

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

Website: www.huilimakokua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) **Special notice.** Our next Hawaii Club meeting will be a potluck picnic to be held on Saturday, August 11, starting at 11:30 at the Camino Real Park in Ventura, located behind Lowe's Hardware Store. The Club will furnish tri-tip, rice, punch and service. We have invited the San Fernando Valley Ohana Kakou Hawaiian Club to join us. Please bring chairs or blankets to sit on and umbrellas or sunscreens. Bring your ukes, guitars, tennis rackets, or games to play and share. We will have a blast!

Past Meeting. (a) Big mahalo to **Ron and Tesi Wong** for opening up their home so we could have our monthly potluck meeting, plant exchange program, kanikapila, talk story, and finally watch the fireworks from a hill above the Ventura College athletic field. The **Wongs'** home is ideally located to offer a spectacular view of the fireworks. Thanks, **Ron and Tesi** for a most enjoyable evening. Mahalo also to all who brought so much ono food. Yes, the food was especially outstanding.

Membership News. (a) **Lita Eckhart**, Chairperson for the nominations committee, has found volunteers for each position. The nominees will be announced in next month's newsletter. (b) The Ukulele Club of Ventura County, headed by **Juanita**, will be performing on the Pepsi Stage at the Ventura County Fair on August 7, starting at noon. Entry to the Fair on this day is free to seniors (62+) and handicap individuals. Immediately after the Ukulele performance, starting at 1 pm, the "Hula Halau Ka Mele Wai O Ke Anuenue" will perform on the Pepsi Stage. Both **Juanita** and **Celeste** are members of that Hula Halau. Performing on the same day but at the Main Stage will be **Tony Orlando** (at 1 pm) and the **Beach Boys** (at 7:30 pm). What an action packed day!

Hawaiian/Local Tidbits. (a) Some of you will not believe this story even after you read it. **Israel Kamakawiwo'ole**, who died on June 26, 1997 at the age of 38, was Hawaiian-Japanese. Yep, I read the Honolulu Advertiser Special Section dated June 24, 2007 which made this statement (of being part Japanese). Surely someone made a mistake, I thought, so I emailed this information to three of my friends and asked their opinions. After some emails amongst ourselves, one of them finally contacted **Wayne Harada**, one of the authors of this article and Entertainment Editor of The Advertiser, who replied that **Iz'** birth certificate from Kuakini Hospital in Honolulu does indeed state that **Iz** has Japanese blood and this fact was confirmed by **Iz'** widow, **Marlene**. How many non-believers do I still have?

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Something to think about!

Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine.

I got to thinking one day about all those people on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back. From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.

How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word "refrigeration" mean nothing to you?

How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched 'Jeopardy' on television?

I cannot count the times I called my sister and said, "How about going to lunch in a half hour?" She would gas up and stammer, "I can't. I have clothes on the line. My hair is dirty. I wish I had known yesterday, I had a late breakfast, it looks like rain." And my personal favorite: "It's Monday." She died a few years ago. We never did have lunch together.

Because Americans cram so much into their lives, we tend to schedule our headaches. We live on a sparse diet of promises we make to ourselves when all the conditions are perfect!

We'll go back and visit the grandparents when we get the kid toilet-trained. We'll entertain when we replace the living-room carpet. We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college.

Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter, and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer. One morning, we awaken, and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of "I'm going to," "I plan on," and "Someday, when things are settled down a bit."

When anyone calls my 'seize the moment' friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of Roller blades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord.

My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy.

Now...go on and have a nice day. Do something you WANT to...not something on your SHOULD DO list. If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say?

And why are you waiting?

Read on and you will understand why I am sharing this with you.

Have you ever watched kids playing on a merry go round or listened to the rain lapping on the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight or gazed at the sun into the fading night? Do you run through each day on the fly? When you ask, "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed with the next hundred chores running through your head? Ever told your child, "We'll do it tomorrow." And in your haste, not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch? Let a good friendship die? Just call to say "Hi"?

When you worry and hurry through your day, it is like an unopened gift... Thrown away.... Life is not a race. Take it slower. Hear the music before the song is over.

To those who are reading this... I cherish our friendship and appreciate all you do.

"Life may not be the party we hoped for... but while we are here we might as well dance!"