

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

June is the month known for graduations, weddings, summer vacations. With the coronavirus still predominant in our world, celebrating these happy occasions has become a bit more challenging. Speaking of celebrations, June 18th is Ron Wong's 90th! birthday. Also turning a significant decade is Kay Nakamura on June 23rd. Hau'oli la Hanau to both of these active club members.

Hawaiian language lesson: Ronald means power and might, thus a strong ruler or chieftain. The Hawaiian equivalent name is Kupapalani.

For University of Hawaii sports fans, you probably know the men's volleyball team won the NCAA championship with their win over UCSB in Columbus, Ohio, on May 6. The Rainbow Wahine's volleyball team also have an excellent record as they have for many years with a 5 wins and 1 loss this scholastic year.

Some of you club members are from Hawaii and probably all members have visited family and friends on various islands. Hawaiians have their own version of English – pidgin English. Andy Bumatai, a local Hawaiian comedian, has a YouTube site which includes among many things, videos on speaking pidgin. Here are some examples:

I pau. = I'm finished.

Whea da rubbish can? = Where's the trash can?

Dat bugga, he salty! = That guy, he's mad!

Dat tako was ono! = That octopus was delicious!

My tutu so pretty. = My grandmother is lovely.

Featured member this month is Adele Kammeyer. Enjoy her interesting story.

Mahalo, Lynette Inouye, corresponding secretary.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Aloha to all!

May this month of June find everyone safe, healthy and in good spirits.

I am Adele Kammeyer, resident of Camarillo for the past 43 years. I was born during what was known as the Liberation Year when General Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippines. My birthplace was on the Island of Leyte where U. S. Forces first landed.

I'm the youngest of five children. We were brought up in the Catholic faith and strictly observed Catholic holy days of obligation. My mother stayed a homemaker while my father was a government employee who rose through the ranks. He studied law while a full time employee, as did our eldest brother. They both took the bar exams at the same time and passed, one take. We were so proud of them. My three other siblings were teachers at public and private schools.

I grew up in an environment of heavy U. S. presence and cultural influences – English language, music, books and movies. Oh, how we loved Hollywood movies and the stars. And candies! Hershey chocolate bars, Baby Ruth, Chiclet chewing gum, etc.

I spent my early education, elementary and high school in my hometown of Tacloban City. From the start, the medium of instruction was English, and all of our textbooks were in English. My high school years were made more fun with books like Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, Perry Mason, etc.

Then college. This meant I had to go to Manila to study at the University of Santo Tomas for a B. S. in Food & Nutrition. Three years after graduation and after board exams, I emigrated to the U.S. where I worked at the hospitals in New Jersey and in New York. While working full time at the hospital in Westchester, NY, I decided to go for post grad studies at Columbia University, commuting by train and subway. Winter was always a challenge.

I earned my M. S. in nutrition the same year I applied for and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen. Being that the hospital where I worked paid half of my post grad tuition, I felt obligated to continue working there, which I did for four more years. Then, after 7+ years of cold, snowy winters, I made a bold move – to California. I'm forever grateful for a good friend and her family who accommodated me and helped me get settled after I found a job here in Camarillo. My move proved to be most extraordinarily great, for here, I met and was blessed with a most wonderful husband, a beautiful daughter, and a good son-in-law Max and a happy home life.

Fast forward to 2012. My dear daughter, Leah, introduced me and talked me into joining a hula class, with the same Kumu as in her halau. I find hula dancing and learning the Hawaiian culture to be most interesting. I might add that in this same year, my church, St. Mary Magdalen, was assigned a new pastor from Oahu.

Later on, I met Kay and Mike Nakamura. Kay is my hula sister. A few times she invited our Kupuna group to dance at the Hui Lima Kokua annual luau. Eventually, Kay invited me and my family to join this great club for which we are thankful and have enjoyed the togetherness and of course, the potlucks.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Mahalo nui,

Adele