

PAN AM ASSOCIATION



ALOHA CHAPTER



TURNING THE PAGE

Let's turn the page into 2022 with hope. Just when we thought it might be possible to have another luncheon event, the Omicron variant put a wrench in the works. In the meantime, watch these pages for any news of change.

This issue is a bit late but I have had a very busy time . . . doing nothing. That's because I spent the past 3 weeks staying with family in Aloha, Oregon, just west of Portland. I wasn't there more than 10 days when my sister came down with what appeared to be a winter cold—and was. (Her doctor ordered a Covid test just in case and it was negative.) She loves to do jigsaw puzzles and we spent a lot of time sitting at the puzzle table chatting and hunting for puzzle pieces, watching TV and reading, i.e. doing nothing. (I had forgotten what it was like to relax!) On top of that her germs spread around the puzzle table to my side so there were now two of us who thought we shouldn't go out in public. Her husband, who will be 90 in 2 months, was okay with just hanging out at home, except that he insisted on going to church, which he'd done on Christmas. The weather outside left a lot to be desired and on Christmas afternoon there was some snow mixed with the rain. A day later, Sunday, he was all ready to go to church when my sister opened the blinds on the window and saw an inch and a half of snow covering everything. So all three of us attended via Zoom. I couldn't keep my eyes from straying to the office window to watch the huge flakes drift down.

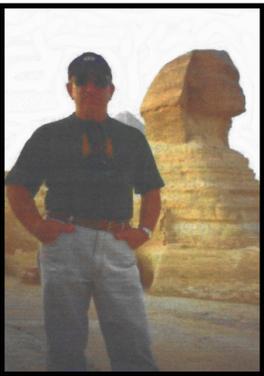
A note on Aloha, OR: When I was growing up, the town of Aloha was featured in ads in national magazines such as *Life* and *Collier's*. The ad was for Richfield service stations. It featured photos of two of their stations, one in Aloha and the other in a small town in Maine named Goodbye. The ad proudly proclaimed, "From aloha to goodbye, we are proud to serve you!" Aloha was about 15 miles east of our family farm. I went to a high school just a mile or two beyond the Aloha Richfield station and passed it on my way to school.

No one knows how Aloha got its name though there are several theories. One that sounds the most logical to me, because of the way the area residents pronounce the name of their town (uh-lo-a instead of ah-lo-ha), comes from

the descendants of the first postmaster, Julius Buck. He and his wife, Dora, moved to the area from Wisconsin. The original suggestion was to name the town Wheeler because the main store, in which the post office would be installed, was Wheeler's on Wheeler Street. That name was rejected because there already was one in a coastal town in the state. Dora then suggested "aloah" as a name. It was the name of a lake they often enjoyed in Wisconsin and it brought happy memories to her. It is an Indian word meaning "good morning". Supposedly the postal authorities accepted the town's second application but changed the spelling to Aloha.

PAN AM PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Charlotte Larson sent a photo (right) of what she wore to a neighbor's Halloween party last October. It is her historic 65 year old Girl Scout uniform. It has a badge saying "Territory of Hawaii." She said, it took her all evening to re-do the seams so she could wear it. She is shown with her neighbor. . . **Clare Takayama** sent a note that she was watching election results last fall when the newly elected Lt. Governor of Virginia, Winsome Sears, made a comment about her immigration to the U.S. at the age of 6. In her victory speech, she said, "When I arrived on the Pan Am jet at JFK from Jamaica, I knew I was in the USA!" Both Winsome and her husband, Terence, are Marines. . . **Ray Finklestein**, who worked at Hangar 14 at JFK, writes a monthly newsletter for his fellow maintenance buddies. The newsletter gets wide distribution, thanks to **Rosie Rosenstein**, who is somewhat of an international communications director for all stories relating to Pan Am. I rather envy Ray as his readers are constantly sending him their stories and comments. One of his readers, **Pete Spagnuolo**, wrote about the wonderful benefits we all received. He included the photo on the left of himself in Egypt and wrote, "Who would ever think that this kid from Corona, Queens would ever be able to see the Pyramids and the Sphinx of Egypt?" The wonder that Pete expresses is, to me, one of the links that not only made employment with Pan Am special but still holds us together today. Dec. 4th marked the 30th anniversary of our company's demise and we still cherish all that it meant to us.



HAWAII WORLD WINGS CHAPTER CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

The following report on the World Wings Christmas gathering is by Mae Takahashi. Some of those who attended were not available for the photo and some of us were not able to attend because of travel plans, etc. In late October our state had finally begun to lessen restrictions, allowing for gatherings. As I write, restrictions have once again been put into place, thanks to omicron. Our chapter is fortunate to have been able to make plans for the Christmas event and follow through on them.



After a break of nearly two years, Hawaii World Wingers assembled to celebrate Christmas, Hawaiian style in a Japanese Tea House. It was a World Wings kanikapila at Natsunoya on Alewa Heights featuring 33 masked women, vaccination cards in hand, singing with Puamana. Merriment was in the air with everyone standing around, laughing and singing Christmas carols with Mihana Souza. There was an incredible spread: salmon/tofu salad, agedashi tofu, shrimp and vegetable

tempura, hibachi chicken, tonkatsu, steamed fish, nishime, potato salad, bara sushi and white rice and dessert by Glori Strassberg. There were prizes from Betty Santoki's Nomi no Ichiba, center-pieces by Aggie von Brimer and Diamond Bakery favors from Jean Kawada. Years have gone by and they showed that stewardesses really do have fun. Their motto: "Pan Am brought us together; World Wings keeps us together."

1978 FIRST AMERICAN TOUR TO THE PRC—Conclusion **By Darlene (Carver) Laster**

Beijing, continued: After lunch we were given the honor of being the first large tourist group to visit Mao's tomb. We were told to dress in subdued dark clothing, hats removed, all purses and/or packages had to be left in the buses before entering the memorial and NO TALKING. When we arrived, there were vast numbers of Chinese people waiting in line for hours to walk through the memorial. We were ushered in, four abreast, ahead of the Chinese people who had been waiting a long time.

First you came to a mammoth white marble statue of Chairman Mao and behind it hung a very large tapestry depicting the Great Wall done in needlepoint. It was made by the Arts and Crafts Research Institute in Shanghai that we had visited. Behind this was another room with the glass topped coffin containing the body of Chairman Mao. At his head stood four soldiers at full attention with guns drawn. We were not allowed to stop, urged to keep moving. In the short glimpse of Chairman Mao we saw it appeared he needed some work. This display lies in the center of the 100-acre square called Tiananmen, "Gate of Heavenly Peace". It was here that Chairman Mao (1893-1976) first raised the flag of the PRC. According to the information given to us they are building a permanent structure to be called Chairman Mao Memorial Hall to house these remains.

In the center stands the Monument to the Heroes of the People, the cornerstone of which was laid by Chairman Mao himself. On the east side stands the Museum of Chinese History and Revolution. On the west side is the Great Hall of the People where the 5th Peoples Congress was just held last week, as well as President Nixon's meeting with the leaders of China in 1972.

Our Peking Hotel is located just a long block from Tiananmen Square. Some of our people went for a walk alone and came back swearing they were followed. Could be, who knows? All through our tour we saw older people sweeping the streets and sidewalks. From our guides we learned that in the PRC everyone works for the good of all the people.

(We all remember the young Chinese standing up in front of the tank in Tiananmen Square in 1989 as part of what came to be known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Troops armed with assault rifles and accompanied by tanks fired at the demonstrators and especially those trying to block the military's advance into the square. Estimates of the death toll vary from several hundred to several thousand with thousands more wounded. It was easy for those of us who have been there to visualize it but all the Western world was shocked because the major networks covered it so thoroughly. We were all touched at the young man's bravery and what he stood for.)

Monday, March 13, 1978—This is our last full day in the PRC and again we enjoyed bright sunny but cold weather. This morning we went to the zoo to see the famous pandas. They were very large, black and white animals but I was disappointed because they were so dirty. I grew up with a large stuffed panda bear so perhaps that is the reason I was so shocked. There were also Lesser Pandas, which are smaller with feet and face like Pandas and they walk the same but their tail looks like that of a racoon. It is an endangered species native to the Himalayas and Southwestern China. Like everything else in China, the zoo needed an update.

On to the Summer Palace. It is absolutely lovely and would be more so with flowers and with leaves on the trees. It sits beside Kunming Lake, which occupies two-thirds of the space of the park. Facing the lake are the Temple of Heaven, Longevity Hill, Hall That Dispels the Clouds, Tower for Incense for the Buddha, the Pavilion for Perceiving the Spring, the Covered Promenade, the Garden of Harmonious, the Marble Boat, the Seventeen-Arch Bridge and the Jade Belt Bridge. We were able to walk on the last three bridges and had time to talk to the young people who wanted

to practice their English. They were all keen on learning American slang so again, I taught them "wikiwiki", our word in Hawaiian for hurry up. Like all people we met, they long to come to America.

In the afternoon we were offered 3 buses to the Friendship Store and 2 buses to Antique Street for last minute shopping. This group was one of big shoppers, especially of the lovely cloisonné. We learned it dated back to before the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The manufacture of cloisonné ware involves a rather elaborate process, namely base hammering, copper wire curving, soldering, enamel-filling, enamel-burning, polishing, gilding, etc. Refined and precious, it crystalizes the wisdom and skill of the Chinese working people. Beautiful in contour, graceful in design and beautiful in color—methods and new designs steadily improving the quality.

March 14th and it's bags outside your door at 5:15am and at 5:45am the bus leaves for the airport with breakfast there before our CAAC flight leaves for Tokyo at 7:45am. You have never in your life seen such a MESS. The departure area was one large room with Public Health, Immigration and Customs each having a desk against the wall. All of the bags for 150 people were dumped into the center. Each person had to claim their bags and then go through each government agency and then check-in for the flight. Now the shock to most, they were charged for the first time for excess baggage over the weight allowance. Then they were supposed to turn in all their yuan at the banking desk, have breakfast and board the flight. With this crowd you know that didn't happen.

No time left for breakfast and I ended up collecting all the yuan everyone had and going to the bank on behalf of the group so all could board the flight that was already hopelessly delayed. I suspect they may have thought this would happen as I later saw a normal schedule for CA921 that continued on after Tokyo. This flight ended in Tokyo. Lesson well learned by CITS people on how to handle large groups.

We boarded CA 921, no announcement was made until after takeoff and even later in English. I spent all of the nearly 5 hour flight to Tokyo calculating the exchange rate to return the correct amount of USD to each passenger. What a total mess.

I do remember all the flights throughout our trip seemed to dive for the end of the runway which made me think they were military pilots, plus the end of all the runways that you could see were filled with black tire marks. We were all very happy to land in Tokyo and stay at the New Otani Hotel for 2 nights. We couldn't wait to order fresh squeezed orange juice and a hamburger—American style! The high price was well worth it.

The last night of our Pan Am's World People Republic of China Group Tour was a special dinner at the hotel consisting of Consommé, Sirloin Steak "Café de Paris", Legumes Assorts, Salad in Season, Lemon Sherbet and Coffee. Next morning we said our goodbyes before boarding our Pan Am flights to LAX, NYC, or SFO with connections to various home cities. How wonderful to be back on **Pan Am First Class!!!**

My thoughts about the PRC: On my return to LAX, many people asked me what my opinion of the PRC was. I told them that they would run rings around the Japanese once they got started. The big difference is Japan appreciated so much how we handled the occupation after WWII, helping them rebuild their country and they became our great friends and trusted ally.

The PRC insisted the cost of doing business with them was for a US businessman to shoulder all the expenses and provide free training, e.g. if you want to build a hotel, then you put up the money to build it, teach them how to operate it and then turn it all over to the PRC free of charge. The same with any other business which entailed any other expertise or special documentation. It must be shared totally with the PRC. How can they go wrong?

They moved fast as by the time I transferred to Honolulu, just 3 months later, on July 1, 1978, I learned that there had already been a group of our top travel agents, escorted by Al Chun, our Sales Manager, invited to tour the PRC much like our tour. We assisted the Chinese in coming to

the UH to attend the only Travel Industry Management school that existed in those days. Then they wanted more tickets for 7 Chinese to New York and on and on. Our source for free tickets was Marian Curran who was tough and said no more than yes. When he visited NY, Al Chun would take her Hawaiian goodies, as is our local Hawaiian custom, like macadamia chocolates, anthuriums, orchids, pineapples or papayas but she wasn't impressed. So one day he took her a bottle of Royal Salute and that did the trick. Free tickets became easier after that.

On January 1st, 1979, President Jimmy Carter announced the USA would recognize the communist PRC as China and we would sever all ties with Taiwan. Congress was so incensed they passed the Taiwan Relations Act quickly in retaliation and mandated we still provide them with aircraft sales. American businessmen were highly interested in exploiting the huge Chinese market and the Chinese wanted access to the large rich American market, particularly the opportunity to obtain our technology, (or I should say, steal).

In 1981 Pan Am was given the approval to return to serving Shanghai and Peking, now known as Beijing. We served these cities until we sold our Pacific routes to United in 1985.

Some years later, Canton appeared as a stop on one of our cruises to SE Asia and I was curious to see how the PRC (now called China) had progressed. I was amazed at the changes. There were now lots of cars on the road (non-American), large tour buses had appeared, as well as trucks, and lots of scooters had replaced many bicycles. The streets were lined with small stores built next to one another and you could see several people crowded around TV sets in many of the shops. I asked the guide where the Tung Fang Hotel was located and he told me it had been torn down along with the Canton Fair building.

We were taken to visit a grade school to be entertained by the children. They were all dressed in bright colors and they rushed out into the audience for hugs when they finished. (What happened to the strict rule of "no touching" the Chinese?) These kids could have been right here in Honolulu as their clothes looked just like those of our kids—probably lifted from what was manufactured for export to American.

Out in the courtyard were many little Mickey D's booths set up and the kids were busy "selling" play burgers and fries and making change. The dress for most everyone was now more normal, with a few Mao types scattered here and there. Guess what—no one stared at us anymore!!

It was a wonderful experience. I love visiting a country that has been closed to the outside world for many years, before it becomes spoiled. I am glad for the opportunity and I have spent many hours telling people how it used to be in China.

After some 43 years, today it is very evident that our era of cooperation with China has been turned against us. They have taken advantage of joining our military exercises, unlimited attendance at our prestigious universities, and interning at our top businesses, resulting in their copying our latest aircraft designs, and for the first time in history, duplicating our stealth aircraft and silent submarine technology. Now they have found a way to tap into our computer secrets and, worst of all, they have released a killer pandemic virus on us and the entire world. Our current administration policy shows weakness that seems to be inviting Russia, China, Iran and North Korea to attack us and our allies. Let's all pray that this does not happen.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .



We received belated news that **Lloyd Lee Van Epps** passed away "about a year ago". Van Epps worked in the Waikiki Ticket Office. He lived on Diamond Head Road just ewa of the Lighthouse. In our November issue, I printed a couple of his stories about his years living "in such a wonderful location." Though he retired in the Sacramento area, he often came back to visit with his friends including Henry Blakstad and the late Jan Newhart.

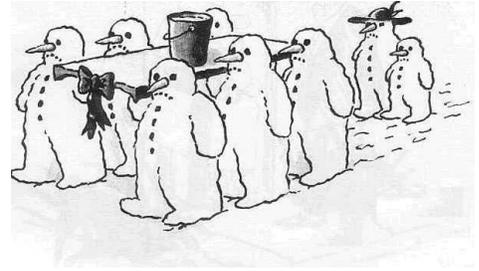


LaDonna Reiner Shea passed away on November 16th after battling multiple myeloma for years. She was 73. LaDonna was hired as a Pan am stewardess after graduating from UCLA. She transferred to Honolulu early in her career. She loved Hawaii where she led an active life in her free time, sailing, kayaking, and scuba diving, excelling in all of them. She loved the aviation industry and when the first, and then the second, female pilots were hired by airlines, she began to take flying lessons. Within a year she was flying for smaller operations, including Scenic Air and Air Molokai, where she flew the last DC-3 in regular passenger service in the U.S. She went on to fly L-1011 first officer and DC-9 captain for Hawaiian Air, followed by first officer on the 747 for United and then captain on the 737. In 1994 she transferred to Denver where she and her husband of 42 years made their home.

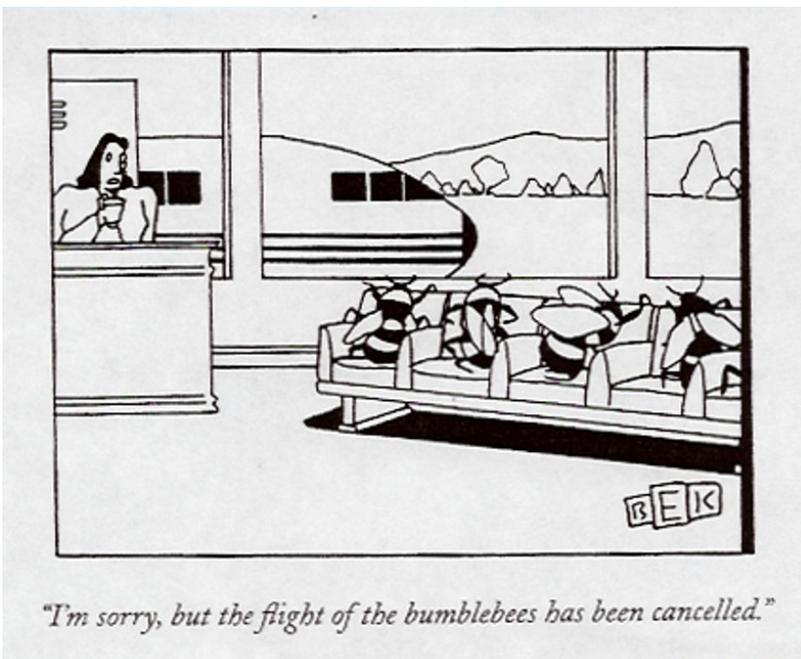
I flew with LaDonna a few times in the 70s but she "left the scene" and I assumed she had transferred to a different base. In 2000, I transferred from UA's Honolulu "domicile", as they termed their bases, to SFO. I continued to fly mostly internationally but once in awhile picked up a domestic flight from a flight attendant wanting to drop it. Imagine my surprise when I entered the cockpit to see if anyone wanted coffee and the captain turned around and said, "Hi, Diane." LaDonna is survived by her husband Michael, her sister Wendy and various nieces and nephews. They have many friends in Hawaii and Michael hopes to hold a second celebration of life here at a later date, subject to Covid restrictions.

HUMOR IS AN INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION

Shirley Motas sent me a very nice message about the December issue of the newsletter. She also added, "I am not proud to share this but I did have to look at the Snowman's funeral to catch the 'subject' more than most". Shirley was referring to the cartoon on page 7 which I am reprinting here. Actually, I am now aware some readers didn't even get "the subject", so to pick up the idea that there was melted snow in the bucket was very good.



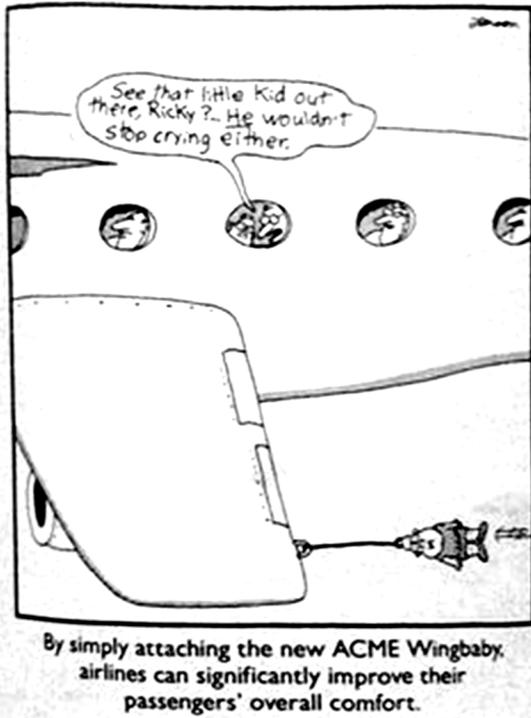
It made me think about humor and one's perception of it. I have even had discussions with family and friends while in Oregon. Strange to me was that at least two people wouldn't even bother to look at a cartoon. I realize I am the other extreme. In the past, before Covid, when waiting rooms had magazines available to pass the time, I used to look for the old issues of *The New Yorker* magazine because I loved paging through it and reading all the cartoons.



One of my favorite New Yorker cartoons from many years ago is the one on the left. It may not seem funny to one who is unfamiliar with classical music and may not be aware of the famous Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov. "Flight of the Bumblebee" is one of his well known compositions. Then, too, it may not even be funny to one who knows that. Humor really does depend on the perception of the individual.

It is widely recognized that humor is really important to one's health. Many people enjoy comedies in the theaters or on TV. And some seem addicted to YouTube. Segments from the Johnny

Carson show are still fun to watch again. Many people loved Saturday Night Live, which I think could be funny in its early days. However, I find it a very negative type of humor. It seems to me their jokes are always at the expense of someone else. Maybe that is the kind of humor the two friends in Oregon meant when they said they didn't particularly enjoy humor.



Gary Larson, of "The Far Side" fame, was always a favorite. Surely senior people will remember that every year at Christmas a new version of his desk calendar would be promoted as a gift item. It featured a cartoon for every day of the year. Each day one would tear off the page revealing the cartoon for the new day. On the left is one of his older cartoons. His is an example of off-the-wall or way-out humor.

If you had trouble with the snowman's funeral, you may enjoy the cartoon on the right from another cartoonist, Max Garcia, another off-the-wall cartoonist.

It is a fitting laugh for January even here in Honolulu. At the moment I am wearing a couple of layers of clothes and heavy socks around the house. We have had mostly rain since my return from vacation on December 29th. It is a bit strange to see mainland visitors without jackets but most local people are wearing jackets when out and about.



*Happy New Year to all our Readers!
We positively think this year will be better.*

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

Darlene Carver Laster	President & Chapter Chair	Darleelas@aol.com	808-394-8981
Carol Weiss-Suyderhoud	VP/Meetings Coordinator/ Speaker Chair	carolws@hawaii.rr.com	808-396-5225
John Medlock	Treasurer/Membership	johnmiii@earthlink.net	808-347-7404
Marie Jahnsen	Secretary	marie.jahnsen@gmail.com	832-752-4982
Al Chun	Annual Gala Coordinator	alhwchun@gmail.com	808-395-0525
Mae Takahashi	Director/Gala Committee	takten@hawaii.rr.com	808-218-7773
Diane VanderZanden	Editor, <i>Aloha Clipper</i>	alohadvz@gmail.com	808-200-4322
Eric Wong	Director	eric@onestopwd.com	808-220-3145
Katie Yoshioka	Director	katie.yoshioka@ubs.com	808-258-8371

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: \$ 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