

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

Website: www.huilimakoua.com.

Next Club Activity. (a) On April 9th, instead of our club's usual meeting at Assumption Hall, we will be going on a trip up the coast to the Chumash Casino and Resort located in Solvang. The club will be treating members with the round trip by bus (\$25 R/T) and \$10 for lunch. If you are interested in joining the group, please send Ron Wong (392 Tulane Ave, Ventura, CA 93003) a check for \$10 made out to Hui Lima Kokua to secure a reservation. The check will be returned upon your appearance at the departing bus. Since the excursion is for members only, for those who have not paid this year's dues yet, you should submit your dues by separate check to Ron. **The deadline for making a reservation is March 31.** For all who attend, the bus company will provide passengers with \$30 of free slot play. Additionally, for those who have not acquired a Chumash play card before this trip, \$50 of free slot play will come with the new card. That means newbies will start with \$80 of free slot play. There are three sources of food for lunch: a formal sit down service in the \$15 - \$18 price range; a buffet for about \$22; and a snack bar with sandwiches in the \$4 - \$8 price range. There is a free drink station that has soft drinks and coffee available. For those who don't care for the food choices provided, it is suggested that you take some fast food or home-prepared items along. Unless otherwise notified, bus pickup in Camarillo will be at 8:00 a.m. at Los Posas and Hwy 101 (Park Ride); in Oxnard at 8:15 a.m. at E. Pleasant Valley Rd. and Rose Ave., and at 8:30 a.m. on C Street at the Carnegie Museum; and in Ventura at 9:00 a.m. at the Burlington Coat Factory. With your reservation, please indicate at which pickup station you plan to be. Members of the recent past are invited to go along with us to the casino, just pay your membership dues of \$20 per family or \$15 for single. If you have any questions about the trip, call **Ron Wong** at 642-1328. (b) The board is considering suggestions from the membership to take a boat ride to a channel island site, or maybe taking a train ride to Los Angeles, starting off in the morning, having lunch there, and returning in the afternoon. A friend suggested visiting the Huntington Library in San Marino. That suggestion triggered thoughts to visiting J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu.

Past Meeting. (a) **Arlene Fraser** invited **Bernadette McDowell**, Librarian at **Ray D. Prueter** Library, County of Ventura Library Services, who presented e-Library services and benefits of County of Ventura Library services. Members were given hand-outs describing e-library services. (b) **Ron Wong** presented the proposed By-Law amendments to the members for vote. The following By-Law Amendments were unanimously approved by members: Article 1. Membership: (1) Section 4. Associate memberships may not exceed 33 1/3% of the total number of the organization's membership.... (2) Section 8. Termination of memberships may occur...when dues have not been paid by the end of March of the fiscal year.. Article II. Membership Fee and Dues. Section 1,... An initiation fee of \$10.00...shall be payable to the club. Article VII Financial Matters. Section 3. The Executive Committee, by majority vote, shall be empowered to authorize the expenditure of funds up to \$250. The vote relating to insurance coverage has been put on hold until more study can be conducted.

Hawaii News. (a) The 53rd Annual Merrie Monarch Hula Festival will be held during the last week of March on the Big Island. The Merrie Monarch is the world's most prestigious hula competition. As an aside, during my last two visits to Las Vegas in 2014 and 2015 while participating in the Kumukahi Ukulele & Hula Festivals, I chatted with the last living judge from the first Merrie Monarch Festival held in 1963. **Miss Puanani Alama** lives in Honolulu and runs

a Hula Halau there. She was in Las Vegas to watch her daughter, **Puanani Jung's** halau from Laguna Hills, California, compete. **(b)** How 'bout the UH's Men and Wahine Basketball teams for qualifying for the prestigious NCAA Basketball Tournaments? Only the best 64 teams in the country get invited to this prestigious tournament. The last time the Rainbow Wahine Team went to the NCAA Tournament was in 1998. The Men's team was last invited in 2002. **Eran Ganot**, age 34, is in his first year as the head coach for the Men's team and was voted Coach of the Year for the Big West Conference this season. The Men's team upset California Berkeley in the first round of play, our first victory in NCAA tournament history. We lost to Maryland in the 2nd round and ended the season with a 28-6 record. The UH Wahine team lost its first game to UCLA, thus ending its season with an overall 21-11 record. Congratulations to both teams.

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Mike's Rambling Corner.

(a) The coqui frog was accidentally introduced into Hawaii from Puerto Rico in about 1988. Besides being a major noise nuisance, the frogs pose a threat to Hawaii's island ecosystem. They have a voracious appetite that puts Hawaii's unique insects and spiders at risk. Most people who live in Hawaii know about this annoying creature. Now the tiny frogs have started its invasion in Southern California. Coqui-infested areas have decreased the value of homes in Hawaii.

(b) Is Hawaii a great place to retire, or not? Apparently, it depends on what survey you read. Bankrate.com ranks Hawaii as the sixth-worst state to retire mainly due to Hawaii's high cost of living and high state income tax rates. However, Gallup-Healthways Well-Being index, which measures perceptions about quality of life, ranked Hawaii #1. The survey ranked Hawaii tops for physical health, ranked second for community, third for financial well-being, and fourth for purpose. I guess in a way, money can buy some happiness. It appears that those that can afford to live in Hawaii, are happy and healthy. "Lucky to live Hawaii."

(c) I missed the club's last potluck luncheon because I went on an Ukulele and Hula cruise to Ensenada. We had a wonderful time learning and watching professionals **Jason Arimoto, Daniel Ho**, and **Jerome Koko** (from Makaha Sons). **Jerome** was a surprise last minute addition and it was a delight to meet and talk to him. He was standing behind me when we were waiting to board the ship so I had the chance to talk to him, one-on-one for about 15 minutes. He was so down to earth and friendly. Makaha Sons started about 40 years ago and I learned quite a few tidbits about the group. **Jerome** can sing solos and play the uke (and guitar of course) beautifully.

(d) The last Sugar cane plantation in Hawaii (located on Maui) will be closing this year. Some nostalgic memories come to mind when I heard this news. My grandfather came to Hawaii from Japan to work in the sugar cane field on the Big Island where my mother was born. I was born in Honomu, Hawaii, but moved to Honolulu when I was a baby. As a youngster I visited my grandparents who still lived in a plantation camp in Honomu during my summer vacations. Working in the sugar cane field was hard work for the early immigrants and each camp site was made up of about 2 dozen families. Outdoor toilets were the norm and there was a central bath, separated for men and women. My grandmother's duty was to heat the bath water everyday for the camp using dried tree cuttings. My grandfather lost 4 of his fingers on his right hand shoving sugar cane stalks into the crushing machine. Life was tough – no telephones, no TVs, and very few families had cars. As kids we would swim in the stream, play outdoor games, chew on sugar cane stalks, etc. Thank you ojichan for immigrating to Hawaii, otherwise...???