



Na Eheu Lani

World Wings International,
Inc. Hawaii Chapter Newsletter

Volume 41, No. 3

September 2019

**World Wings
Luncheon Meeting**
Oahu Country Club
Saturday, September 14, 2019
11:00 am.



YEARS OF WORLD WINGS

1969 - 2019



Hawaii Chapter celebrates 50 years of Friendship

Fifty (50) years ago **Carol Wong, May Tsukiyama** and **Nancy Yamachi** joined eleven other former Pan Am stewardesses to form the Hawaii Chapter of World Wings, which was officially chartered on March 31, 1969.



Carol Wong, May Tsukiyama, Nancy Yamachi

starting a Chapter meant that their Pan Am affiliation would continue despite the loss of their wings. It may not have occurred to them that someday Pan Am would cease operations and they would be given the task of preserving the legacy of their company.

During the past 50 years, the Hawaii Chapter has hosted two World Wings Conventions, including the 35th Convention Cruise aboard the NCL Pride of Aloha, October 3 – 9, 2004. The chapter has contributed over \$200,000 to many local charities, including St. Francis Hospice since 1990.

The chapter has supported many local restaurants and clubs for luncheon meetings and gatherings, most frequently Oahu Country Club. In earlier days, meetings were held in private homes, including Carol Wong's home – once the mecca of WWI meetings.

There were only eight other chapters in existence: Long Island, Los Angeles, Manhattan, Marin County, Miami, New Jersey, San Francisco and Seattle. For these pioneers,



THE PIONEERS (Front) Jean Takasaki, Carol Wong, Jean Fukuda, Karin Campbell, Karen Nickolas; (Back) Florence Yoshihara, Dorothy Kwan, Phyllis Kimura, Cynthia Fujikawa, Joyce Mitsumori, Joanne Koyanagi, Nancy Yamachi, May Tsukiyama

Charter members Carol Wong and May Tsukiyama credited **Aileen Sodetani** and **Ruby Ifversen** (SEA) for keeping the chapter aloft during the difficult years when enthusiasm faltered, participation waned and enrollment dwindled. When the chapter was on the brink of collapse,



Aileen Sodetani

Aileen and Ruby persevered and took the helm, even with only a handful of members. **Liz Kearins** generously assumed the unpopular role of treasurer for 27 years.



Liz Kearins

Although fashion shows at Liberty House were very successful fundraisers, there were many challenges.

(Continued on Page 4)

**Hawaii Chapter Summer Luncheon
June 8, 2019**



Table centerpieces by Aggie



Betty Santoki, Merle Miyamoto, Karen Russell, Judy Awakuni, Aggie Von Brimer



(Seated) Ellen Hiromoto, Charlotte Yamashiro, Aileen Sodehani; (Standing) Glori Strassberg, Katie Yoshioka, Carol Nezu, Lillian Yoshioka, Sumiko Carroll



(Seated) Gloria Uslan-Milo, Lillian Nishikawa, Diane Vanderzanden; (Standing) Carol Wong, Sumiko Allegar, Marilyn Boock, Vivian Tanaka, Akiko Munro



(Seated) Marilyn Doyle, Nancy Yamachi, Eva Kama; (Standing) Merle Miyamoto, Elberta Usui, Mae Takahashi, Mary Emerson



Congratulations were extended to Glori Strassberg and Katie Yoshioka for organizing the Chapter Charity Sale and for raising \$4,570 for St. Francis Hospice. They also volunteered to co-chair the 2020 Sale.



Susan Izumi, Janet Murphy, Jane Noe

Our Friend, Nobi Rose

She was best friends with so many people, and today Nobi Stienecker is mourned by all her friends, who know that she'll be with us forever more during good times and bad times. That's what friends are for.

Nobi Rose (Gushi) Stienecker passed away on August 31, 2019 at Arcadia after a brief illness.

Nobi was born in Lima, Peru where her father owned several businesses, including a banana plantation. As with many Japanese Americans, World War II abruptly changed their lives when Japanese Peruvians were deported to an internment camp in Crystal City, Texas, where they were interned for possible prisoner exchange. After the war and unable to return to Peru where everything had been confiscated, her family eventually settled in Los Angeles. She attended schools in LA and began working after college.

While working, a Pan Am recruiter approached her to fly on Pan Am's round-the-world flights. Unlike most of us, Nobi did not go through Pan Am's rigorous interviews. Her only challenge was convincing her parents to allow her to be a stewardess and to permit her to relocate to Hawaii. In 1965, Nobi and June Yamanuha (from Hawaii) were assigned to the same training class in Miami. Although they were based in HNL, Nobi was certified in both Japanese and Spanish. She later transferred to SFO and LAX and flew as a Purser.

After clipping her wings, she got married and lived in Northern California and Seattle. Later, she moved to Moraga, California where she worked as assistant to the dean of liberal arts at St. Mary's College. She retired in 2000, moved back to Honolulu and joined World Wings. She became Chapter Vice President in 2005 and was chairman of our first Garage Sale. She was also Chapter delegate to the 2005 WWI Convention in Paris.

In 2015, she moved into Arcadia, which she often said, was "The best decision I ever made."

Nobi loved opera and enjoyed reading and traveling. In May of this year, she joined friends from Arcadia, Kahala Nui and Las Vegas on a 17-day Crystal Cruise from Hong Kong to Tokyo and met relatives during a stop in Naha, Okinawa. In June, she was diagnosed with cancer.

She is now on her final trip home flying on the wings of angels.



Celebration (Con't from Page 1)

The popular events were time consuming for the young women, many of whom were raising families and working. Additionally, selling tickets to the fashion shows was difficult and often at personal expense to members. Eventually many members withdrew their membership.

In 2005, a group of former Hawaii based stewardesses decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Nisei Stewardesses in Hawaii and sparked a renewed interest in Pan Am. The bonds and friendships of yesteryear were rekindled and many joined or rejoined the Hawaii Chapter of World Wings.

Today the chapter boasts an enrollment of 65 members, who continue to enjoy the camaraderie of former Pan Am flight attendants from all over the world.

It is in this spirit that we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hawaii Chapter of World Wings.



2020 CONVENTION
Sept. 11 - 18, 2020

Don't be disappointed again...

Now's the time to register for the 2020 NORTH TO ALASKA Convention Cruise. The floating convention will take you from Seattle to Alaska and ending in Vancouver, British Columbia, giving Convention goers the opportunity to visit two popular destinations with a wonderful cruise on the Celebrity Solstice.

For more information and to register online:

www.worldwingsinternational.net.

THE PAN AM MUSEUM BOUTIQUE

The Pan Am Boutique, located in the Cradle of Aviation Museum, offers a variety of unique items and Pan Am memorabilia. This year the "Sizzling Summer Spectacular!" includes a Butcher-Style Apron, a Weekend Tote, and a Beach Towel, featuring the whimsical and colorful Pan Am Sticker design. All purchases support the mission of the Pan Am Museum Foundation.



Butcher-Style Apron (\$35) This butcher-style apron fits all and is perfect for your Summer barbecues. Guys and girls alike can flip the burgers in Pan Am style. **Material:** 100% Polyester with Premium quality print. **Size:** 27" x 30"

Weekend Tote (\$45) This roomy, open-top tote bag will accommodate all your beach needs as well as your market purchases. The white rope handles add an extra summertime flair.

Beach Towel (\$55) There's plenty of room to spread out on this 64" X 38" beach towel. It's light weight and easy to carry to beach, boat or bath.

For more information, google Pan Am Museum Foundation and select "Shop". Limited quantities are available for purchase.

