

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2020

It seems we will be meeting as Hui Lima Kokua through newsletters, emails, phone calls and maybe Zoom into 2021. Officially, I, Lynette Uyechi Inouye, am now corresponding secretary, a position Mike Nakamura has filled for 30 years. Thank you, Mike, for doing a superb job.

I've been a member of the Hawaii Club for only one year since Mike and Kay invited me to the Club's luau in October of 2019. Everyone has been so welcoming, the programs informative and potlucks onolicious. As Mike mentioned in September's newsletter, my husband Alan (aka Tosh) and I live in Ventura. We were both born and raised in Honolulu and moved to Oxnard in 1974 with our one-year-old daughter Lee Ann. Three years later we moved to Ventura where our son Jason was born in 1977. Three years after that our twins Andrea and Lauren were born in 1980. Now our four adult children have brought three sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law along with five grandsons and five granddaughters into our family. They all live within two hours of us. We are so blessed.

Going back to Hawaii, I attended Jefferson and Manoa elementary schools, Stevenson Intermediate where I met Arlene Tengan who is now recording secretary for the HI Club and now known as Mrs. Tom Fraser. Arlene is running for Oxnard Harbor District Commissioner, so please vote for Arlene Naomi Fraser this coming election. Arlene went on to McKinley High School and I to Roosevelt. At RHS I was on the yearbook staff and played the violin in the orchestra. I sold two band and orchestra concert tickets to an older guy named Alan Inouye whom I had just met. We ended up going steady for over two years and got married after I graduated from high school in 1964. I attended the University of Hawaii for 3 semesters with an elementary education major and a music minor. In one of the practice rooms in the music building, I came across a koto, a 13-stringed Japanese harp. I thought it was a beautiful instrument.

When Tosh entered military service in December 1965, I followed him to Japan where he was stationed in Chitose, Hokkaido, from April '66-November '69. I learned to play the koto there while Tosh was a military policeman and also an investigator for the CID (Criminal Investigation Detachment). When we returned to Hawaii, Tosh went back to school and earned a BS in electronics engineering. I worked as a pre-school teacher and later worked for Hawaiian Telephone Company as a customer service representative. Tosh was in his last year of school when Lee Ann was born in February of '73. When we moved to the mainland, Tosh worked at NCEL (Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory) and later other departments at the CB base. I was a stay-at-home mom for a while and then worked part-time as an aide at Buena High School teaching English as a Second Language. I also went back to school and earned my BA and a teaching credential in my 40's. So it's never too late to pursue something you love. I taught ESL part-time for 20 years and retired in 2013. Because of teaching ESL, I've hosted, along with my family, many international students, some with whom we are still in contact.

I still play the violin, occasionally the koto and more often the piano and ukulele. I also sing in the choir at Ventura Missionary Church and am involved in Bible studies and prayer ministries. So to summarize my life, faith, family and music are my main priorities.

How are you all coping during COVID 19? Please share with me via text, email or phone and I'll print your experiences in November's newsletter.

Aloha kakou, Lynette Inouye, Corresponding Secretary, (805) 758-7387, llinouye@gmail.com

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