

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

Website: www.huilimakokua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) Our next meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 10, 2011, starting at 1:30 pm at City Buffet**, located at 1600 Ives Avenue, Oxnard 93033. Members will be free and guests will be charged \$8 (tea or soda included). We will have elections and installation of new officers at the meeting. The following slate of officers is presented for your voting consideration: President: **Darrin Ching**, 1st Vice President: **Juanita Pendergrass**, 2VP **Daniel Andaya**, Recording Secretary: **Debbie Pezzini**, Corresponding Secretary: **Mike Nakamura**, and Treasurer: **Ron Wong**. Further nominations will be taken from the floor on September 10. The Advisor position will be selected by the newly elected board from a pool of former officers. Mahalo to the outgoing officers for a job well done – **Darrin Ching, Juanita Pendergrass, Daniel Andaya, Estelle Ichino, Mike Nakamura, Ron Wong, Mario Castroni, and Leandra Castroni** (Aloha Chairperson). (b) As a reminder **the club will not have its annual mini-luau this year** because of a conflict in the use of the facility. We will try again next year.

Past Meeting. We all enjoyed a wonderful potluck and a bingo program ran by **Ron Wong** and **Darrin Ching**. **Debbie** was the big winner at bingo by taking home the most prizes. Mahalo to **Susan Halverson** for leading us in Tai Chi and bringing her **Jack Lalanne** juicer.

Membership News. (a) Welcome to **Debbie Pezzini**, who just joined the club. Say hello to her when you see her. (b) Our new fiscal year starts on October 1 so **Ron Wong** is collecting dues - \$15/\$20 for single/couple. Past officers and chairperson of major events pay half price. Give or send dues to **Ron** at 392 Tulane Avenue, Ventura, CA 93003. For your information, new members are charged a one time \$10 initiation fee. (c) Former club member, **Annie Lee**, died on August 11. Our condolences to **Annie's** family. **Daniel Andaya** and **Amy Takeshima** both performed at the grave site service held at the Conejo Mountain Funeral Home, Camarillo, on August 19,

Hawaiian Tidbits. (a) Football season will start soon. The quarterback at the University of Hawaii, **Bryant Moniz**, is a long shot contender for the Heisman Trophy Award, the MVP of college football. As a Junior last year, **Moniz** led the nation in passing yards (5,040) and touchdowns (39) when the UH tied for the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) championship and had a 10-4 overall record. After this year, the UH football team will leave the WAC to join a much stronger Mountain West Conference. Good luck to the Warriors! (b) A big boost to Hawaii Tourism occurred in August when direct flights started from China to Honolulu. Hopefully a big influx of Chinese tourists will be visiting Hawaii. (c) There have been many Hollywood movies made in Hawaii and my personal favorite is "Blue Hawaii" starring **Elvis**. Alas, "Blue Hawaii" was ranked number two by Hawaii magazine. The number one movie made in Hawaii was "50 First Dates" starring **Adam Sandler** and **Drew Barrymore**. Here are the top 10 movies made in Hawaii: 1 - "50 First Dates" (2004), 2 - "Blue Hawaii" (1961), 3 - "Jurassic Park" (1993), 4 - "South Pacific" (1958), 5 - "Pearl Harbor" (2001), 6 - "From Here To Eternity" (1953), 7 - "Forgetting Sara Marshall" (2008), 8 - "Six Days, Seven Nights" (1998), 9 - "Blue Crush" (2002), and finally 10 - "Hawaii" (1966). (d) September 4 "Aloha Series" Music Concert, featuring **Auntie Geri** and **Mehana**. Whittier College's **Ruth B. Shannon** Center. (562) 907-4203, www.shannoncenter.org. (e) October 1 "Aloha Series" Music Concert, featuring **Led Kaapana, Dennis Kamakahi, Mike Kaawa** and **Nathan Aweau**. Whittier College's **Ruth B. Shannon** Center, (562) 907-4203.

Mike Nakamura, Corresponding Secretary, 482-1740, monakamura@aol.com

An excerpt from
The Best Way Out is Always Through
by BJ Gallagher

It was 1962. Stephen Hawking was just twenty-one-years old when he received the awful news that would change his life—he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. It's a devastating diagnosis: the disease is progressive, incurable and fatal. His doctors told him he had just a few years to live.

At the time, Hawking was a doctoral student at Cambridge, having already earned a degree from Oxford. But his research hadn't been going well; he was unmotivated in his work and bored with his life. His diagnosis was a turning point: He could either give up his studies and wait to die, or he could make the most of what time he had left. At first, he chose the road of despair and resignation. He wanted to give up because he didn't see any point in finishing his degree if he was going to die soon.

But he didn't give up for long. Through the encouragement and love of his girlfriend, Jane, he pulled out of his despair and found the fire and determination that had been missing before his diagnosis. He married Jane in 1965, finished his studies, and got a job at a university. True, he was afraid of dying, but even more, he was afraid that he would die without achieving anything in his life.

Hawking and Jane had three children together, and she devotedly cared for him year after year as his disease progressed. While his body was deteriorating, his career was blossoming. He was elected as one of the youngest Fellows of the Royal Society in 1974, became a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1982, and became a Companion of Honour in 1989. These acknowledgements and public honors were bestowed on Hawking for his contributions to the fields of theoretical cosmology and quantum gravity, especially in the context of black holes. He has published hundreds of research papers, as well as six books. His runaway bestseller was, *A Brief History of Time*, which stayed on the Sunday Times best-seller list for a record-breaking 237 weeks—unheard of for a science book.

It's been over forty years since Hawking got his diagnosis from the doctors. He defied their prediction of an early death, as well as his early impulse to give up. Now completely paralyzed, wheelchair-bound and compelled to use a computer voice synthesizer, he is a respected scientist, a world-renowned celebrity and an inspiration to millions.

In a 2005 interview, Hawking said, "It is a waste of time to be angry about my disability. One has to get on with life and I haven't done badly. People won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining."

That's not a bad credo to live by.