

# HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2017

Website: [www.huilimakokua.com](http://www.huilimakokua.com). Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

**Next Club Activity.** (a) Our next event will be a Potluck Luncheon to be held at 1:00 pm on January 14, at Hurley Hall, Our Lady of Assumption Church, Ventura. **Please note the change in time from our usual 2 pm to 1 pm** due to the early darkness. For the program **Jaine Fahy** will be talking about Stress Reduction as well as demonstrate massage techniques. She has been involved in elderly care for many years. Perhaps she will need a volunteer to demonstrate her massage technique on? (b) For the February meeting, we were planning to visit the Channel Island Maritime Museum. **Arlene Fraser** was a former President of this Museum. Stay tuned for more information in next month's newsletter.

**Past Meetings.** (a) Last month's Christmas Potluck Luncheon was wonderful. **Darrin Ching** baked the holiday ham for the group. Mahalo **Darrin!** The attendees brought delicious side dishes and desserts. **Ray & Connie Louie** brought cleverly decorated Christmas candy gifts for all the attendees. Mahalo! Seven people won scratcher prizes passed out by **Ron Wong**. **Mike Nakamura** was the big winner with \$5. The attendees got a chance to talk about future programs for the Club. That's when **Jaine** volunteered to do this month's program. **Judith Wilson and the Louies** also volunteered to conduct programs in 2017. Have you got suggestions for programs? If so, contact a Board member.

**Membership News.** (a) A few people have not renewed their memberships yet. Please send your renewals to **Ron Wong** at 392 Tulane Ave., Ventura, CA 93003. Make check payable to "Hui Lima Kokua." (b) On behalf of the club, **Ron** donated \$100 to the Bellringers and a reporter interviewed **Ron**. A very nice article was written in the Ventura County Star about Hui Lima Kokua and its history, going back over 50 years. Good job **Ron!** (c) The two newest members of our Hui (**Ray & Connie Louie** and **Judith Wilson**) chatted before our Potluck Luncheon in December. They were both surprised that **Judith**, who moved to Ventura a few months ago was good friends with **Connie's** brother in Flagstaff, Arizona where she came from. They belonged to the same mah jong group. (d) **Ron's** youngest son (**Michael**) will be bringing his family to visit during Christmas from the East Coast. **Michael** has 3 daughters and 1 son. Gee, some of us still remember when Michael was in high school. (e) **Chuck & Lisa Zimmerman** spent a couple of weeks in Hawaii. They attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. While at the event, **Lisa** took a selfie with Hawaii Governor **David Ige**. Upon returning home **Lisa** wore a "Matsumoto Shave Ice" shirt. In Hawaii shave ice is called "shave ice" while many places on the mainland call it "shaved ice."

**Hawaiian Events.** (a) **Ken Emerson & Jim Kimo West**, slack key and steel guitar legends, will be performing on Saturday, January 21, in Ojai. This very special intimate evening performance will start at 6:30 pm, tickets cost \$25. For more information, see: [http://www.beatricewood.com/slackers\\_in\\_paradise.html](http://www.beatricewood.com/slackers_in_paradise.html). **Kumu Rona Koe**, from Camarillo, will be the solo hula dancer. (b) A slack key and steel guitar workshop by **Ken Emerson & Jim Kimo West** will be conducted from 1:30 pm to 4 pm on January 21 in Ojai, cost \$40. For more information see: [http://www.beatricewood.com/workshops/slack\\_key\\_guitar\\_workshop.html](http://www.beatricewood.com/workshops/slack_key_guitar_workshop.html).

**Hawaii Sports.** (a) The University of Hawaii football team ended the regular season with a 6-7, good enough to be invited to play in the Hawaii Bowl game against Middle Tennessee State on

December 24. The game will be played at the Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. Playing in a bowl game rewarded Coach **Nick Rolovich's** with a one year extension on his contract with the Warriors. **(b)** The UH women's volleyball team finished the 2016 season ranked No. 17 in the country. It is the 33rd time in 34 years that the Rainbow Wahines have been ranked in the Top 25 in the final poll. UH finished the year with a 23-6 overall and 15-1 Big West mark.

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### **Mike's Rambling Corner**

1. Here is a sad story. The only remaining sugar mill in Hawaii has ended its final harvest. The last cane haul at Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company on Maui closed in December. Hawaii was a major producer of sugar in the yesteryears. My grandparents, along with many other Asians, left their home country to work in Hawaii's sugar plantation many years ago. I was born in the town of Honomu (on the Big Island) in the sugar cane plantation camp. So I am very thankful for Hawaii's thriving sugar industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The other major industry in Hawaii responsible for attracting many workers from Asia was pineapple. Both the pineapple and sugar industry were very important in Hawaii. The pineapple canneries closed about 10 years ago which was another personally sad, nostalgic situation because working in the pineapple cannery during the summers in the 1950s allowed me to attend college. But now we can be thankful for the tourist industry and the military bases in Hawaii that really helps the island economy.

2. Get your "Forever" stamps now. Effective January 22, the price of the first class stamps will increase from \$.47 to \$.49. Gee, wasn't it just this past year that the price went down? That was the first time I ever heard of stamp prices going down. The price of stamps when Hawaii was granted statehood in 1959 was \$.04 and by 1975 it jumped to \$.10.

3. Buying hearing aids could soon become as easy as buying reading glasses. In a surprise announcement the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that, effective immediately, it would no longer require adults to get a medical evaluation before buying most hearing aids.

The FDA is also considering creating a category of over-the-counter hearing aids to encourage more "new, innovative, lower-cost products to millions of consumers." The announcement was made at an open meeting of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Previous recommendations from this group, as well as from a White House advisory panel on science and technology, and some consumer and audiologist groups, had urged easing this restriction to make hearing aids more affordable and accessible.

The decision does not apply to those ages 18 and under, who still must have a medical evaluation before purchasing hearing aids. It also does not apply to bone-conduction hearing aids or to prescription-use hearing aids that are inserted deep in the ear canal. Hearing loss affects some 30 million Americans, affecting not only their work and social interactions but also their overall health and quality of life. The isolation and loneliness that can result from serious hearing loss have been linked to a higher risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

Despite the high prevalence and public health impact of hearing loss, only about one-fifth of people who could benefit from wearing a hearing aid actually use one, the FDA noted. The high price of the devices — about \$4,600 a set — has been a major barrier. Medicare and many private insurance plans don't cover the cost of hearing aids, so most consumers are stuck paying for them out of pocket.