

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

Website: www.huilimakokua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) The next potluck meeting will take place at Santa Clara Room, Our Lady of Assumption Church (3175 Telegraph Road, Ventura 93003) on **August 16 starting at 2 pm**. Please note the change in place and date of the meeting. The change in date is necessary because the Ukulele Club of Ventura County, headed by **Kaimana Pendergrass**, will be entering a Hula and Ukulele Festival in Sam's Town, Las Vegas, during the usual 2nd Saturday Hawaii Club meeting date and 15 Hawaii Club members are going to Vegas that weekend. The Ukulele Club will be entering the 2nd annual Kumukahi Ukulele & Hula Festival which brings together acclaimed hula halaus and musicians from across the country for a weekend of music and dance honoring Hawaii's culture and history. For our Hawaii Club program on the 16th we will have bingo conducted by **Ron Wong**. **Ron** will also be distributing mini-luau tickets so be prepared to tell **Ron** how many tickets you will need. The mini-luau will be held on October 4 at the Mulcahy Center, Our Lady of Assumption Church. The prices of the tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for friends, and \$5 for children 12 and under. There are limited number of tickets for members and friends only. (b) For planning purposes, the September installation luncheon/meeting will be held at Chester's Asian Restaurant in Camarillo (next month's newsletter will contain more details).

Past Meeting. Last month's meeting was conducted by **Patty Kreider** who did an interesting presentation about gourds. She brought samples of gourds she made and explained how to prepare them. She also brought a book that we could all browse through to get ideas. An excellent presentation by **Patty**. Mahalo!

Membership News. (a) We will be conducting elections soon for next fiscal year's officers so please consider running for office. If you are interested, see **Darrin**. (b) **Ted Wakai** celebrated his 90th birthday with a party at the Aegis of Ventura (4964 Telegraph Rd, CA 93003), across from Ventura College on July 26. I am writing this article before that party so I'll say more about it next month. (c) The Ukulele Club of Ventura County will be performing at the Ventura County Fair On August 5th (Senior Day) starting at 12:30 pm at the Seabreeze Stage (Pepsi Stage). Seniors, age 65 and over, along with handicapped individuals are admitted free on this day.

Hawaii. (a) Recently Hawaii has been having more than its normal share of rain. I guess more strange things are happening with the weather now than ever before, including the absence of rain in California. (b) University of Hawaii Athletic department is having budget problems so the Athletic Director advised the public not to expect a turnaround with UH's athletic teams. UH's football team is picked to end up last in its conference (Mountain West Conference, West Division). Last year the UH football team was 1-11 under **Norm Chow's** second season as head coach. (c) **Roy Sakuma's** 44th annual Ukulele Festival was held on July 20 in Waikiki. Under that headline caption in Hawaii's newspaper, I saw a picture of **Sakuma**. He sure looked young for a guy who has been running this annual event for 44 years. So I had to look up his age – he was born in 1948, making him 66 this year. Can you imagine a 22 year old kid starting this

project 44 years ago and continuing his efforts all these years? Hats off to **Sakuma**, “you da man.”

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Mike's Rambling Corner:

After a performance at a Senior Living Facility, an older haole gentleman came up to me in a wheelchair and asked me about the history of the Hawaiian written language and the hula. I gave the man some answers that I was not really satisfied with so after I got home I had to find out more about these subject matters. Here is what I found out.

Hawaiian standardized as a written language.

Until early 1826, the culture and traditions of the people of Hawai`i were transmitted orally from generation to generation. American missionaries arrived in 1820 and soon formulated a written Hawaiian language based on the sounds they heard. Hawaiians quickly adopted written literacy following the introduction of printed primers, grammars, books of the Bible and other textbooks. Hawaiian was the primary language of all islanders until the late nineteenth century. In its written form, the language uses an alphabet of thirteen letters: five vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and eight consonants (h, k, l, m, n, p, w) including the 'okina or glottal stop. The "sound" of the 'okina is similar to the vocal break made when pronouncing "oh-oh." Omission of the 'okina, as with the omission of any other letter, changes the meaning of the word. Both the 'okina and the kahako, or macron, are diacritical marks employed primarily as an aid to proper pronunciation. The kahako or macron indicates a stressed and elongated vowel.

In 1893, the last reigning Hawaiian monarch, **Queen Lili'uokalani**, was overthrown by a group of businessmen with American interests. Soon thereafter, common schools where Hawaiian was the language of learning gave way to a public school system where English was spoken. A prohibition against non-English languages existed, and the ban against Hawaiian in the classroom was finally officially lifted in 1986. Today, the State of Hawai'i recognizes two official languages, Hawaiian and English, established by the State Constitution of 1978.

Originally, the hula was called the "Ha`a". The name was changed to "Hula" in the 19th century. In 1820, Christian missionaries arrived in Hawaii and converted many of the people to the Christian religion. When **Queen Ka'ahumanu** became a Christian, she had the temples (Heiaus) and goddess images destroyed. Hula was banned as it was a pagan ritual dance with moves the missionaries saw as vulgar, disgusting and sinful. It was taught and performed only in secret for a while. **King Kamehameha III** re-established Hula by default in the 1830's when he insisted on religious freedom. Unable to suppress the Hula completely, the missionaries then insisted that it only be done wearing high-neck gowns with long sleeves.

The last king of Hawaii, **David Kalakaua**, whose reign lasted from 1874 to 1891, brought it out into the open encouraging not only its performance but adding moves, costumes, text and songs. Known as the Merry Monarch, **King Kalakaua** loved to travel amongst the people and enjoyed festivals. Hula was part of the festivals and celebrations and was often danced in his honor. Early in the 20th century, prayers, rituals and training were still a major part of the Hula dance.