

Board Meeting Only

TBA

PAN AM ASSOCIATION



ALOHA CHAPTER



Sgt. Chris Kim (left) spoke to members and guests at the Oahu Country Club who gave their full attention to his interesting speech on CrimeStoppers and how he got involved. Everyone enjoyed this first meeting of 2022.

## CRIMESTOPPERS A SUCCESS STORY

Sgt. Chris Kim briefly addressed how CrimeStoppers, now a national organization that includes Guam and Puerto Rico, got started in New Mexico in 1976. A college student who was working at a gas station in Albuquerque was shot to death during a robbery. No one came forward with information and the crime appeared to be unsolvable. Detective Greg MacAleese decided to try something new. He figured there had to be someone who saw something but was too afraid to come forward with any information. He appeared on the evening news and promised anonymity to any person calling a number he posted. Someone called and said he heard a loud bang and recognized the car as one belonging to someone in a nearby apartment complex. The two killers were found immediately. A second caller provided information on an earlier unsolved rape, which also led to an arrest. MacAleese understood that anonymity was the answer. He convinced the Albuquerque Police Department to allow a group of citizens to establish the first CrimeStoppers program. He brought the program to Honolulu in 1981.

When we asked Sgt. Kim to be our speaker, he asked what we wanted him to talk about because there are various CrimeStoppers programs, e.g. Student CrimeStoppers and Animal CrimeStoppers. We suggested he tell us about his personal life and how he got into police work. He shared his personal story with humor and pathos.

Kim was born in Korea where his Dad was in the military. They moved to Hawaii when he was 3 months old. He attended Ala Wai Elementary, St. Patrick's Intermediate and graduated from Kaimuki High School. He attended Kapiolani Community College because he had wanted to be a chef but soon decided that should be a hobby and not a career. He always loved working on cars so he transferred to the automotive program. His parents weren't excited as they thought he should become a lawyer. "No get hands dirty!" was his mother's advice. So how did he end up in the police department?

One of his friends from high school had decided to apply for a job as a police officer. He urged several of his friends, including Kim, to join him in taking the exam to give him moral support. They agreed and Kim continued his college studies during the year long police application process. He got his college degree which included his automotive certification. He applied for a job at Lexus and was told he got the job. When his parents heard he got a job at Lexus, they were pleased and said, "Okay to get hands dirty!" Later that day, Kim

received a call from the police department. He was offered a job because he had successfully passed all exams. He thought quickly, "I have a college degree and an automotive certification to fall back on if this doesn't work out. Why not see what it's like?" He accepted the offer.

That was in 1998. In 2016 Kim was one of eight police officers hand-selected to join the Homicide Division as detectives. These are the elite officers who handle murders and suicides. He said it was easy to outsmart the bad guys. Most of them weren't very bright. He also said that his attitude about suicides at one time was that only a stupid person would take his or her own life.

That all changed when his life took a sudden turn. He felt at the top of his game with a lovely home on a marina with a boat, new car and truck and 2 young daughters he loved to take fishing. He also taught them to play sports. (He said his friends told him he needed a son. His answer was, "No need. My daughters can do anything a boy can do.") Unexpectedly, his wife left him and he went through a year-long bitter divorce procedure. He became a single guy raising 2 young daughters. With the support of family and friends, he changed his attitude and began to appreciate the important things. He said he no longer judged suicides as stupid people because he had actually contemplated it himself during this period.

Kim Buffet, head of CrimeStoppers at the time, told him he should apply for the job. She said it was much easier on family life and would give him more time with his daughters. He decided to apply but was not chosen immediately. The position had always been held by a woman and several had also applied. The job went to one of them.

Kim continued in his detective work, including handling suicides. One day he was checking out the suicide of a man who had shot himself in the head in the garage of his home. The officers who responded took away the body and the wife, who was in tears, asked him, "Who will clean this up?" He gave the lady the number of a business who handles that kind of cleaning job but, when she called, no one answered the phone. He told her he had received another call and needed to leave. She asked if he could at least drive the car out of the garage for her. He did. Then he got into his own car, looked over to the house and saw her sobbing on the lanai. He got out of his car and asked her if she had a heavy plastic bag and some old towels and he cleaned it up for her.

Shortly thereafter, he was called into the office and asked if he wanted the CrimeStoppers job. He replied, "But I thought you already gave it to Karen." The reply was, "If you want the job, it's yours." That is how Sgt. Chris Kim became the face of CrimeStoppers to all the locals who watch the news or read MidWeek, a weekly newspaper which features CrimeStoppers recent cases.

Kim is not only the local face of CrimeStoppers, he is known nationally. He attended a Crime Stoppers convention in Phoenix, in which participants from more than 350 Crime Stoppers organizations in cities all around the country, plus Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam, came to participate in workshops and lectures. At the final convention dinner, with about a thousand in attendance, the emcee made the usual speech addressing all participants. It was time to announce the National CrimeStoppers USA Coordinator of the Year Award. Kim was sitting with some people he knew and as the speaker was announcing all the accomplishments of the candidate, he turned to his friends and said, "Hey, that guy sounds really good." One of them responded, "I think he is talking about you!" Sure enough the Korean kid who graduated from Kaimuki High School was selected for the 2019 Coordinator of the Year award. (Sgt. Chris Kim's sense of humor was evident throughout as he switched back and forth from "TV English" to local "talk story" English.)

CrimeStoppers has been very successful in putting the bad guys behind bars. He made it clear, as most of us are aware, that the police put them behind bars but can't keep them there. The lenient sentences handed down are the work of the judicial system and not of the HPD.

Those of you not in attendance at the meeting may want to check YouTube for an August 2019 interview of Chris Kim by Rusty Komori on his "Beyond the Lines" program. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zgFDrwrRAD>.

Photos from the meeting follow. Don't miss the information on meetings and the Christmas Gala Luncheon following the photos.



Sgt. Chris Kim & Mary Emerson.



Harlow Urabe, Janice Park, May Tsukiyama,  
Calvin Murata & Ellen Hiromoto.



John Medlock, Sharlene Brunell & Harold Chow.



Carol Nezu and Jade Sen.



Back: Sumiko Allegar, Aggie VonBrimer, Marilyn Boock, Carrie Koga, and Yumiko Kobayashi.  
Front: Amy Okamoto and Mae Takahashi.



Jimmy Chong, Darlene Laster & Eric Wong.



Left: Katie Yoshioka  
and Al Chun.

Right: Audrey Maurer, Sumiko and  
Charles Carroll.





Left: Shirley Mo-  
tas, Elaine Keb  
and Betty Keliiaa.

Right: Ilona Benoit  
and Patti Jacoby.



Left: Charlotte  
Yamashiro, Jane  
Noe and Shirley  
Tom. Seated:  
Glori Ino Strass-  
berg.

Right: Walter  
Bell and Marie  
Jahnsen.



Left: Regina and  
Jack Suyderhoud.

Right: Richard  
Rezentes who just  
celebrated his 94th  
birthday, and Darlene  
and Lee Laster.

Below left: Ernest  
Oliver and Carol Sou-  
za.

Below right: Henry  
Blakstad and Joan  
Davis.





Seated: Richard Rezentes and his sons, Gary & Gordon. Standing: Ed Gencarelli.



On the right is Dan Del Monte and his guest, Nancy Kreis is on the left.



Genevieve Loo

Right: Danile Kop & her mother, Tamae.



The following were in attendance but inadvertently left out of the photos: Eileen Tiwanak, Fred Shigenaga, Carol Suyderhoud and her guest, Kim Fujiyuki, and the photographer.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR DECEMBER 10TH GALA LUNCHEON

We are having problems finding venues for our regular membership meetings but the good news is that we have a confirmed date for our December Gala on December 10th at Waialae Country Club. Details will be announced later. Please take note of the date.

On the other hand there will be no June meeting and the other luncheon meetings are on hold. Because the various clubs we have used in the past are adding fees and limitations on the size of the group, the price of a routine luncheon has become prohibitive. This may be a temporary situation for the rest of the year. It remains to be seen. It appears that EVERYONE is so excited about holding events after two years of pandemic rules and regulations, the clubs are giving priority to their own members. We were able to hold the April 30th meeting at Oahu Country Club only because we had booked it several months ago. Oahu Country Club informed us they would honor the prices for this event but in the future, there would be major changes including a hefty "room use fee."

We continue to check other options but at this time there will not be a June meeting, nor will there be a June newsletter. I am about to leave for the mainland on a 3-week break.

## LOOKING FOR LOST MEMBERS

In our April issue, I wrote of our printer problems resulting in our sending out the printed USPS copy to members who receive the black and white paper version. First class mail is "returned to sender" if it cannot be delivered unlike bulk mail which is simply thrown out by the post office. We had a return of a number of "undeliverable" newsletters. We succeeded in connecting with some of them who had failed to update their information. The following 11 people are "lost". They either failed to give us an address change or there is some other problem. We have no way of getting in touch with them as their phones have either been disconnected or go unanswered. I am listing them here in the event that some of our readers are friends and know how to get in touch with them. Please notify us if you have any information on the following lost life members who will be deleted from our membership records if there is no response:

Lawrence C.F. Chun  
Dennis Dircks  
Rose Faria  
Akio Futakawa

Donna Manhan  
Daniel Y Taba  
Elsie Ushiroda

Lorraine Riberio  
Lonnie Shupp  
Rudolph White

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### Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 200-4322 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—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): \_\_\_\_\_

- Annual Membership:  
Lifetime Membership:

☐ \$ 30 US Residents  
☐ \$150 US Residents

☐ \$ 35 Overseas 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**