

INTERESTING & FUN

Members **Michael Lilly** and **John Medlock** work together on setting up the projector before Mike's slide presentation at the Annual Meeting on the 23rd of October at Waialae Country Club.



PRIVATE HISTORICAL NOTES SOON TO BE PUBLISHED

Michael Lilly is the grandson of H.A. "Sandy" Walker who, as head of AmFac, was a major figure in the Hawaii business world and beyond. He and his wife, Una, had many well known and influential friends, one of whom was Admiral Chester Nimitz who attended many dinner parties and other functions at the Walker Estate. Nimitz was in charge of military operations in the Pacific.

With the outbreak of war, Nimitz' duties and responsibilities became even heavier. Nimitz suffered from chronic insomnia. The Walkers invited him to rest and recuperate from his command responsibilities at their beach estate whenever he could get away from his Pearl Harbor headquarters. The estate, which they named "Muliwai", is located on the beach, opposite from where the Polynesian Cultural Center is now located. Many times Nimitz joined the family and their friends for beach activities, sports and dinner parties—and a good night's sleep. Nimitz gave Lilly's sisters, Maile, 5, and Sheila, 3, the nicknames of Major Gremlin and Minor Gremlin. Lilly has family photos of the admiral entertaining the two.

Lilly is writing a book about Nimitz' activities away from "the office". The book is appropriately named *Nimitz At Ease*. Among his resources are many family photos, souvenirs his grandmother saved from various dinner parties and events she and Walker hosted, and her 1944 diary. Lilly also has Nimitz' command logs which were sent to him by the admiral's grandson.

The 42 members and guests who attended the meeting clearly enjoyed Mike's presentation. He shared many anecdotes, all of which were interesting and often amusing. We will keep you informed in a future issue when the book is ready for publication. It promises to be a good read.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

President Darlene Laster gave a brief report on the status of our association and conducted the election of board members. Al Chun, John Medlock and

Ellen Shikuma, whose terms will be completed at the end of the year, all agreed to stand again. Mae Takahashi, who was appointed to fill in the position held by the late Allan Mosher, agreed to run for the position. All were elected to serve. Henry Blakstad donated door prizes of various gift certificates as well as bags, purses, Halloween items, etc. Photos of the meeting follow:



Lee Laster and Mike Lilly



John Medlock



Front: Iris Inouye & Tomiye Nakamura. Back: Sachi Kato, Elaine Keb, Shirley Silva & Patti Jacoby



Carol Wong, Jack & Karin Campbell, & Ilona Benoit



Harold Chow, Ellen Shikuma, Carol Suyderhoud & Al Chun



Mae Takahashi, Ellen Shikuma & Aggie Von Brimer



Kiddy DeCoster & Dan Del Monte

Joan Davis

Ed Gencarelli



◀ Jimmy Chong and Sue Jaques



Chuck Reindollar & Eileen Tiwanak



Liz Kearins & May Tsukiyama



Glori Ino-Strassberg, Ellen Hiromoto, Lillian Nishikawa & Charlotte Yamashiro



Henry Blakstad, Darlene Laster, Jan Newhart & Clare Takayama



Susyn Miller-Fritz, Diane VanderZanden & Mae Takahashi



Pat Wagner & Katie Yoshioka



Glori Ino-Strassberg & Lillian Yoshioka



Al Chun & Chuck Lileikis

ALSO OF HISTORICAL NOTE

*In the November 24, 2017, issue of the Honolulu Star Advertiser, **Bob Sigall** wrote an article of historical interest. (Sigall, author of a series of books titled *The Companies We Keep*, is also a frequent, and popular, speaker at our lunch meetings.) Sigall retold a story passed on to him by **Ken Fujii** who was a student at UH at the time of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. With Sigall's permission, I reprint it here, because the 22nd of this month of November is the 55th anniversary of the assassination:*

Ken Fujii was walking through the campus on his way back to his dormitory when he realized something had happened. "I thought it was strange that, as I passed through the campus parking lot, students were raptly listening to their car radios, and it was not rock and roll playing, but the voices of many newscasts.

I walked into the Atherton dorm, which was a residence for international and U.S. students, many of whom were attending the newly created East-West Center. There were many students talking in

groups, quietly but excitedly, sitting in small groups, [with their fellow countrymen, students from India in one group, Japanese in another, Koreans in another and so on.] Not knowing what the issue among the students was, I walked up to the closest group, the students from India, and asked, 'Hi, guys, What's up?'

They looked up at me and, in very serious tones, said 'Your president is dead! Kennedy was shot by an assassin in Texas this morning.'" It took Fujii many seconds to digest that statement. "I couldn't even remember the last time that an American president had been assassinated. I knew it wasn't Lincoln, but was it Garfield? Or McKinley? It was a long, long time ago. I thought, things like that don't happen anymore, do they? The students from India were visibly concerned and invited me to sit down among them. The first question they asked me was, 'Do you recommend that we leave the U.S. and return home to our country?' And I asked them, 'Why do you want to return home?' They replied, 'Your country has no leader. We want to return to where it is safe.'

Their responses reflected their uncertainty about what happens in our constitutional democracy when our president dies. They asked me whether there would be riots in the streets of America tomorrow, and whether the military would take over the government or whether there might be a coup by a dissident political party trying to take control. They asked whether they were safe from harm living in a YMCA dormitory on campus or whether they should seek out a safer location. 'We are afraid of what will happen next', someone said. And with that statement, students from other countries came over, nodding in agreement. . . Many of the students started relating tales of tumult in their own countries when a leader is assassinated or overthrown. They described weeks of rioting in the streets, martial law, citizens rounded up and imprisoned, public transportation shut down, news censored, food shortages, schools closed, roads blocked. These were all too common in their memories. I almost chuckled at the vivid images of an American Armageddon their fears had generated in their minds, but I saw they were dead serious. So I tried, the best I could, to recall my history and social studies lessons about the succession of power granted in the United States Constitution."

Fujii slowly told these listeners what would happen in the next few days. Vice President Lyndon Johnson would be sworn in as president of the United States, and all powers of the presidency would automatically transfer to him. "I assured them there would be no tanks and no militia in the streets, and no cessation of government services. I told them that tomorrow the sun will rise, the buses will run, the mail will be delivered, the university will be open and the cafeteria would still be serving cheap meals to students. There would be sadness, but America would survive without military intervention in the streets.

In essence, I assured them that there was no need to rush back to their homelands or to seek shelter at their consulates. They were safe right here in the dorm, on campus. . . The next morning when I went down to the lobby, heading to the cafeteria for breakfast, a group of international students came up to me and thanked me for the calm assurances and information I gave them the previous day.

They now understood that they were safe," Fujii says, "and that they were in no imminent danger here in the dorm in Hawaii. They had called home the previous night and assured anxious parents or spouses that they were secure in America and there was no need for them to evacuate this land and return home. And they said, 'Now we truly understand your democracy and what your famous Constitution does for Americans. This experience was more vivid, and better than any lec-

ture we could have heard in history class.'

True to what I had told them, Vice President Lyndon Johnson had taken over the reins of government and been sworn in as president aboard a jet about to fly him back to Washington, D.C. And the American people had accepted the transition, with no riots and no discord. The Constitution had worked. A student from Taiwan observed, 'Your country does have a leader after all. Your country, the United States of America, is a miracle.' Yes, our Constitution is a miracle of sorts," Fujii believes, "It provides for the smooth transfer of power both as a result of elections and in the case of death or disability of the president, so there is never any vacuum at the top."

Ed. Note: It is well worth remembering that the United States Constitution was once appreciated by people across this nation. Who would ever have thought it would be under attack by many of its own ill-informed citizens as it is today.

OUR MOVE FROM THE HALE KOA TO WAIALAE COUNTRY CLUB

Actually it was a move from the Waialae Country Club, where the original Christmas dinner was held, and then continued for several years, to the Hale Koa for 17 years, and now we are moving back to the Waialae Country Club. As always, the moves were made after a considerable amount of discussion.

Both locations require a member sponsor. One of the main objectives of the board is to keep expenses of attending a gala as low as possible for our members—a goal that was always a difficult one. As the cost of living goes up, so does the price of a dinner out. The late Robbie Gee, whose husband Bob was a retired Navy Officer, suggested we hold it at the Hale Koa Hotel as it is a military facility. She became our Hale Koa sponsor and, because there is no tax, drinks were cheap and the buffet was less expensive than non-military facilities. As our members aged, however, we began to receive comments about the distance between the parking garage and the ballroom where our event was held. The hike from the garage included climbing a long, uncovered curving stairway without railings. We were already receiving comments from members who no longer liked driving at night. With Robbie's passing in the spring of 2017, the board began to look at other options.

As many of our members are aware, our 5 general membership meetings have been held at Waialae Country Club for years. Although the price of drinks and the buffet may be higher because the club does not get a break from taxes, there are many good features. Parking is convenient and free. The cost of the holiday luncheon includes parking, tax and tip. The club is always beautifully decorated at Christmas. The staff has assured us that Christmas trees will, as usual, line the hallway. The buffet is not the one at our regular Tuesday meetings. Selections were made exclusively for our group. Besides entrees and salads, there will be five desserts. The food at Waialae Country Club is always something to look forward to. Door prizes add to the festivities.



So sign up now! You will not be disappointed!

Our Pan Am music will be playing when you arrive and it will be followed by Christmas music throughout the Holiday Buffet!

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .



Dorcie Nohara Sakuma, 72, died unexpectedly on September 25th, after successfully surviving surgery for cancer of the kidney. She joined Pan American as a Japanese-speaking stewardess in 1968 after graduating from the University of Hawaii. She was the daughter of a Japan Airlines executive and was raised in Tokyo, Washington D.C. and Honolulu. She resigned in 1973 to become a full-time housewife and mother. She was a lively, active person, interested in various pursuits and hobbies, among them cooking. She was featured in a lengthy article in the *Star Advertiser*, where she was given recognition as a gourmet cook and an excellent baker. She is survived by her husband, Paul; son, Craig; daughter Katie (Jeff) Moore; and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at Hosoi Mortuary on November 25th, visitation at 1:00 pm, service at 2:00. No flowers. Friends who wish to honor her memory are asked to make a donation to Doctors Without Borders.

DUES WERE DUE! . . .AND STILL ARE!

TAXES

Medical appts.

Dental check-up

Seems as if something is always due! And, YES, PAA DUES ARE DUE!

Magazine Subscriptions



Oh, my! In the last issue, I failed to remind our Annual Members that dues are always due in October. However, you will not lose an issue of the newsletter if you remit your dues to John Medlock soon. The renewal form is on page 8.

REMINDERS: November 27th there is a board meeting at 10:00 at Waiialae Country Club. The next meeting for the general membership is our Holiday Buffet on **December 1st**. Please see the next page for details and reservation form.

It is important to note that a count is needed for the holiday buffet by **November 21st**. Please send your check in by the middle of November. If you put your check in any later, please call Carol to notify her your check is on the way and you want to make sure you are included in the count.



Annual Gala 2018

This is the last newsletter that will contain the Annual Gala registration form below. That is because the gala is being held on December 1st and it will be too late to sign up by the time the next issue is sent out. Following are the times and points for you to remember:

- Social time starts at 10:30. If you like to chat with your friends, you can come as early as 10:30 to share the spirit of the season.
- A holiday buffet will be available at 12:00.
- Remember to bring cash if you want to purchase a drink chit or participate in the annual 50-50.
- Lunch price is inclusive of tax, tip and parking.

Deadline: a count is needed by 11/21/18.
Please call Carol if your check won't arrive by the 21st.

*Start your December holiday season with your
Pan Am friends!*



Annual Gala Reservation
Holiday Luncheon at Waialae Country Club
December 1, 2018
Social Hour starts at 10:30
Buffet Served: 12:00
\$50 per person (Includes tax, tip and parking)



Name & Dept. _____ \$50.00

Guest _____ \$50.00

Guest _____ \$50.00

(Add separate list of guests if more space required.)

Total enclosed _____ \$ _____

Need a ride? Contact Carol Suyderhoud at 396-5225.

Make check payable to: **PAA.** Send to:
Carol Suyderhoud, 7503 Maka'a Street, Honolulu, HI 96825-3127

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

Darlene Carver Laster	President & Chapter Chair	Darleelas@aol.com	394-8981
Ed Gencarelli	Vice President	edgen76@gmail.com	254-4576
John Medlock	Treasurer/Membership	johnmiii@earthlink.net	664-0586
Marie Jahnsen	Secretary	marie.jahnsen@gmail.com	832-752-4982
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Mae Takahashi	Director	takten@hawaii.rr.com	218-7773

(Note: area code for all phone numbers is 808 unless otherwise specified.)

Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 396-5293 or send mail to 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #26-D, Honolulu, HI 96825-1734 or by e-mail: alohadvz@gmail.com.

Members, we encourage you to print this page and give the application below to your Pan Am friends who are not members. If you are a former employee and not a member of the Aloha Chapter of the Pan Am Association, we encourage you to complete and submit the application below and help keep our association healthy. Thank you.

PAN AM ASSOCIATION—ALOHA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check all applicable boxes and complete all applicable lines.

- Renewal New Member
- Retiree—Pan Am retiree who received lump sum pension or is receiving PBGC checks.
- Associate—All other former Pan Am employees
- Ohana—Surviving spouse, child or relative of above; sponsored person with close connection to Pan Am (subject to BOD approval).

PRINT CLEARLY PLEASE

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street Apt # City State ZIP code

Home Phone: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, which is in color? Yes _____ No _____

Retiree/Associate: Dept: _____ **PAA Service:** _____ **Receiving Pension?** _____
of years worked Yes or No

Ohana: Pls. state category & PAA sponsor (See above): _____

The association directory is published every two years and is distributed to **MEMBERS ONLY**.
 Do you wish to be listed in the directory? Yes No
 May we publish your phone number/E-mail address? Yes No

- Annual Membership: \$ 30 US Residents \$ 35 Overseas residents
- Lifetime Membership: \$150 US Residents \$175 Overseas residents

Please make check payable to **PAA** (Pan Am Association) and send with this application to:
John Medlock, 411 Kaelepu Drive, APT F, Kailua, HI 96734-3309