

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

Website: www.huilimakokua.com. Mele Kalikimaka!

Next Club Activity. (a) Our next event will be our annual **Christmas Potluck Luncheon to be held at 1:00 pm on December 10 at Hurley Hall**, Our Lady of Assumption Church, Ventura. **Please note the change in time from 2 pm to 1 pm** due to the early darkness. We are having ham but we need a volunteer to cook it. The club will reimburse the volunteer for the cost. So if you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Darrin Ching** at 388-1544. For the program **Ron Wong** will conduct a bingo program. We will also discuss programs for next calendar year. Possible programs mentioned were a trip to Chumash Casino, train ride to LA, boat ride, arts and crafts conducted by members, visit to the Channel Island Maritime Museum, etc.

Past Meetings. (a) Last month's Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon was a huge success with a lot of food and fellowship. Mahalo to **Leandra and Mario Castroni** for roasting the delicious, moist turkey and decorating the room with Thanksgiving decors which included beautiful pumpkin centerpieces (view the pumpkin centerpieces in the website photo section). The turkey was ono and the decoration very appropriate for the holiday season. **Laurie and Noelani Gregory** educated the members on Facebook, including setting up **Arlene Fraser** with her own Facebook account. Former member, **Ling Gee Wong** was a surprise guest at the luncheon and she brought her son, **Dayu Huang**, to the potluck. **Dayu** recently immigrated from China. (b) Links to the pictures of the Mini-Luau for the past two years can be found in the Hui's website (Photo Section). Thanks to **Lloyd Nakatani** for taking those pictures. Donors to our Mini-Luau in October are listed below, thanks to all.

Membership News. (a) Welcome **Judith Wilson**, the newest member of our club. **Judith** recently moved from Arizona to Ventura and promptly joined our organization after finding our website. Her interests include Hawaiian culture, hula, ukulele, cooking, and reading. (b) **Ron Wong** is collecting dues for this fiscal year (October 2016 thru September 2017). Dues are \$20 for couple including children under 19, and \$15 for single. You can mail your payment to **Ron** at 392 Tulane Ave., Ventura, CA 93003. Make check payable to "Hui Lima Kokua." (c) **Ron Wong** was presented with a beautiful 6 foot by 6 foot hand-made afghan by **Ray and Connie Louie** for his years of long, dedicated service to the Hui Lima Kokua. **Ron** has been the Treasurer of our Club for about half his life. The afghan was crocheted by **Ray**. The **Louie's** have just recently joined the Club and they have made such a great impression with their Aloha Spirit, generosity, and gung-ho attitude. They drive from Pasadena to attend our potluck luncheons, a distance of about 75 miles, each way. (d) The Club will donate \$200 to Our Lady of Assumption Church and \$100 to the Bellringers from the Mini-Luau profit.

Hawaii Sports. (a) The University of Hawaii football team has a 5-7 record while the Wahine Volleyball team has an impressive 22-5 overall record and is currently ranked 14th in the country. The Wahine Volleyball Team took first place in their Division (Big West) while **Coach Dave Shoji** accumulated 1,200 wins in his 41-year career as coach at UH. **Shoji** is the winningest women volleyball coach in Division 1 history. The Volleyball team will now play in the post-season tournament starting this month (December). (b) St. Louis High School Football team beat Kahuku High School 30-14 to claim the honor of "Hawaii's Best." Kahuku High School was previously ranked #1 in the state and also ranked in the top 25 high school teams in the nation.

Donors to the Mini-Luau held in October:

Andria's Seafood Restaurant & Market	Ventura	Gift Certificates
Arimoto, Jason (U-Space)	Los Angeles	\$100 Cash
Art's Corner Café	Ventura	Gift Certificates
Chester's Asia Restaurant (Darrin Ching)	Camarillo	Gift Certificates
Country Inn & Suites	Ventura	Gift Certificates – free stay
Fahy, Jaine	Camarillo	Basket of Goodies from Trader Joe's
Fuchi, Flo	Pasadena	Lotion Set & Candle Holder
Island Packers Boat Rental	Oxnard	Trip to Santa Rosa Island
Island Packers Boat Rental	Oxnard	Harbor Boat Ride
Louie, Ray	Pasadena	Crochet Hat & Scarf Set
Louie, Ray & Connie	Pasadena	Miscellaneous Donations
Pendergrass, Bill	Ventura	Baby Blanket
Pendergrass, Kaimana	Ventura	Baby Blanket
Spencer McKenzie's	Ventura	Gift Certificate
The Wharf	Ventura	Gift Certificates
Ukulele Club of Ventura County	Ventura	Money Leis
Veniki	Ventura	Gift Certificates
Ventura Firestone	Ventura	Gift Certificate for Oil Change

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Mike's Rambling Corner

A Hawaii Legend: Pele, Ohi'a tree and the Lehua Flower (Retold by S.E. Schlosser)

Ohi'a and Lehua loved each other from the moment they first saw each other at a village dance. Ohi'a was a tall strong man with a handsome face and lithe form. He was something of a trickster and was first in all the sports played by all the young men. Lehua was gentle and sweet and as fragile as a flower. Her beauty was the talk of the island, and her father was quite protective of his only child.

When Lehua saw the handsome, bold Ohi'a speaking with her father beside the bonfire, she blushed crimson, unable to take her eyes from the young man. At the same moment, Ohi'a glanced up from his conversation and his mouth dropped open at the sight of the beautiful maiden. He was not even aware that he had stopped speaking right in the middle of his sentence, so overwhelmed was he by the sight of the fair maiden across the fire from him.

Lehua's father nudged the young man, recalling him to his duties as a guest. Ohi'a stuttered and stammered apologies, trying to continue his conversation while keeping one eye on the fair Lehua. Lehua's father was amused by the young man's obvious infatuation with his daughter. He quite liked this bold trickster, and so he offered to introduce Ohi'a to his daughter. The young man almost fell over in his haste as they walked across the clearing to where Lehua stood with her friends.

From that moment, there was no other woman for Ohi'a but Lehua. He had eyes only for her, and courted her with a passion and zeal that swiftly won her heart. Her father gave his only daughter gladly into the keeping of the strong young man, and the young couple lived quite happily for several months in a new home Ohi'a built for his bride.

Then one day the goddess Pele was walking in the forest near the home of the handsome Ohi'a and spied the young man at work. Pele was smitten by him, and went at once to engage him in conversation. Ohi'a spoke politely to the beautiful woman, but did not respond to her advances, which infuriated Pele. She was determined to have this young man for herself, but before she could renew her efforts, Lehua came to the place her young husband was working to bring him his midday meal.

When he saw his lovely wife, Ohi'a's face lit up with love. He dropped everything at once and went to her side, leaving a fuming Pele to stare in jealous rage at the young couple. Dropping her human disguise, the goddess transformed into a raging column of fire and struck Ohi'a down, transforming him into a twisted ugly tree in revenge for spurning her advances.

Lehua fell to her knees beside the twisted tree that had once been her husband. Tears streaming down her lovely face, she begged Pele to turn him back into a man or else turn her into a tree, as she could not bear to be separated from her beloved. But Pele ignored the girl, taking herself up to the cool heights, her anger satisfied. But the gods saw what Pele had done to the innocent lovers and were angry. As Lehua lay weeping in despair, the gods reached down and transformed the girl into a beautiful red flower, which they placed upon the twisted Ohi'a tree, so that she and her beloved husband would never more be apart.

From that day to this, the Ohi'a tree has blossomed with the beautiful red Lehua flowers. While the flowers remain on the tree, the weather remains sunny and fair. But when a flower is plucked from the tree, then heavy rain falls upon the land like tears, for Lehua still cannot bear to be separated from her beloved husband Ohi'a.

(Editor's note: The Ohi'a tree/Lehua flowers are facing rapid death on the Big Island due to the spread of fungal disease disclosed in 2016. The diseased flowers prevented many hula dancers from using lehua flowers for their hula dances during this year's Merrie Monarch Competition. Do you suppose this is Pele's revenge?)