now exceeds that of 1,513 from the famed Titanic's tragedy! Unfortunately, the death toll continues to mount as more names of victims are confirmed.

Visit [www.davebartruff.com](http://www.davebartruff.com) for more on Maria Bartruff's epic 2014 Okinawan visit. (Contributed by Dave Bartruff, photo journalist husband.)

## Bowling Strong at 91 Years!

My mother, Mitzi Yorichi, turned 91 this year. Three years ago she relocated from Japan to live with us. Anyone who lives under the same roof with elderly parents can understand the challenges we face. Some of us are in the so-called "sandwich" generation, taking care of parents as well as children and grandchildren. There can be generation and cultural gaps to overcome, special meals to fix and medication routines to figure out. It can be trying at best, especially with communication.

Despite all our differences, we are proud of the fact that our mother loves to bowl to stay fit! We take her league bowling twice a week joining other seniors 60 and over, some Japanese-speaking. She carries a 140 average in both leagues and looks forward to the weekly lunches and "yuntaku." A few months ago, she participated in a No-Tap Tournament. For those unfamiliar with this format, when you knock down 9 pins with your **first** ball, you score a "no-tap" strike. Well, she rolled a 298 game! Bowlers much younger were amazed at her energy and competitiveness! --Juli Kodani

## アメリカ軍軍事情報部の退役軍人

フランク・ヒガシさんは1918年にロサンゼルスで生まれました。3歳の時に家族と共に沖縄・名護に戻ったが、フランクさんはアメリカに住みたいと常々思っていた。彼は19歳の時に単身渡米、そして真珠湾攻撃のたった2ヶ月前、1941年10月にアメリカ軍に徴兵される。第二次大戦下、彼はアメリカ軍軍事情報部(MIS)で通訳や言語解析をし、名誉ある第27歩兵師団の一員として活動した。皮肉にも、彼が派遣されたのは故郷・名護のすぐ近くだった。

秘密裏に調べたところ、フランクさんの家族はまだ生きていたことが判明した。フランクさんと父の再会は星条旗新聞([The Stars and Stripes Newspaper](#))あの有名な写真に収められた。フランクさんとその師団は沖縄の人々の命を救うこ、そして戦後の復興の手助けという面ではなくてはならない存在となった。この話はジーナ・ハマモト監督作品の「鉄の暴風」と題された短編ドキュメンタリー映画をはじめ、フジテレビのドキュメンタリードラマ、新聞記事やインタビュー等、長年に渡り様々な形で特集されてきた。

御年97歳、フランクさんは沖縄と日本を訪れた。彼が最も懸念していたことは沖縄の現状、主に米軍基地について、そして日本政府が沖縄の人々の声を軽んじてどのように話を進めようとしているのかということ。元々12人いた家族だ、今ではフランクさんの二人の弟と一人の妹、そして数え切れないほど多くの血縁者がまだ沖縄にいる。そのこともあって彼らの歴史さらには沖縄の歴史に興味があるとう。

(7ページにつづく)

## 対馬丸の生存者

1944年8月21日。当時13歳だったミヤギ ツネコ（マリア・バートラフ）さんは、1630人（内約半数は彼女のよう子ども達）を乗せた対馬丸がその日、第二次世界大戦下で最も悲惨な海難事件が起きる日となるなど知る由もなかった。その日本船は、太平洋での戦争が差し迫る中、沖縄人を島の外へ逃がすための避難船として活躍していた。あの運命の日、船はアメリカ海軍ボーフィン潜水艦に木っ端微塵にされ、1508もの尊い命と共に沈んだ。ツネコさんは177人中59人の生き残った子ども達の一人として4日間も海で生き抜いた。彼女の雄姿のおかげで、溺れていた幼い男の子が一人救われた。



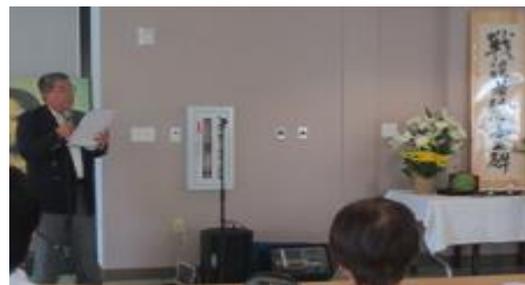
長く悲痛な沈黙を経て、終戦から何年も経った1950年代、やっと日本じゅうがこの悲劇を知ることとなった。元ボーフィンの乗組員やアメリカ全土がこの事件と767名の幼い命が奪われたことが、なんと20年以上もかかったのだ。今日、マリアさんが最年長生存者だ。あの事件から70年を迎えた昨年、天皇皇后両陛下が沖縄を訪れられた際に、マリアさんは両陛下に二度目の謁見を果たす。現在、対馬丸事件で亡くなった方は1513人に上り、かの有名なタイタニック号事件を超えてしまったのだ！ 悲しいことに、被害者の名前が承認されるごとに死亡者数は未だ増え続けている。

マリアさんの2014年沖縄訪問についての手記は下記を参照ください。

[www.davebartruff.com](http://www.davebartruff.com)

## 91歳、現役ボウラー！

私の母、ヨリチ ミッツィーは今年で91歳になりました。3年ほど前に私たちと一緒に住むために日本から引っ越してきたのです。同じ屋根の下で年老いた両親と暮らしてる人なら誰でも私たちの苦勞も分かるかもしれません。私たちの中には両親の面倒も見つづ子どもや孫の世話までする、所謂「サンドイッチ世代」がいます。世代間や文化的な違いに始まり、それぞれ別の食事を用意して、薬を決まった時間に用意する。会話を一番大切に、たくさんの違いはあれど、私たちは健康であるためにボウリングを楽しむ母をとっても誇りに思っています！週に二度、母を連れてみんなで60代以上で日本語を話す方も集まるボウリングのリーグに参加します。彼女のスコアはどちらのリーグでも平均140、そして毎週開かれる「ゆんたく」のランチの会を楽しみにしています。数ヶ月前、母はノートップ・トーナメントに出場しました。聞いたことがないという方のために補足しますが、これは最初の投球で9ピン倒すとストライク扱いになる特別ルール付きのトーナメントです。そこで母はなんと、298という高得点を叩き出しました！母よりも随分若いボウラー達も、彼女の体力と実力にとっても驚いていました。小谷 ジュリー



Editors/Contributors: Wesley Ueunten, Juli Kodani, Jahlee Arakaki

Editors' Note: We welcome writers who want to contribute articles of interest to SFOKK members and readers of Tayui newsletters. If you have a story you want to share via Tayui, please send it to Juli Kodani, either by email or snail-mail. Please note that we reserve the right to make editorial and formatting changes to your story.



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