



The Lana'i Connection

LACA President's Message

by Rosita Viduya Hueu

Growing up on Lana'i was a unique experience that has shaped how we as Lanians feel about each other, our school, and the community. The spirit of being a Laniian evokes a deep sense of aloha we have for one another. It strengthens friendships that have endured for generations.

It was this sentiment that spurred **Thomas Roy Nunotani** better known as Tommy in making a difference and giving back to the Lana'i community. In the 1980's, with support from several Lanians and his classmates (Class of 1952), he launched a relentless drive in organizing the Lana'i Alumni Association. Up to 1993, he spearheaded social events known as The Lana'i Connection, chaired the celebration of Lana'i and Elementary School's 50th anniversary, and the Lana'i Community Reunion. Those were the times for Lanians to get together, rekindle friendships, and reminisce. Tommy was the catalyst in soliciting donations to be awarded as scholarships to Lana'i High School seniors.

Tommy died January 11, 1995. Four months later, on May 21, 1995 one hundred Lanians got together for brunch at the Officers' Club at Hickam Air

Force Base to elect officers and directors. **Robert Kinoshita** emerged as the first LACA president. Lana'i Alumni and Community Association evolved from the Lana'i Alumni Association.

LACA has existed for 14 years. I have had the privilege of being the president for 7 years. My presidential term ends on May 31. I hope I have served with humility and to your satisfaction. With your best interest in mind, the board of directors and past presidents: **Robert Kinoshita** ('95-'97), **Randy Sanches** ('97-'99), **Tina Mendes** ('99-'01), and **Joann Zukeran** ('05-'06), have sustained LACA as a viable and worthwhile organization.

We are indebted to the "pioneers" who have passed on but impacted our association with a solid foundation. Gone but not forgotten are **Helen Fujie**, 1980's Lana'i Liaison, **Kiyoshi Mana Minami** who drafted the Bylaws and established the framework for the Awards and Grants for Lana'i High and Elementary School, and deceased members/class representatives who were instrumental in organizing events.

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April 2009
Vol. 25, Issue 1

The Lana'i Connection is published three times a year (April, August, November) to enhance the purposes of the Lana'i Alumni and Community Association.

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Mail Prep: Volunteers
(coordinator to be announced)

Interested in Membership?
Life Membership to LACA is only \$10! Cost to replace membership card is \$5.00.

Correspondence may be directed to:

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Pearl City, HI, 96782

We reserve the right to edit any article before publication.

Visit us on the Internet!
Lanaiconnection.com/blog

2009 NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

July 1 for August issue
October 1 for November issue



LACA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

Deep appreciation and mahalo nui loa go to the various network coordinators for their input and invaluable services throughout the years:

- Maui Lana'i Connection: **Nani Watanabe, Gloria Reyes, Bill Ruidas** and **MLC members**
- California LACA Connection: **Sally Cadiente, Caroline Asuncion, Irene Seawright, Carol Voss,** and **committee members**
- Las Vegas LACA Connection: **Joy Enfield, Jocelyn Celcer, Ted Perez, Doreen Burnham**
- Non Lanaians residing in Las Vegas: **Vance Cannon** of Vegas Vance Tours, **Jeff Whaley**, photographer
- Northwest LACA Connection (dissolved): **Dwight Obado** (relocated), posthumous recognition to **Jane Thornburg**
- Entertainment participants for LACA events from Lana'i, Maui, Oahu, California, New Mexico, Las Vegas

A heartfelt thank you:

- to all **LACA members** for your interest, concern, and support
- to donors to the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation and to **Judy Nagasako** and **Rex Akutagawa** who administrate our account and disburse funds for scholarships, awards and grants
- to the generous donors to LACA whose donations defray operational expenses
- to Lana'i Retailers (i.e. **Wallace Tamashiro** of Richard's Shopping Center who could be counted on for last minute grocery/storing accommodations.)
- to non Lanaians: **Donna Shiroma Nakasue**, webmaster, **Joan Yamanaka**, database
- to **Robert Kinoshita**, LACA's Benefactor, for designating the LACA Hawaii building at 1064 Sand Island Parkway as "Home for the Lana'i Alumni and Community Association" which provides a fellowship sanctuary that gives us a sense of belonging.

My love and gratitude go to my husband **Jacob Hueu** who has been my tower of strength and to my family and relatives who have assisted and uplifted me through this incredible journey.

Please continue to wholeheartedly support the incoming administration and board of directors. The future of LACA rests with you. With much aloha, I wish you a life filled with God's graces and pray for your continued devotion and loyalty to our alma mater and our beloved hometown, Lana'i.

Our Latest Contributors

LACA thanks each of you for your generous support!



George Anbe, Anonymous Donor, George & Phyllis Chelovitz, Suzanne Pascua Damian, Eiko Hidani, George T. Higa, Jacob & Rosita Hueu, Gerarda Belez Janowski, Nancy Belez Lantz, Nona Armstrong Minami, Chiyoshi Oshiro, Margaret Osako Platt, Gloria Obado Reyes, Joe "Foxy" Ricamara, Ruth Matsui Teraoka, and Robert Viduya.

Honoring Others

Monetary gifts in celebration or in memory of friends, classmates and relatives were sent in by:

Gloria Obado Reyes in memory of her dad **Liberato Obado**.

Nona Minami in memory of her husband, **Kiyoshi**.

Phyllis and George Chevolitz in appreciation to **Nona Minami** for being a gracious hostess while visiting in Las Vegas and for the Kiyoshi Minami Awards to LHES.

Karen Nobui Kitagiri in memory of her husband **Nobuyuki**.



2009 LACA Vegas Connection at the Cal

Co-Chairs: Monica Cockett, Suzanne Pascua Damian



Have you made your reservations for the LACA Las Vegas Connection Reunion scheduled for September 5? Now is the time to contact your classmates, friends and ohana and make plans to get together at the event in the Ohana banquet room at the Cal.

Subject to change

In the spirit of aloha, the planning committee requests your cooperation in complying, if possible, to the following:

- Each attendee is requested to wear a lei.
- Each table signing up as a *group of 10*

will provide *one* centerpiece which will be awarded as a giveaway.

- *Attendee* who signs up individually will bring *one* prize which will be either used as the table centerpiece or awarded as a door prize.
- Attendees signing up as a *mini group of less than 10* will bring *one* prize from the group which will be either used as the table centerpiece or awarded as a door prize.
- Voluntary donations of items or gift certificates for door prizes will be greatly appreciated.

Saturday, September 5, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. MAILE ROOM

- Early registration. Designated and contact persons (CP) are encouraged to pick up table packets to avoid gridlock in the evening in the banquet room.
- Ukulele raffle tickets will be on sale at \$5.00 for one ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets
- OHANA BANQUET ROOM:
LACA Las Vegas Connection
Reunion: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

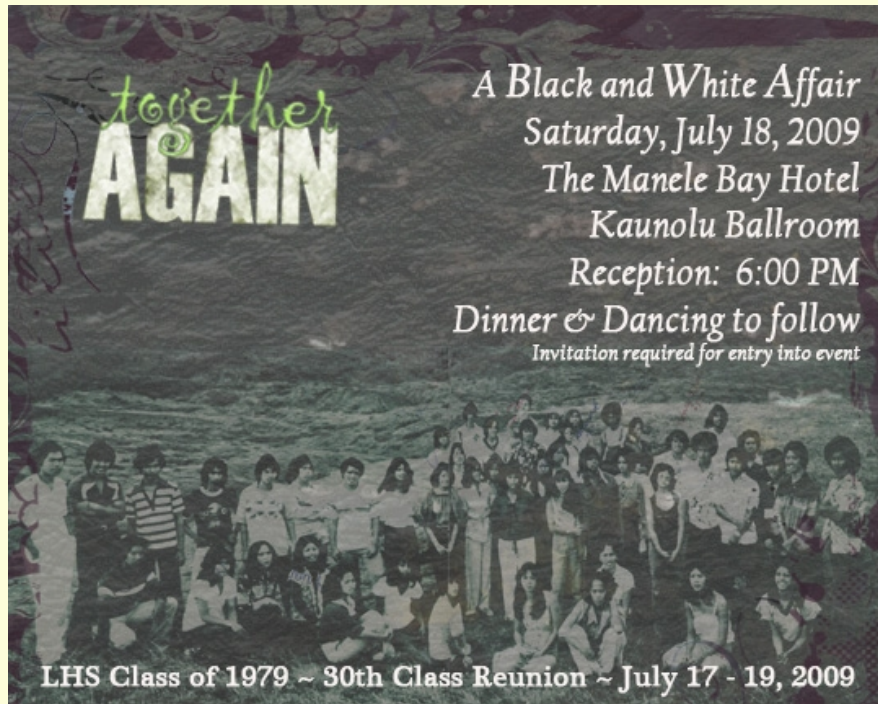




1979 30th Class Reunion for July 17 – 19 , 2009

To sign up and to see the reunion details of our upcoming 30th class reunion go to www.classcreator.com/Lanai-HI-Lanai-And-Elementary-1979

Contact Cheryl (Whittington) Von Kugler at (808) 657-0692 or Cheryl@keikikakes.com



Krislyn Yuki Nakasue, the long-awaited child to Newsletter Designer/Webmaster, **Donna Shiroma Nakasue** (granddaughter to **James Shiroma**, LHES alumnus, class of 1955) was born on October 4, 2008. After 15 years of marriage, the couple was blessed with their little miracle. Donna, a former

employee of the US Postal Service, made the decision to leave her career to become a full-time mom to baby Krislyn and is currently doing freelance work in web design, desktop publishing, photo/video editing and slideshows, and photography. If you are interested in any of the services that she provides, Donna can be reached via e-mail at donna_nakasue@yahoo.com or by phone at (808) 625-2377.

The Lana'i Connection

Since 1995 the following have had vital roles in producing the newsletter.

Editor

Tina Mendes
Rosita Viduya Hueu

Copyreaders

Nona Armstrong Minami
Robert Viduya

Designers

Carole Hara
Sonny Dalde
Karol Nakamatsu
Donna Shiroma Nakasue
Annette NiibuTijerina
Michael Del Rosario
Donna Reyes Ching

Webmaster

Donna Shiroma Nakasue

Contributing Writers

Class reps, LACA members, Lanaians

Mail Preparation

Jacob Hueu
Gerald Sakamura
Robbie Hueu Carlos
Donna Shiroma Nakasue
Jane Sakamura Nakamura
Joan Yamanaka

Providing sites for mail preparation

Robert Kinoshita



Down Memory Lane



Buddhist Hongwangi photo courtesy of Karen Nobui Kitagiri.

Pierce Myers, LACA Distinguished Member

by Rosita Viduya Hueu

On May 16, 2009 at the Annual Membership Social, the Lana'i Alumni and Community Association will present Pierce Myers, principal of Lana'i High and Elementary School with the 2009 Distinguished Member Award at Pearl Country Club. The prestigious award recognizes a member who excels in his/her endeavors and has contributed very significantly through services or financial support to LACA. If you would like to attend the event, log on to www.lanaiconnection for details (entertainment, program, dinner buffet, raffles) or email rvhueu@aol.com.

Since the establishment of our association in 1995, Pierce has rendered efficient and invaluable service as LACA's coordinator for the Kiyoshi Minami Awards and Grants comprised of:

- \$1500 for Student Activity or Class Project
- \$500 for Professional Improvement
- \$300 for Student School or Community Service

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PIERCE MYERS

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and the following annual scholarships:

- \$2,000 Thomas Roy Nunotani Scholarship
- \$1,500 LACA Vocational Scholarship
- \$1,000 Suzanne Damian Vocational Scholarship.

He is a 1975 graduate of Radford High School and received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from UH Manoa in 1979. In 1984 he received his Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction from UH Manoa.

His teaching and administrative experiences were at:

Wheeler Intermediate as Band Teacher, 1979 - 1980

Lana'i High and Elementary School, Band Teacher, 1980 - 1997

Lana'i High and Elementary School Vice Principal 1997 - 1999

Lana'i High and Elementary School Principal 1999 to the present.

Pierce is actively involved on Lana'i in community/business ventures and serves in numerous committees. During his leisure time, he enjoys photography, music and being outdoors.

Pierce is married to the former Jessie Figuerres. They are the parents of two daughters Udella and Sharah. Udella graduated from LHES in 1999 and received her Masters in Social Work at UH Manoa in 2005. Sharah is a student at LHES and will graduate in 2010.

LACA, comprised of over 1,150 members deeply appreciates everything Pierce does for the association. Congratulations, Pierce, for the well deserved honor!

GREAT NEWS FOR LHS CLASS OF 1962!!

***We are having our 47th reunion in Lana'i City on the 4th of July weekend,
July 3-5, 2009.***

For information on housing and activities, contact:

Larry Kawasaki, (808) 565-6021, email: nalhk@aloha.net.

Christine Endrina Hickman, (808) 722-0202, email: chickma2@yahoo.com

Sally Tabura Cadiente, (949) 837-8641, lyncsal@comline.com

Friends and family of the class of '62: Email, write or call our classmates to "come home" and join in the fun! Malama pono until the 4th of July weekend!

*Alumni News***Class of 1952**

by Richard Kawakami

The Class of '52 met at Marukai Food Court on February 18 at 11:00 AM. Present were **Stanley, Mitsue, Eddie, Irene, Edith, David, Marcellino, Mildred** and **Richard**. **Jane** was probably in Vegas. The following items were discussed over food from **Eddie/Mitsue** -- Delicious Shrimp Tempura and Lumpia (still warm), **David** -- Almond Manju, Marcellino -- Class Of '52 Cake, **Irene** -- Loft Haas Cookies, **Edith** -- Peppermint Bark, **Shawn Meyers** -- Lemon Cookies, **Mildred** -- Assorted Danish Pastries and Chocolate Chip Cookies, **Stanley** -- Assorted Arare Cookies AND **Richard** -- King's Haupia Cake.

We celebrated **Richard's** birthday with a Haupia Cake. Happy Birthdays also to Hawaii classmates

Marilyn, Susie and **Jamie** with our Class of '52 cake for all our 75 year old birthdays.

Marcellino gave **Eddie** an assortment of gifts -- sox, fancy boxer underwear, spam, corn, calendar, etc. Stanley gave me my favorite Okinawa Sweet Potato Manju for recovering from my fake illness since we quit exchanging gifts.



Travel News: **Eddie/Mitsue** are headed for Vegas in March/April. Richard may go to Vegas in April. **David** is going to Hawaii in May. **Stanley** is traveling to Vegas, Hawaii and back to Vegas in August. Can't make up your mind? **Richard & Barbara** spent 2 days at Valley View & Pala last week.

Health News: **Eddie** had some blood drawn today before the meeting. **Marcellino** is recovering from illness. His niece mentioned that he was very stubborn -- she went to pick him up to take him to the hospital but when she arrived, he was gone. She called the doctor to not release him until she came to pick him up. We are getting obstinate in our old age.

Next Meeting on March 18th.

*Alumni News***50 Years for Class of 1958****by Monica Cockett**

Lana'i High School Class of 1958 celebrated their 50th reunion in October 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada with a group of 17 made up of 13 classmates and 'Ohana. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all at the Fremont Casino/Hotel's Bronze Room, Friday October 10th.

After 50 years out of high school, we are still true to our class motto: Wisdom from the past. Strength for the future. Makana (gifts) were shared with each other, as our parents (wisdom from the past) taught us to share. Dinner was ono food and plenty to eat. "Strength for the future." (At our age we need the strength.)

Karaoke singing was a hit and enjoyed by all. **Dr. Ismael Naanep, retired Colonel Robert Viduya** and **Sir Mejoie Jamero**, made the ladies swoon with their deep singing voices. What a treat! I think they missed their calling. Lady **Irene Dalde Seawright** was the lone female singer with the rest of the classmates joining in with their joyous voices.

We were visited by some underclassmen who knew where the fun was: **Marge Morita Asato, Leatrice Nobui Suzuki, Pedring Dugay** and his wife **Gloria**. It was nice to have them join us and participate in the sing along and play the many fun games. After all the fun, laughter and sharing of the years past, it was time to end a wonderful evening saying, "Aloha until we meet again, for life is such a precious gift so enjoy it to its fullest."

A special thank you to **Bob Hirayama**, class of '57 who donated many of the woodcraft prizes which he made so we could all enjoy and keep remembrances of our 50th reunion.

Also, thank you to all the classmates who donated monetary gifts, bakers with their delicious cookies, manju, snacks, craft items that are so useful and key chains from Lana'i. A special mahalo to **Carol Ann Tsumura Fujimoto** for the beautiful ribbon lei that she made for our reunion. Everyone ended up with a bagful of goodies to take home.

We extend many thanks to the 1958 committee members who organized this event and made our 50th anniversary the finest gathering ever.

*Alumni News****Racing Cars for Fun*****by Robert C. Viduya**

"Drivers start your engines!" This was the command given recently to fifteen Formula Four racers positioned in the starters pit at the Phoenix International Raceway. Among the fifteen drivers were LACA members **Sidnetta and Robert Viduya**, who had no previous racing experience. This is what happened.

Background. The Bondurant School of High Performance Driving holds two classes: one in the spring, the other in the fall of each year. These classes are called the Lap of the Oval at Phoenix International Raceway. Each class consists of 50 students broken down into three groups for three driving sessions for the day. The two-and-a-half hour course begins with suiting up in a red driver uniform and white helmet; brief ground school covering the basics of oval tracking raceway and formula car driving. Each driver is fitted into a formula race car and then strapped in tightly by an instructor. Then, off to the racetrack.

There were three driving sessions, with each session involving 25 laps around the track. In the first session, 15 racing cars were led by a pacer car. Drivers were not allowed to pass the pacer car, traveling at relatively slow pace of 45 mph. These laps were used to orient the racers on the unique features of the oval raceway. The second session was the same as the first, except that the speed was increased to 70 mph. The third session differed in two major ways: no pacer car was used, and drivers were



allowed to drive at maximum speeds exceeding 85 mph. For Sidnetta and Robert, this third session was the most dangerous and exciting.

Spectators in the stands consisted mostly of friends and families of the racers. Exhausted and sweaty, the racers finished their final lap with

gusto. As the racers were leaving the staging pit, the spectators rushed the group. The question most frequently heard was, "How was it?" As the racers high-fived each other, their animated chatter said it all: "It was great! What a way to go!"

Although drained emotionally and physically at the end of 75 laps, Sidnetta and Robert enjoyed themselves beyond words. They considered this experience as among the most adventurous and demanding.



LANA'I ALUMNI &
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Alumni News



Class of 1953:

The four amigos. What better place for rest and recreation than in Tijuana, Mexico for classmates who enlisted in the military right after graduating from Lana'i High School: Alejandro Eligado (Navy), the late James "Blackie" Pagay (Marines), Valentine Tanodra (Marines), and Jacob Hueu (Marines).