

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

Website: www.huilimakoua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) Our next potluck meeting will be held at the Oxnard American Legion Hall on May 12 starting at 6:30 PM. As a reminder, because the American Legion is allowing us the use of their room for free, they are asking that we buy all liquids consumed on the premises at their bar. So do not bring any kind of liquid to the meeting, including water. In fact we should buy soft drinks from them in appreciation for their support of our club. For the program **Loesje Akau** will be teaching us how to make those beautiful fun fur rose leis with ribbons. If you are interested in learning how to make these leis, call **Mike** or **Kay Nakamura** at 482-1740 by Wednesday, May 9th in order that **Loesje** can order enough material to make the leis. Y'all can reimburse her at the meeting. So be sure you call. (b) For June's program, we have plant exchange, so be prepared.

Past Meeting. (a) Mahalo to **Auntie Rainbow Kahoonei** for sharing her life story at last month's meeting. She was born in Lihue, Kauai, then moved to Honolulu before coming to California. She brought her daughter **Lani Keener** to the meeting. Thanks to **Juanita** for making the lei for **Auntie Rainbow** and for bringing the center pieces for the tables and the ono pan laulau. Thanks also to **Evelynne Boon** for donating the huge cake even though she could not attend the meeting. Mahalo to everybody else for bringing potluck dishes.

Membership News. (a) Mahalo to **Dirk Boon** for volunteering to fill the 2nd Vice President position which has been vacant for a long time. Both **Dirk and Evelyn** have been active members since they joined this past year. (b) **Kyle Eckhart** has been having a great swimming season at Oxnard High School where he is a sophomore. He has met CIF qualification times in the sprints. Go, **Kyle!** (c) The American Legion will be losing the lease on the building where we meet in a few months. We are looking for a place to meet so let a board member know if you have any ideas. (d) **Mario** will have club shirts available for sale at the next meeting. (e) Any member who has a son or daughter graduating from high school this summer should contact **Ron Wong** so we can provide a gift for him/her.

Hawaiian/Local Tidbits. (a) Hawai'i tops the nation in the percentage of millionaire households even when home values are excluded, a new survey says. Phoenix Marketing International, a New York company that studies affluent U.S. households, said 6.8 percent of Hawai'i homes are occupied by people with more than \$1 million in investable assets. Hawaii is followed by New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut and Massachusetts. (b) The 24th annual California Strawberry Festival runs from May 19 and 20 at College Park in Oxnard. Thousands of people are expected to attend. (c) The Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican militia's victory over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Watch for Mexican celebrations throughout the southland on May 5. (d) Honor the nation's military who made the ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day, May 28. (e) On April 14 we lost a legend. **Don Ho** died of heart failure at 76. (f) Honor your mother on Mothers' Day, May 13.

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IT'S A GIFT!
Author unknown

The other day a young person asked me how I felt about being old. I was taken aback, for I do not think of myself as old. Upon seeing my reaction, he was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question, and I would ponder it, and let him know.

Old Age, I decided, is a gift. I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body...the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly.

As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avant-garde on my patio.

I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 a.m., and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50's the 60's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love...I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the bikini set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten, and I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

I can say "no," and mean it. I can "yes," and mean it.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think.

I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free.

I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day.

Old age is indeed a wonderful gift and a privilege.