

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

Website: www.huilimakoua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) Our next potluck will be a picnic to be held on Saturday, August 8, starting at noon at the Camino Real Park in Ventura (behind Lowe's Hardware Store). Bring a potluck dish, games, and musical instruments so that we can enjoy ourselves. The club will furnish tri-tip steak, rice, drinks, and service. Also bring chairs, blankets, or mats to sit on. At the picnic we will practice singing a few songs for our annual club luau to be held on October 17. In addition, we will hold elections for next year's officers. The offices are President, 1VP, 2VP, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary. We need new faces and new ideas for next year's board. Our fiscal year starts on October 1. (b) Our annual club luau will be held on October 17 starting at noon at the Assumption Hall, Our Lady of Assumption Church. **Juanita** will again be chairing this event. This luau is for members, family and friends only. Tickets will not be made available to the general public. (c) We are scheduled to have our installation luncheon in September so check next month's newsletter for more information.

Past Meeting. At our potluck meeting held on Saturday, July 11, **Kristen Stiles** explained the art of quilting. She brought samples of her work and had an interesting discussion/presentation. I had mistakenly mentioned that **Kristen** was **Juanita's** hula sister. She is not. Anyway, mahalo to **Kristen** for her excellent presentation.

Membership News. (a) The Ukulele Club of Ventura County will be performing at the Ventura County Fair on Senior Day (August 11) at 12:30 pm on the Pepsi stage. Seniors over 62 will be admitted free on that day. (b) I may have mistakenly provided a wrong telephone number for **Dave & Kay Paisley**. Their correct number is (805) 807-9741.

Hawaii Tidbits. The 15th Annual E Hula Mau Hula & Chant Competition will be held at the Terrace Theater, Long Beach Performing Arts Center from September 4 -6. Besides hula (solo, group, kahiko, auana, and oli) and chanting, there will be Hawaiian arts and crafts, workshops, island food court, entertainment, lei making contest, mahalo bash, etc. Paid admission.

Mike Nakamura, Corresponding Secretary, 482-1740, monakamura@aol.com

Interesting Human Interest Story

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold December morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that a thousand of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule.

A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and, without stopping, continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother hurried him along, but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston and the seats averaged \$100. This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were, in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be:

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing? As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.

Junk Mail

These days organizations you deal with sell your name unless you can specify that they not do so. Here are some things you can do to minimize junk mail:

1. When you donate money, order a product or service, or fill out a warranty card, write in large letters, "please do not sell my name or address." Most organizations will comply.
2. Product warranty cards are often used to collect information on your habits and income, for the sole purpose of targeting direct mail. You don't have to send them in.
3. On the telephone emphasize that you do not want your name and address sold or used for anything other than what you have asked for.
4. Your credit card company most likely will sell your name and address. The card company will usually send your information about their privacy policy. Check it out to see what they say they will do with your name and address.
5. Contests where you mail in an entry blank are almost always fishing expeditions for names. Avoid these if you don't want the junk mail that will follow your submission of the contest entry form.