

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

Website: www.huilimakoua.com. Hauoli Makahiki Hou!!!

Next Club Activity. (a) The next club function will be our New Year potluck to be held on **January 13, starting at 1:00 in the Youth Building, Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Church (3175 Telegraph Road, Ventura, 93003).** For the program **Ray Louie** will demonstrate how to crochet a zori (slipper). He taught **Connie** how to make them about 3 years ago. Also for the program we will ask members how the Thomas Fire affected them, their family or close friends. (b) I have received a few inputs from members on future programs for our Club. We want to hear from you so please submit your ideas to me (Mike). (c) Tentative future club events:

January 13. Potluck at OLA Church. Program: crochet zori and impact of Thomas Fire.

February 10. Tentative potluck at OLA Church.

March 10. Tentative potluck at OLA Church

Past Meetings. (a) The Thomas Fire really put a damper on December's potluck. Some of our members were evacuated from their homes due to the threat of the fire and the poor quality of the air. A hearty mahalo to **Maria Cruz** for baking the ham for this event and also all the members who attended with potluck dishes. The Church was generous in allowing us to meet in this nasty condition.

Membership. (a) **Ron Wong** is still collecting dues for this fiscal year – Oct thru Sept. Dues are \$20 for couple/family and \$15 for single. You can mail the dues to 392 Tulane Ave, Ventura, CA 93003. (b) Long time club member **Ted Wakai** is still in Brookdale Camarillo going through physical therapy and trying to gain strength in his legs. Best of luck for a speedy recovery **Ted**. Hurry back, we all miss you.

Hawaii Related News. (a) Due to the high cost of living, Hawaii's population continues to shrink. Some 13,537 more people left Hawaii for the mainland than moved in from another state from July 2016 to July 2017, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Over the last five years, about 37,000 more people have left Hawaii for the mainland than moved in. The November 2017 median sales price for single-family homes was \$770,000 and for condos it was \$400,000. (b) Longtime Honolulu resident, **Jim Nabors**, best known for his role as **Gomer Pyle**, died on November 30th at the age of 87. His tremendous singing voice and low-key nature endeared him to many in Hawaii and made him a local fan favorite. (c) The Makaha Sons (featuring **Jerome Koko**) will perform at Whittier College on Saturday, January 20 starting at 2:00 pm. Later this year the College will feature **Willie K** (March 17) and **Robert Cazimero** and Halau Na Kamalei (May 26). (d) On November 22, Chaminade University (Honolulu) pulled off its first upset in the Maui invitational in five years by beating the University of California 96-72. The tiny Division II School is known for upsetting #1 Virginia back in back in 1982. The Maui Invitational has decided to invite Chaminade back to the tournament every two years in the future. (e) So far the University of Hawaii basketball team has a very good 8-3 record. But there are many tough games ahead. We have a very successful 35 year old coach, **Eran Ganot** who led UH to 28 wins and was the Conference Coach of the Year 2 years ago. (f) **Max Holloway** of Waianae, Hawaii, defended his UFC Featherweight (146 pounds) championship on December 2, against **Jose Aldo**.

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Mike's Rambling Corner.

Hawaii. I spent two weeks in Honolulu, my old stomping grounds, from the end of November into December. I saw so many changes since I left over 50 years ago. Of course I visited Hawaii many times since I left but there have been many changes. Ala Moana Shopping Center, the largest open-air shopping center in the world, opened up the Ewa side where Sears and Zippys once were located. They were replaced by many other stores and eateries. A high rise expensive condominium building was built close by from which the tenants have beautiful views of the Ala Moana Park and the Pacific Ocean. Huge changes were made since the Shopping mall opened up in 1959, the year Hawaii became a state.

The new Waikiki International Market Place is now a 3-story building with over 80 fancy stores, including restaurants, jewelry stores, coffee shops, bakeries, etc. This modern structure replaced the many small, old 1950 type shops. The old banyan tree was preserved and stands healthily in the middle of the market place. We rented a car but often parked at the Ala Moana Shopping Center and caught the bus into Waikiki to avoid parking problems. For seniors with Medicare cards, the bus fare is \$1. For \$2 a senior can ride the bus for the whole day. The younger and more athletic individuals could consider using the biki bikes. All around Honolulu I saw biki stations. Basically a biki station is a bicycle rack where a person with a biki pass can take a bike out of the rack and ride the bike to different locations. Seems like a popular traveling alternative for the younger, active people.

Eateries in Hawaii are so plentiful – from bento box lunches to fancy, expensive restaurants plus many different types of sweets. One of my favorite breakfast places is McDonald's Restaurant where they serve the local deluxe platter (Portuguese sausage, spam, scrambled eggs, and rice) with coffee – only in Hawaii can you get this platter. The Makai Court in Ala Moana Shopping Center has a variety of food choices. One can walk off the excess food at the Aloha Stadium Swap meet where you can find many items at reasonable prices.

The annual Honolulu Marathon was held on December 10 while we were visiting there. The 26.2 mile run caused some traffic jam with over 26,000 runners, about half of them coming from Japan. There was an individual who participated in all 45 marathons, starting when he was 13 years old. An interesting story that surfaced was about an 81 year old woman, Ayako Hayashi from Japan, who finished last with a time of 16 hours and 23 minutes. She made many new friends when strangers escorted her to the finish line. Kenyan runners won both the Men and Female events in 2 hours and 8 minutes and 2 hours and 22 minutes respectfully.

The homeless population is quite bad in Honolulu. Some of the parks were filled with small tents but they didn't bother people. Hawaii has the largest homeless population in the U.S. per capita. California is ranked number 3. I was surprised to read that New York was number 2. New York can get quite cold so I thought that the homeless would prefer warmer climate. In Hawaii many homeless people are forcibly given one-way ticket to where they originally came from.

Chinese New Year. This year the Chinese New Year start on February 16, 2018. According to the Chinese 12-year animal zodiac cycle, the Chinese year beginning in 2018 is the year of the **Dog**. You are a dog if you were born in 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, and 2018. Two dogs may become good friends, but no love relationship. If you are single and look for a lover, then you will meet many competitors. It would be easier for you to look for a person born in year of Rabbit, Horse, Tiger or Chicken. If you are in love, you need patience to keep the relationship. The true love relationship always needs time to prove it. If you are married, your marriage is calm and stable. Your social activities will increase a lot. You will be busy to meet with your siblings, old friends, coworkers or same generation relatives. Therefore, your people relationship is quite good. When you are with them, you might talk about financial investment a lot. All of you are interested in money topics. 2017 was the year of the Roster.