



# HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - `Okakopa 2023

## Hawaii Club of Ventura County Newsletter - October 2023

### Calendar & Upcoming Events

#### `Okakopa | October

- 14 - Hui Lima Club Meeting  
Kanikapila Night Camarillo
- 17 - Hōkūle`a Visits Ventura  
(Date tentative)
- 21 - VC Celebrates 150 years
- 31 - Halloween 🎃

#### [Hui Lima Meeting Location](#)

Club House of the Bonaventure  
10949 Telegraph Road  
Ventura, CA 93004

### [Next Meeting: Saturday, October 14, 11a-1p](#)

Aloha mai kākou! Our next Hui meeting is on the 14th at our usual time and is potluck. For this meeting in particular, we are asking for a *prompt arrival* due to the evening Kanikapila event. The meeting will wrap more quickly than usual in order to allow people time in between events.

This meeting is **Halloween-themed**, so feel free to dress in costume if you're feeling festive!

There is also a **voluntary plant exchange** - if you have extra cuttings or any kind of plants you want to share/exchange, here's your chance! Again, this is *\*voluntary only\** - please do not feel obligated to bring, and especially do not go out and buy.

We want to give a big shout-out to **Lianne Frame** and her guest, daughter **Chelsea** (Kel-C) for a wonderful game of Hawaiian Jeopardy last meeting! Everyone had so much fun, and the topics covered a wide range of knowledge. Mahalo nui and maika`i !!! We hope to play again!

### Lāhainā Banyan Tree Displays New Life

The Lāhainā Banyan Tree has been a source of hope for the locals grieving the immense losses in their beloved town. In the early days after the fires, though the tree was badly scorched, expert arborist Steve Nimz determined there were still signs of life. Now, nearly two months later, green leaves can be seen spotting the massive, charred branches of the historical tree, even high up in the canopy.

Nimz figures about one-third of the tree is well on the road to recovery, and another third is slowly making its way. The rest has not given any signs yet, but the expert compares it to a person being in a coma, explaining that when people are in that state, all of a sudden they may blink an eye or move a finger. He is optimistic that the tree just needs time.

Nimz, along with other volunteer arborists and landscapers have formed the Lāhainā Treescape Restoration Project. This group has been taking care of the banyan tree as well as `ulu (breadfruit) trees, kukui nut, and Royal palms. They are also planning the restoration of native and endemic trees in the affected areas.

The Lāhainā Banyan Tree was planted on April 24, 1873, and at 150 years, is one of the oldest on the islands. Over time, as it grew in stature, it also grew in the collective heart of the community. Its survival and regrowth offers Lāhainā residents encouragement to persevere and the hope to look forward and rebuild.

### Ventura County Celebrates its 150th Anniversary!

Although not Hawai`i-related, this local news is worth a mention. Ventura County turns 150 this year! There will be a festival celebrating this milestone on **Saturday, October 21st** in Santa Paula at the Agriculture Museum. Lots of activities and entertainment including Togen Daiko, the Oxnard Taiko group with whom you may be familiar, or even a member (**Lianne Frame**)!

Historically, the first people in the area of course were the Chumash. Spanish settlers began to actively occupy the area in the 1700s and established Mission San Buenaventura in 1782. In 1866, sixteen years after California became a state, San Buenaventura became the first city in what would become Ventura County. Saticoy, Hueneme, and Ventura were the first three townships and officially the Supervisorial Districts in 1873. There were already 3,500 residents in the area with agriculture as the economic mainstay, featuring crops of hay, citrus, grapes, and beans.

With the introduction of the Southern Pacific Railroad to the area, Ventura County saw even more growth and more cities being established, like Fillmore, Santa Paula, and Oxnard. In the early 1900s, the Conejo Valley experienced more growth and development. Later, Port Hueneme would become an important Navy outpost during the WWII effort, in addition to the Channel Islands as a point of defense on the West Coast.

Over its history, agriculture has been the county's livelihood. The Naval history has also had a deep influence in the area. Today, we see healthcare, manufacturing, construction, along with leisure & hospitality as other top industries in our county. Cheers to Ventura County for 150 years!

(Did you notice that Ventura County is the same age as the Lāhainā Banyan Tree??)



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## Hōkūle`a to Visit Ventura Harbor!



The famous double-hulled Hawaiian canoe, Hōkūle`a is set to visit Ventura mid-month, one of several Southern California stops on their epic voyage. Hālau Hula O Pualanina`aualī`ioha, alongside representatives of the Chumash, other hālau, paddling clubs, and other community members will be welcoming them in as they park the Hōkūle`a into a slip in Ventura Harbor.

In 2018, Hālau Hula O Pualanina`aualī`ioha, et al were honored to welcome Hōkūle`a's sister ship, the Hikianalia, in a ceremony similar to what is structured for this year. We are honored & humbled yet again that they chose Ventura as one of their stops.

Recently, the CEO of the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) and crew member on this voyage, Nainoa Thompson, announced they would make a significant change in sailing plans. Originally, they were set to sail further south along the western coast of the Americas, but the tragedy in Lāhainā has been weighing heavy on their hearts. Thompson made the call that they would return home to Lāhainā after their stop in San Diego, probably around December. He and the crew feel the need to be home with their community, and that the community needs the Hōkūle`a to be home with them. Although not certain when they will return to their voyage, Thompson promised the Hōkūle`a will complete her tour.

The Hōkūle`a crew kicked off their journey in June 2023, and is scheduled to last until 2027. This four-year voyage began in Juneau, Alaska and is entitled "Moananuiākea", the indigenous Hawaiian name for the Pacific Ocean. They will sail around essentially what is the Pacific Rim using only traditional methods of navigation practiced by the ancient Polynesian mariners and navigators. Their mission is to engage the local cultures they visit and connect them to a more global community, promoting sustainability and care for our oceans and our earth.

The origins of Hōkūle`a began in the mid-1970s as a way to revive and keep old traditions and Hawaiian culture alive. Herb Kāne, one of the key figures in the 1970s Hawaiian renaissance, founded the Polynesian Voyaging Society and dreamt of rebuilding a *wā`a kaulua*, the double-hulled canoes of the ancestral past. Furthermore, he wanted to prove that the ancient journey from Tahiti to Hawai`i was an intentional one and not an accidental drift, as was a popular theory of the time. Kāne knew the ancient voyagers were exceptionally skilled mariners and navigators. Hōkūle`a, meaning "star of gladness", is the Hawaiian name for the star Arcturus, visible overhead on the latitude of Hawai`i, making it a key navigational marker. The inspiration to name the *wā`a kaulua Hōkūle`a* came to Kāne in a dream.



Because the intent of the journey is to practice ancient traditions, the very first crew of the 1975-76 voyage had to recruit Pius Mau Piailug, a man from Satawal, Micronesia. He was one of the few left skilled in traditional long-distance navigation. He successfully navigated the crew from Hawai`i to Tahiti using the positioning and observations of the stars, moon, sun, and even the ocean swells. He also practiced dead reckoning, with his mental map visualizing the canoe's bearings through the ocean and the various archipelagos. They had a magnificent welcoming in Pape`ete Harbor, Tahiti - with over 17,000 people! However, on the return trip, the voyagers had to resort to modern navigational techniques. Apparently, there was conflict among some of the voyagers, and once the Hawai`i to Tahiti leg was complete, Piailug left via airplane back home to Micronesia. In subsequent years, Piailug is credited with teaching the ancient methods of navigation, which would have otherwise been lost without him in the modern Hawaiian and Polynesian cultures.



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There is a tragic story in Hōkūle`a's history as well. Just a couple years after the first voyage, another crew set out to make the round-trip voyage from Hawai`i to Tahiti, beginning on March 16, 1978. A gale warning was in effect, but the wa`a kaulua had endured similar conditions before. However, the canoe was overburdened with food and supplies, straining the canoe and making it difficult to handle. Just five hours into the journey, the Hōkūle`a capsized in the waters between Moloka`i and O`ahu. The crew of sixteen clung to the capsized canoe; one of these sixteen was renowned surfer, Eddie Aikau. In an attempt to retrieve help, Aikau set out toward Moloka`i on his surfboard. Tragically, Aikau was never seen again. The remaining crew were eventually rescued by the Coast Guard.

In 1980, another crew set out to recreate the original 1976 voyage. Nainoa Thompson, who had received intensive training from Piailug, successfully navigated the Hōkūle`a, and became the first Native Hawaiian in 600 years to navigate a canoe thousands of miles without the use of instruments. And yes, this is the same Nainoa Thompson from earlier in the article! In 2007, he and four other Native Hawaiians along with eleven Micronesians were inducted in a Pwo ceremony as Master Navigators, presided by Pius Mau Piailug. As mentioned before, Thompson is also the CEO of the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

After the first several voyages from Hawai`i to Tahiti, the Hōkūle`a expanded their destinations and mission. The initial voyages were to reclaim and reconnect native Hawaiians to their ancestral past. Now, it is a mission to perpetuate, share & educate, and inspire people of all ages to connect back to our earth and our communities, local and worldwide.

As the details solidify for the welcoming ceremony in Ventura, I will pass them along if you are interested in observing!

Well, HAU`OLI LĀ HĀNAU  
to our `Okakopa birthday:

*Yours Truly* (Leah)



### Call to Action!

Though we only have a few months left of this year, we are always looking for people to volunteer their talent, `ike (knowledge), or anything Hawaiian-related to share for future programs.

It can be a presentation on a topic, a person, tradition; it can also be a game, demo or craft, etc.

Please reach out to **Leah**  
[LKammeyer@gmail.com](mailto:LKammeyer@gmail.com), or text/call  
805-469-9230 with your ideas. Mahalo!

### Did you know ...

Hui Lima Kokua has a website??

<https://HuiLimaKokua.com/>

You can find out info for upcoming meetings, archives of the newsletters, and even photos of past events!



***Hope to see you at our next meeting, Saturday, October 14th, 11a-1p!***

**Comments, Corrections, Questions, Suggestions?** Feel free to reach out and let me know if you have suggestions for future newsletters, or corrections / comments on previous ones. Leah Kammeyer, [LKammeyer@gmail.com](mailto:LKammeyer@gmail.com), (805) 469-9230