

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Website: www.huilimakoua.com.

Next Meeting. Our next potluck meeting will be held on **Saturday, December 10, 2011, starting at 2:00 pm at Hurley Hall, Our Lady of Assumption Church**, (3175 Telegraph Rd, Ventura). For this month's luncheon, the club will be serving ham. However, we need a volunteer to cook the ham (the club will pay for the ham). Any volunteers? If interested, please call **Darrin Ching** at 388-1544. The rest of the attendees should bring a dish to share. For the "Secret Santa" program, attendees should bring a wrapped, gender neutral (male or female) present costing about \$10. No names are necessary on the presents. Also, the second part of the program will be musical jamming and hula dancing. Everybody can join in so bring your ukuleles, guitars, ipus, grass skirts, or whatever to enjoy a festive afternoon.

Past Meeting. (a) We had a wonderful potluck at the last meeting in November. Special mahalo to **Debbie Pezzini** for cooking two turkeys for the potluck. They were so one that we consumed both turkeys. For the program we had the ukulele group singing a bunch of patriotic songs since Veterans Day was on the previous day. Thanks to **Juanita, Lisa, Laurie, Dirk**, and **Daniel** for performing. They sang these songs without rehearsing. Good job! The second part of the program featured our own **Ted Wakai** who went to Washington DC in November to witness the presenting of the Congressional Gold Medals to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). **Wakai** was a member of the MIS during WWII. A welcomed surprise to **Wakai**, and other attendees, was when all veterans who served in one of these 3 units who were physically present during the ceremony were awarded with their own personal Congressional Gold Medal award. Other members of these military groups who were not present were given the opportunity of buying bronze replica of the medals to be mailed out sometime next year. **Wakai** was accompanied in DC by his 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Incidentally, I saw a half hour documentary on November 20 on ABC 7 TV describing the actions of the Nisei (2nd generation Japanese-American) soldiers in these military units during WWII.

Membership News. (a) Welcome to **Gary Lee**, who are just joined the club. **Gary** was born in Honolulu. His late mother, **Annie Lee**, was a former member of the club. Gee, I don't remember if **Gary** was ever a member but I remember his sisters **Marsha** and **Mo** being members. Anyway, welcome aboard **Gary**. (b) As a reminder, if you haven't paid your dues please send it in to **Ron Wong** (392 Tulane Ave., Ventura, CA 93003). Membership dues are \$15/\$20 for single/couple. (c) Anyone interested in joining or renewing their Sam's Club membership through the club should contact **Ron Wong**. Cost is \$35 if joining through the club versus \$40 if joining individually. (d) Member **Sheryl Vockel** made a \$50 donation on behalf of her late mother and former member, **Betty Day**. This fund will be used to help pay for membership dues to anyone facing financial difficulty at this time. To take part in this program, please see **Ron Wong**. Thank you **Sheryl!** As an aside, I have known **Betty Day** for many years. Many of us from the Hawaii Club learned to play the ukulele from her. She had a beautiful voice and sang like a bird. I remember hearing her say that she wished one of her children or grandchildren would take up playing the ukulele. Lo and behold, the last time I talked to **Sheryl**, who lives in Northern California, she was learning to play the uke and had taken up hula. (e) We need volunteers to help serve coffee and punch to the Disabled American Veterans sponsored Pearl Harbor Program to be held at the Ventura Government Center during the morning of December 7. Volunteers should call **Darrin**.

Hawaiian Tidbits. **Ben Wright's** daughter and former member, **Sylvia Edgar**, Kumu Hula, has officially closed her halau in Ventura. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor.

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As You Travel Through Life....

By Unknown

As you travel through life there are always those times
When decisions just have to be made,
When the choices are hard, and solutions seem scarce,
And the rain seems to soak your parade.

There are some situations where all you can do
Is simply let go and move on,
Gather your courage and choose a direction
That carries you toward a new dawn.

So pack up your troubles and take a step forward -
The process of change can be tough,
But think about all the excitement ahead

There might be adventures you never imagined
Just waiting around the next bend,
And wishes and dreams just about to come true
In ways you can't yet comprehend!

Perhaps you'll find friendships that spring from new things
As you challenge your status quo,
And learn there are so many options in life,

Perhaps you'll go places you never expected
And see things that you've never seen,
Or travel to fabulous, faraway worlds
And wonderful spots in between!

Perhaps you'll find warmth and affection and caring
And somebody special who's there
To help you stay cantered and listen with interest
To stories and feelings you share.

Perhaps you'll find comfort in knowing your friends
Are supportive of all that you do,
And believe that whatever decisions you make,
They'll be the right choices for you.

So keep putting one foot in front of the other,
And taking your life day by day...
There's a brighter tomorrow that's just down the road -
Don't look back! You're not going that way!