

# HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER (KEKEMAPA) 2004

Mele Kalikimaka y'all,

**Next Meeting.** (a) Our Christmas potluck luncheon will be held on December 11th starting at 1:00 pm at the American Legion Hall located at 2639 Wagon Wheel Road (**note: 1 pm**). The Club will furnish tri tip and ham. Please bring your favorite potluck. Guests will be charged \$3/\$2 for adults/children. We are still looking for a chairperson for the Christmas program, especially to buy and wrap gifts for the members' children. If interested contact **Darrin**. For the program we will have a magic show performed by our own **Ted Wakai**, otherwise known as the "Wizard of Oxnard." I had a chance to briefly talk to **Ted** at our last meeting in November and looked at a book he had with him entitled "U.S. Samurai." The book was given to **Ted** last summer from its French author who wrote about the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team that helped liberate a French village and rescue the Lost Battalion from Texas during WWII. I even saw a picture of a very young **Ted** in the book, smartly decked out in his military uniform when he served with the MIS. This past summer **Ted**, along with many 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, went to France for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the French village. **Ted** was able to show off his magical skills at the celebration to the delight of the audience. He also had a chance to visit with his son, **Everett**, who works for the U.S. Embassy in France and got to see his daughter, **Tammy**, who lives in Spain. Did I mention that **Ted's** nephew, **Wayne Wakai**, is a member of the Society of Seven which performs at Bally's in Las Vegas and another nephew, **Glenn Wakai**, just won re-election as the Representative from the 31<sup>st</sup> District to the Hawaii State Legislature? (b) For our meeting on January 8th we are considering having a Hawaiian program. So y'all should get out your hula skirts and dust off your ukulele so we can have a swinging time. More information will follow in our next newsletter so stay tuned.

**Past Meeting.** (a) The Thanksgiving potluck luncheon meeting held on November 13<sup>th</sup> was really fun with a lot of food to eat. Mahalo to **Mike Vivenzio** and **Darrin Ching** for cooking the turkeys. Thanks also to everyone else who brought side dishes and desserts. There was so much food – turkey with all the trimmings that I ate more than I should have. I was so full I didn't eat supper that night which is very unusual for me. Ahhh, life is good...burp.

**Membership News.** (a) During the summer **Travis Harrelson** was invited to conduct ukulele workshops in Japan. He was a big hit there. The Japanese ukulele publication, "Rolling Coconuts," contained **Travis's** pictures and a nice article about him. The magazine called **Travis** the "Strumming Magician." The magazine even contained a picture of his famous Martin ukulele with a "puka" in it caused by his constant strumming over a 20 year period. Although the ukulele with the hole is his favorite, he has over 250 ukuleles (auwe, poor **Celeste**). Talking about ukulele, I (along with wife **Kay**, son **Shawn**, and ukulele and steel guitar player **Ed Blanchet**) had the opportunity to see **Jake Shimabukuro**, arguably the greatest ukulele player in the world, perform at Borders Book Store in Santa Monica in November. We got **Jake's** autograph on his CD and had our picture taken with him. At the performance, we also saw and had our picture taken with 97 year-old **Bill Tapia**, a Ukulele Hall of Famer. Wow, what a great evening! (b) You are reminded that dues for the new fiscal year are due. They are \$20 for a two adult family and \$15 for a single adult. Last year's officers and chairperson of designated activities pay half the dues. You should know that your dues support having a viable Hawaii Club in Ventura County. So even if you cannot make many of our activities, your dues help maintain the Hawaiian presence in our area. Of course your attending the club's functions help to promote the vitality of the organization, an important ingredient to sustaining our club's existence. In order for your children to receive Christmas gifts from the Hawaii Club Santa at the next meeting, please pay you dues by the end of November or at least contact **Ron Wong**.

**Hawaii Sports.** (a) University of Hawaii quarterback **Tim Chang** now holds the NCAA all time career passing yardage and has two more games to play to add to his yardage. I consider myself a pretty loyal UH football fan but I can't say too much when **Ron** talks about Notre Dame, or **Kats** talk about Purdue, or the **Paisleys** talk about Ohio State. Well wait till next year. 'Nuff said. (b) How 'bout the undefeated UH Wahine Volleyball team (26-0) which is ranked number 1 in the nation? The team will be going to the NCAA tournament and is the only undefeated team in Division I. The team captain is **Melody Eckmier** from Simi Valley.

**Hawaiian/Local Tidbits.** (a) **Hapa** in Concert at Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts, Whittier College, 6760 Painter Avenue, Whittier, California, on Dec 11. Tickets: \$35; call box office (562) 907-4203. (b) Jan 29, 2005 **Makaha Sons** in Concert at Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts, Whittier College, 6760 Painter Avenue, Whittier, California. Time: 3 & 8PM. Box Office (562) 907-4203. (c) There will be a hula show presented by Oxnard's "Ka Hale Hula O Piliialohaokalani O Hilo" on December 11 (Saturday) from 6 pm – 8 pm at Pacifica High School Performing Arts Center, 600 E. Gonzales Road, Oxnard, CA 93030. The vendors' booths will be open from 4 pm – 8 pm. Tickets for the show are \$10/\$5 for adults/children 3-12. (d) For those of you who didn't get the word, there is an L&L Hawaiian BBQ Restaurant in the Janss Mall in Thousand Oaks close to the theater entrance that opened on October 29, 2004. They have teriyaki chicken, beef, kalua pork, laulau, mahimahi, shrimps, saimin, spam musubi, loco moco, Portuguese sausage, malasadas, haupia, etc. It is open 7 days a week and the food is good. My son has already taken his friends there on numerous occasions since he first went with me. **Gerry Delgado** summarized the restaurant best: "It is broke da mouth ono."

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Gee, it is already the end of the year. It seems like we just celebrated Christmas a few months ago. As one gets older the years seem to accelerate so much faster. But, hey, we should be proud of surviving this long and here are some advantages senior citizens enjoy (perhaps some of you can add to the list):

- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run into a burning building.
- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You buy a compass for the dash of your car.
- You can eat dinner at 4:00.
- You can't remember the last time you laid on the floor to watch television.
- You can live without sex, but not without your glasses.
- You consider coffee one of the most important things in life.
- You constantly talk about the price of gasoline.
- You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
- You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
- You got cable for the weather channel.
- You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
- You send money to PBS.
- You sing along with the elevator music.
- You talk about "good grass" and you're referring to someone's lawn.
- Your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper.
- Your back goes out more than you do.
- Your ears are hairier than your head.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- You enjoy discounts to movies, sporting events, and restaurants.
- Bag boys at the supermarkets are serious when they ask if you need help.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.