

### *'Tis the Season*

This will be the last newsletter before the Christmas Gala Luncheon at Waialae CC on December 10th. Be sure to sign up soon. A registration form is on page 7.

On behalf of our Aloha Chapter, I wish our readers all a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.



### **AN AMAZING CAREER**



**Lee Laster**, who will be 90 years old before the end of the year, entertained us with a look back at his career in the FBI, a career for which he did not even apply. Lee, a country boy from the foothills of the Ozarks in Arkansas, joined the Air Force at age 17 following graduation from high school. Later while attending the University of the Ozarks and gaining a degree in Math and physics, he also attended the Arkansas Military Academy and was commissioned Lieutenant in the Combat Engineers. He taught high school math and coached football for 4 years until the FBI knocked on his door one day. He and his wife were concerned about what the FBI wanted with them and were much relieved to find that they wanted to offer him a job. Later he learned one of his college professors had recommended him to the FBI for a Special Agent position. In June of 1962 he reported to the FBI Academy. This country boy scored 100% on the required handgun course and learned he was only the 5th agent to ace the course during Academy training.

There were many serious events during his career--he made over 200 arrests and at one point was in charge of the Fugitive Squad in Boston. He served in the Savannah, Pittsburgh and Boston FBI offices before becoming a supervisor. The Special Agent in Charge of each FBI office was called the SAC. Lee's first SAC assignment was to Honolulu. He and his wife had been saving money for a vacation to Hawaii and instead, arrived in Hawaii courtesy of the FBI. They used the vacation money for his daughter's wedding! They moved into a home a block away Honolulu Police Chief Francis Keala. They became both professional and personal friends. Lee and Chief Keala put together the first major "sting" operation in Hawaii. It was called Hukilau which in Hawaiian means "bringing in the fishes". It involved 6 police officers and 6 agents. Two FBI agents were the undercover operators in the sting. Property crime was high at the time and Hukilau resulted in over 125 convictions. One episode involved two thieves selling them a brand new Lincoln Continental Mark VII. After buying the vehicle, they learned the car belonged to Mayor Frank Fasi's wife! It took some planning to get the car back to the mayor without exposing the sting operation. Mayor Fasi did not know about the Hukilau and was only told about it when the operation was terminated and arrests were made.

Perhaps the best case Lee worked on was ABSCAM, a political corruption case he helped start and supervise in its beginnings. He used some of the experience gained in Hukilau to help set up ABSCAM, a sting operation that targeted high level politicians up and down the east coast. Among others, a US Senator

and 4 US Representatives were convicted. All the "buys" in ABSCAM and HUKILAU were filmed. Not one case was lost in court as most pled guilty after seeing themselves on camera!

But the funniest story took place when Lee was a supervisor in Boston. Early one Sunday morning two police officers in a Boston suburb observed a car with four people run a red light. They turned on their redlight and gave pursuit. In a few blocks the car turned into a street. It turned out to be a cul-de-sac. The car stopped at the end and the driver jumped out of the car and ran towards the house. One of the officers recognized him as a guy he had gone to school with and called out, "Carmine, where are you going?" Carmine replied, "I gotta use the restroom. I'll be right back." Needless to say, Carmine went out the back door. The passenger in the left back seat bailed out and ran between the houses. He was apprehended a few weeks later. The police officers arrested the guy getting out of the right back seat and then checked on the guy in the right front seat. He wasn't moving because he had 3 or 4 bullet holes in the back of his head. Carmine and his cohorts had killed the guy and were taking the body out to dump him. Carmine and the other escapee became federal fugitives. Lee put the cuffs on Carmine about a year and a half later. His full name was Carmine Gagliardi and he became a Top Ten Fugitive before finally being arrested by Lee back in Boston. Years later while serving life in the Massachusetts State Prison, Carmine killed the Boston Strangler in a prison fight.

Lee shared other stories as after Honolulu, he ran the Brooklyn Queens Office, Kansas City and finally the New York Office (the largest with over 2000 employees) as Assistant Director for five years before his retirement. He returned to Honolulu in 1987 where he had his own business until he fully retired.

After Lee's wife passed away, he met Darlene (later to become our association president) and they are working on their 30th year of marriage. They have one daughter, two grandsons, one great-granddaughter and 6 great-grandsons.

### *Annual Meeting October 26, 2022*



1. Darlene Laster hands the microphone over to her husband, Lee, who spoke to us about his career in the FBI.
2. Geri Kahale, Elaine Higa and Rosie McDowell (sister of Wanda Camara) checked in members and guests as they arrived.
3. Seated: Henry Blakstad and Lee Laster. Standing: Harold Chow, Jack Sherwood and Eleanor Young. Henry generously supplied door prizes and subsidized meeting expenses.

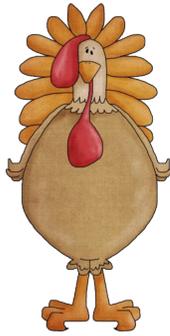




From left to right:

1. Marilyn Boock, Carol Wong, Jane Noe, Carol Nezu and Glori Ino Strassberg.
2. Jan Dwyer, Inger Hoffeldt and Lillian Yoshioka.
3. Diane VanderZanden, Katie Yoshioka and Mary Emerson.
4. Jimmy Chong, Stephanie Vlachos and Corinne Kong.
5. Ellen Hiromoto and Jade Sen Ing.
6. Audrey Mauer, Erica Lindenberger, Carol Nezu and Sumiko Carroll.
7. Marie Jahnsen and Eileen Tiwanak.





1. Seated: Suzanne Jaques and Carol Souza, Standing: Ernest Oliver and Harold Chow.
2. Darlene Laster giving her annual report, which included welcoming new board members, Mary Emerson and Jimmy Chong, who were approved by a show of hands of members present.
3. Seated: Catherine Bue and Jan Dwyer, standing: Patti Jacoby and Ilona Benoit.
4. Gene Goo, Jimmy Chong and Eric Wong.
5. Seated: Harlow Urabe; standing: Calvin Murata, JoAnne Lim, Fred Shigenaga and Tony Pelosi.
6. May Tsukiyama and Al Chun.
7. Justine Nichols, daughter if Audrey Maurer.

8. A sample of items available on the buffet.
9. A view of the room during the social hour.

Missing from photos: Joan Davis & Shirley Tom. Thanks to Sumiko Carroll for providing some photos.

## MERRY TIMES IN THE MARITIMES

Merry times in Florida, too, as I started my vacation there at my sister's home, just in time for Hurricane Ian. We were fortunate in that our area only got high winds and lots of rain. Good reading weather.

I left Florida in time to arrive in Boston with Hurricane Ian. The temperature had been 80° the day before but was 40° the day I arrived at the Omni Hotel along with approximately 140 other Pan Amers. Ian crossed into the Atlantic north of New York and left a wide swath of wind and rain as it did so. We felt its effects for several days. There were approximately 145 people--steward, stewardesses and spouses or traveling companions--attending our World Wings



cruise convention. The cruise was from Boston to Quebec City (right) and return.

We had been planning on a merry time when we boarded the Celebrity Summit on Oct. 3rd and our first shore excursion was on the 5th, another wet and windy day. It was a tour of Portland and Kennebunkport in Maine. In spite of the rain, we had a good time. I grew up on a farm west of Portland, OR, and had always wanted to see Portland, ME, on the other side of the continent. Whereas Portland, OR, used to be a beautiful city on the Willamette River just before it enters the Columbia River, its downtown and nearby waterfront areas are overridden with homeless tents, still some boarded up windows in stores and a soaring crime rate. Portland, ME, has a much smaller population--less than 1/4th the size of Oregon's city of the same name--and it is a harbor town on the Atlantic Coast. The homes have a more European look compared to what the pioneers built out west. Our tour also took us south to Kennebunkport where we stopped for lunch and to visit the shops. It is a very pretty area and we were all surprised to see surfers in wetsuits just south of the Bush family compound. We were all wearing the warmest clothes we could find in our luggage and found it hard to believe anyone would surf in that cold weather. Everyone on our Pan Am tour seemed to enjoy it and I can now cross off one item on my bucket list.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island make up the maritime provinces of Canada. All are known for their coastal ports and fishing fleets. Our cruise went along the east coast of the 3 provinces and around the southern tip of Quebec to enter the St. Lawrence Seaway. Our destination was Quebec City.



Our first port after leaving Portland was Halifax. Several Pan Amers checked out Durty Nellies Irish Pub. Many Pan Amers are familiar with the original Durty Nelly's near Shannon Airport, Ireland. It dates from the 1620s and features a low heavy-beamed ceiling. But its biggest claim to modern tourists is that is also next door to Bunratty Castle which re-enacts medieval dinners. Pan Amers from all departments have visited the pub and castle. Those of us based in Honolulu and on the west coast never flew Shannon trips so my first time visiting there was with the Pan Am group who attended the reunion in Limerick in 2016,

which also included a tour to Foynes. On the left are 4 stewardesses who checked out the modern pub in Halifax. From left: Diane Groh, Tori Werner, Judy Cunningham and Veronica Von Grosse.

You may have noticed that I mentioned steward in the singular in the first paragraph. There was only one steward in our group, the very humorous David Hinson, who is also the David in David

Jeffrey Designs. He and his partner, Jeff Chauvin, are World Wings largest contributors to our main charity, Doctors Without Borders. They contribute a portion of their income from their company. Many local people will recall flying with David as he was based here in HNL, having come to Pan Am via National Airlines. He is a natural comedian. He was fun to fly with then and is fun to be around now. The day before we left the ship, I bumped into him yet again when we were both browsing in the ship's shops. He pulled out his camera and said, "Come on. Let's take a selfie for old times sake!" I cringed but the result (right) is better than any selfie I've ever been in before.



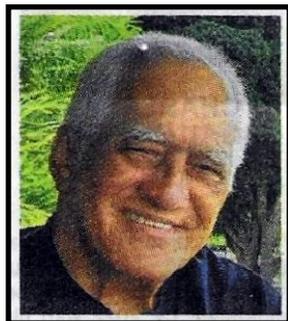
## BEWARE THE "I'S OF SEPTEMBER (AND NOVEMBER)

The "I's have the power to create havoc. Hurricane **Iwa** hit Hawaii hard in November 40 years ago. The next devastating hurricane to hit Hawaii was **Iniki** in September 1992. In 2017 Hurricane **Irma** rained destruction on the northeastern Caribbean, the Florida Keys and then hit the Florida mainland to the level that some called it *Irmageddon*. Last month Hurricane **Ian** savaged Fort Myers and surrounding areas and caused flooding across the state. The letter "I" should be retired from the lexicon of storm names. Then again, maybe it is best not to be superstitious.

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .



**Elaine Yuk Ung Keb-Bodine**, 86, passed away peacefully on Oct 2, 2022. She had an infectious laugh and was a big help to her friends in the Catering Department as she often supplied transportation for them to attend PAA meetings and Annual Galas. She is survived by her five children: Charlene Ku'uipo Lorenzo; Pauline Pi'ilani (Greg) Yamane; Francis Kalani Keb; Paul Edward (Vernalani) Keb, Jr.; and Henry Kahikili (Laura) Keb; 15 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; and 7 great, great grandchildren. A celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9:30 to 1:00 at Borthwick Mortuary--Maunakea Chapel. Aloha Attire. Elaine in her youth on the right.



**Donald Sun Yet Chang**, 87, passed away on September 13, 2022. After serving in the army, he joined Pan Am and worked in Operations. He went on to work for United Airlines after Pan Am left Hawaii, retiring after a successful career. He finally retired for a second time from Manheim Hawaii, an auto auction company. He is survived by his wife Marcia Seastrom, Sister Lena Palama, and children, Douglas (Akiko); Kehau Palama; David (Nadine); Laurie (Ben) Aina; and Robyn (Herman) Kauleinamoku; eleven grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren. A celebration will take place at Borthwick Mortuary on Saturday, Nov. 5th at 12:00, preceded by visitation with family at 11:00 AM.

NOTE: The Celebration of Life for both Elaine Keb-Bodine and Donald Chang are at the same mortuary on the same day, November 5th.



**Tom Pavlinovic** of Seattle, passed away in August. Tom was born in Croatia. He survived WWII and graduated as a professor of Linguistics and Slavic History. He met and married Senka and they had a daughter, Adriana, and a son, Lawrence. They moved to Seattle in 1960 where Tom was hired by Pan American to work in Passenger Service, thanks to his language ability. The two always flew over to Honolulu to attend our December galas. The photo on the left is from one of those events. Senka passed away in 2020. Besides Adriana and Lawrence, they are survived by grandchildren Alexander and Emil.



It's real and sold only in Hawaii, I'm told. Out-of-towners may not be aware that Spam became popular here in the islands during World War II and has remained so to this day.

### Last Newsletter Before Gala

Reminder: The reservation form below will not appear again before our December 10th gala. The December newsletter will be issued after the event takes place. Please be sure and send your reservation form in time for Darlene to receive it by December 1st.

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us and soon after that it will be time for our gala. I don't know about you, but the older I get the more time gets away from me.

Notes on the gala: Check-in will begin at 10:30 AM and the buffet lunch will be served at 11:30. There have been some rule changes at WCC and we can no longer sell chits for the bar. Therefore the bar will not be open for wine, beer or soft drinks. There will be unlimited coffee, decaf coffee, hot tea, iced tea and plantation tea.

The date is Saturday, December 10th. The following day, Sunday, December 11th is the date of the Honolulu Marathon. Those of you planning to fly over from the outer islands or the mainland might want to be aware of that and plan your trip accordingly.



## Annual Gala Reservation Luncheon at Waialae Country Club

December 10, 2022

Social Hour starts: 10:30

Buffet Service Begins: 11:30

\$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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **PAA.** Send to:  
**Darlene Laster**, 501 Hahaione St. APT 18K Honolulu, HI 96825-1451

**Darlene must receive your check and reservation for the Gala no later than December 1st.**

## PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

Darlene Carver Laster Carol Weiss-Suyderhoud	President & Chapter Chair V/P, Meetings Coordinator/ Speaker Chair	Darleelas@aol.com carolws@hawaii.rr.com	808-394-8981 808-396-5225
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**Newsletter Items:**

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 808-200-4322 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:  \$ 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**