

HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER MAY 2022 by Connie & Ray Louie...

“Happiest are the people who give the most happiness to others.” This definitely describes the members of Hui Lima Kokua. Our initiation into HLK was due to the help in 2014 from Mike and Kay Nakamura when we were co-chairs for our church club’s fund raiser.

Connie arrived on planet Earth on September 26, 1932. I graduated from Roosevelt High School in Honolulu in June, 1950. Of interest was the ratio of males to females in our graduating class of 412 – male to female – 3:5. After Roosevelt, I enrolled at the University of Hawaii School of Business, with 81 male accounting majors and only 2 other females – male/female ratio – 28:3. Graduating from the UH in 1955 with no student loans, I had worked summers packing pineapples at Dole and during school, in the UH registrar’s office part-time. After graduation I worked briefly for Aloha Airlines as their paymaster, then for a couple years at the Honolulu Gas Company before coming to Los Angeles in February, 1957.

Gerald Kam, a friend from the Hawaii Chinese Catholic Club, was stationed in L. A. at the time and took me to St. Bridget’s to meet other Chinese Catholics – among them was Ray Louie. Three years later on November 26, 1960, what began as a platonic friendship became the beginning of our 62-year marriage, plus a contribution to the population explosion with 6 kids (3 daughters and 3 sons), 6 granddaughters, 4 grandsons and now 2 grandsons-in-law.

I stayed home for 16 years to care for the children. Additional activities included doing math enrichment in the San Marino elementary schools before going back to work for 17 years to help with college expenses for our 6 children. I retired from Parsons on November 17, 1994, as a Cost Engineer. During these past 28 years of retirement, we travelled through over 80 countries which included Antarctica and Easter Island.

Ray was born in Stockton, CA, on March 10, 1933, which is marked by the historic Long Beach earthquake. His family moved to Los Angeles in 1933, a few months after the earthquake. Ray’s dad was one of the founders of the L. A. Chinatown Association. He held the position of auditor and established K. G. Louie Company, a store specializing in Chinese curios in L. A. Chinatown.

Ray graduated from Belmont High in 1951 and UCLA in 1955 with a Commercial Art major and minors in Chinese and Math. After graduation he worked briefly in San Francisco in an import-export company creating their catalogs while taking education

courses at UC Berkeley. He was hired as a math and art teacher by Nightingale Junior High School in September 1960 and retired on February 6, 1995.

Our 6 children received their undergraduate degrees from Loyola Marymount University. "Dorm life" at LMU prepared them for leaving the "nest" after graduation. Patti, Greg, Chris and Tim majored in Electrical Engineering, while Stephanie and Pam chose Business for their major. After 10 years working at Enterprise, Pam decided to get her Masters in Education and now has been teaching for 20 years. Patti, Chris and Tim pursued MBA degrees and are utilizing their EE background and computer applications in their business positions. Patti is chief financial officer for Volunteers of America – L. A.; Chris is product manager, web project lead/travel services for Princess Cruises, Holland America, Seabourn, P&O Australia and Cunard; and Tim is manager of field incentive compensation with Jazz Pharmaceuticals.

Two grandchildren are in the medical profession – Alexis Goswitz (doctor) and Kiersten Irwin (RN). Grandson Cody Irwin is a computer programmer and grandson Matt Louie is in naval training. Remaining grandchildren are still in school. Grandsons-in-law Brent (Alexis) is a clinical pharmacist and Joe (Kiersten) is a high school football coach and counselor.

Our hobbies and pastimes include crocheting, gardening, cooking, baking, TV, Sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, internet games, gathering with family and friends, and visiting casinos which we call our "Disneyland."

Mahalo nui loa, Connie and Ray for sharing your well-lived biographies.

The Louies live in San Marino and drove to Ventura, over a one-hour drive to join us at our gatherings. That's what you call commitment!

Our next and first in-person meeting since February 2019, will be held on June 11, 2022, at 11:30, at Hunan Garden Chinese Restaurant. The address: 1621 N Oxnard Blvd. Oxnard 93030 . Phone: (805) 988-9395

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend and Happy Cinco de Mayo,

Lynette Inouye, corresponding secretary.

(805) 758-7387, llinouye@gmail.com