

# HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER (NOWEMAPA) 2006

Website: [www.huilimakoua.com](http://www.huilimakoua.com).

Next Meeting. (a) Our next potluck meeting will be held at the Oxnard American Legion Hall located at 2639 Wagon Wheel Road starting at 6:30 pm on Saturday, November 11. Guests are welcome. We will be celebrating Thanksgiving at this meeting so we need two volunteers to cook the two turkeys to be furnished by the Hui. If you can cook the unstuffed turkeys, please contact Juanita at (805) 652-1753. Attendees from Oxnard and Hueneme should bring mashed potato, yams, stuffing or gravy. Ventura should bring dessert. Camarillo and other cities should bring salad, vegetable, condiments, cranberry sauce or rolls. We will have bingo for the program. (b) We need a Chairperson for our Christmas meeting. If interested please contact Juanita. Dues for next year will be reduced by half for the Chairperson.

Past Meeting. (a) Thanks to the new board members for furnishing the rice and stew at the last meeting. There was enough food to feed an army. Halloween costume winners were: Cutest – Ted Wakai; Most Halloween - Leandra and Mario Castroni; Scariest – Gerry Wong; Most Original – Kay Paisley; and Best Overall – Ling Gee Wong. (b) For those of you interested in renewing your Sam's Club membership through our Hui, contact Ron. Cost is \$35 (versus \$40 for individual membership).

Membership News. (a) Welcome to Dirk and Evelyne Boon, new members of the Hui. (b) Don't forget to pay your dues to Ron Wong, \$20/\$15 for couple/single. Send payment to him at 392 Tulane Ave., Ventura, CA 93003.

Sports: (a) Kahuku High School is tied with four other high schools with the most National Football League players – FIVE (5). Wow, amazing that a small school in a small rural community has that kind of distinction.

Last year Kahuku had six NFL players. California led all states, producing the most NFL players (206), followed by Florida (177) and Texas (175). No other state has more than 100. Hawaii has more than 20 in the NFL. (b) UH football now sports a 6-2 record. One more win and we participate in a post season bowl game.

Hawaiian/Local Tidbits. (a) The Makaha Sons will be performing at Buena High School on December 10, at 5 pm. Cost is \$25 pre-sale and \$30 at the door. Call (805) 844-1923 for tickets.

Mike Nakamura, Corresponding Secretary, 482-1740, [monakamura@aol.com](mailto:monakamura@aol.com)

### **Highlights of My Vacation**

Just to let you know that I was on a 3 week vacation so I didn't have time to research Hawaiian events available in the area. I was without newspaper, telephone, and had very limited computer usage during that time. So, I have decided to write about my trip. In case you aren't interested, you won't hurt my feelings by turning me off at this time. So, I will "see" you next month. Those who are still with me, here is how Kay and I spent the 3 weeks. We primarily went to Japan to attend the 4th Okinawa worldwide Festival. This 4-day festival inviting all Okinawans living abroad back to Okinawa. I consider my roots to be Okinawan since my dad was born there, my maternal grandparents were born there, and I worked there for five years early in my civil service career where I met Kay. On the trip over from LA, Actress Tamlyn Tomita was on our flight. She was born in Okinawa. She starred in "Picture Bride," "Karate Kid 2," and many other films. Kay talked to her because she knows Tamlyn's mother.

During our first full day in Okinawa we decided to ride the monorail into town. When we boarded the monorail, there was standing room only but Kay managed to sit next to a lady from Hawaii. Then when the seat next to the Hawaii lady opened up I managed to sit next to her. She looked somewhat familiar so I asked her about the President of the Okinawa Club in Hawaii. She said she was the President. So I asked her if her name was Higa-Nance. Yep that was her but I had forgotten her first name (Laverne) at that time. Anyway, after talking to her for a while she introduced me to the Mayor of Honolulu who was sitting across us. I was so shocked to see him there that I just blurted out, "Mufi!" I then realized that I shouldn't have been so informal with a mayor by calling him by his first name. Too late. Laverne then introduced me to the three other men sitting with the mayor, the last one was Wally Yonamine. Boy, I jumped up and yelled, "Wally Yonamine!?" I just was reading about you being inducted into the San Francisco 49'ers Football Hall of Fame several weeks ago. I pretty much followed your career since you left Maui." For those of you who are wondering, Wally Yonamine is arguably the best multi-sport athlete ever to come out of Hawaii. He is in the Japan Baseball Hall of Fame where he enjoyed a great career after being injured playing professional football. I rushed over to shake his hands while still rambling on like a 12 year old kid. He sat there just smiling. The people in our cabin of the monorail all stopped talking and watched us instead. I could kick myself many times over because the 5 member delegation from Hawaii got off the same station as me and I didn't ask to take a picture with them.

From the monorail we walked up the main street in Okinawa into the former black market area where I was surprised to run into Tom, a guy I worked with in Okinawa 40 years ago. Tom is now retired and living in Hawaii. Although we keep in contact by email and we were planning to meet for dinner the next night, we didn't expect to see each other at the black market area where over 100 small mom and pop shops sell things at discounted prices. He was with his wife and daughter. The daughter, who I often carried when she was in diapers many years ago, has turned into a beautiful young lady working as a stewardess for United Airlines.

At the festival opening ceremony, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman was one of the speakers and was interrupted by many enthusiastic applause from the 4,700 visitors representing 21 countries. He is a very charismatic speaker. There must have been about

20 people from Ventura County that we knew would be attending the festival but we didn't see any of them during the 4-day festival.

After the Okinawa festival was over, Kay and I were in a hotel's breakfast buffet line in Okinawa when we started to talk to a lady who was originally from Hawaii and now lives in Ventura. She didn't look familiar but after talking to her I found out that her husband and I worked in the same building for the Navy in Port Hueneme for about 17 years and that we met briefly over 20 years ago at a wedding reception. Her husband, Alan, is now retired and plays golf with the Ventura Hawaiian Golf Club. Small world.

Things have really changed in Okinawa since I was working there in the 60's. The standard of living has really gone up. Most of the families now have cars, the business men all wear neckties and suits while the younger gals often wear those adorable mini skirts or hot pants with high boots. The way hotels charge are sure different. They charge by the person instead of by the room. A single person may pay, say, \$70 per room. A second person staying in the same room would be charged an additional \$70. However most of the hotels offer complimentary buffet breakfasts.

After Okinawa Kay and I visited Tokyo and Hokkaido. This was our first visit to Hokkaido, the northern most island in Japan. We were blessed with great weather throughout our vacation. It was sure nice to be traveling with someone who speaks and reads the language of the country. Anyway, I hope I didn't bore you too much. Sayonara for now. See you at the meeting and stay tuned to next month's newsletter.