

SLC CLASS OF '55
2009 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wow! What a wonderful time was had by everyone at our 2009 Christmas Party. We met at the Lung Fung Chinese Restaurant in Niu Valley (East Oahu between Aina Haina & Hawaii Kai), and had a really great time.

There were 42 people at the party, and they were:

Louis & Barbara Paresa	Fred & Fran Hackbarth	Donald & Marjorie Young
Harold & Gladys Chun	Gerrit & Anita Young	George & Kathleen Rego
Francis & Barbara Wong	Alvin & Blanche Kort	Johnson & Elaine Yee
George & Dori Corenevsky	Claude Hottendorf & Kyong <i>Gehrig</i>	George & Maggie Joy
Joe Ornellas & Stephanie <i>Bellefeuille</i>	Mike & Ellie Lyons	Bernard & Deborah Freitas
Norman & Marie Cruz	Lionel & Elizabeth Camara	Allen & Betty Perkins
Stanley & Doris Osada	Cenric Ho	Albert Lam
<i>Carol Phillips</i> (widow of Gary Phillips)	<i>Connie Laderta</i> (Loving partner of deceased Charles Haleamau)	
Damien Farias (he was there initially greeting all who were there, but had another important matter to attend to).		

It all was to have started at 5:30 P.M. But traffic and other things contributed to some of the partygoers arriving a little late. There was an “open bar – pay as you go” setup, and some brought their own “stuff” to drink.

Being on the 16th of December, the outside weather was a bit cool, but there was no rain or gusty winds; and that made for a perfect evening. The dress was casual/informal and the mood was positively “Christmasey”.

There were lots of party favors that had been made by our “better 3/4s”, and placed on each of the four tables for guests to take home and enjoy. *Kathy Rego* made wonderful miniature craft handbags, filled with candy, and also made “special” handbags for our “Princesses” (will be explained later). *Elaine Yee* provided colorful Christmas print cellophane bags filled with 3 different flavored Mochi & “lucky money & candy (each bag had pieces of candy & a \$.25 coin in it), and a fortune cookie, and a small plastic color print that showed how to say Merry Christmas & Happy New Year in English & spoken Chinese & in printed Chinese speech characters. *Marjorie Young* made and brought delicious “Chinese Gau” for all to share in. Some anonymous good person(s) also placed small wrapped oriental style boxes on the tables (couldn't find out who it was); but Thank You anyway. *Barbara Paresa* brought (her world renowned) individually boxed Bread Pudding for everyone.

Then, everyone was asked to be seated and the opening prayer/grace was said by *Blanche Kort*. It was very nice and warm and positive. Then the restaurant started serving the food. We had:

Roast Pork & Crispy Gau Gee (as appetizers)
Peking Duck platters, and also the traditional Duck skin & meat in a bun w/plum sauce
Chinese Chicken Salad
Honey Walnut Shrimp
Steamed Fish w/tofu
Pot Roast Pork w/Taro
Beef Broccoli w/cape noodles
Steamed Rice

As the last morsels of food were being swallowed, three of our classmates were selected (previously arranged) to go and be “made-up as women”. Our Princesses were: Claude **Hottendorf** as “Claudia” the Yokohama Mama; Michael **Lyons** as “Mikaela”, and Donald **Young** as “Donna”. While these gutsy guys were being transformed, jokes were being told in the main room. Also, the following persons got up and “said” Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in specific languages:

In Hawaiian – Fred **Hackbarth**
In Japanese – Stanley **Osada**
In Chinese – *Elaine Yee*
In Portuguese – Lionel **Camara**

In Chamorro (Guamanian) – Norman **Cruz**
In Korean – *Kyong* Gehrig (of the **Hottendorf/Kyong** duo)
In Filipino – *Dori* **Corenevsky**
In German – Alvin **Kort**

Stephanie Bellefeuille addressed the group and told a story about when at the beginning of WW II, and SLC was being used as a hospital, that Santa was sad about all of the guys being treated there and sent his wife to help them. Well, Mrs. Claus got lost and in trying to find her, they heard noises in Bertram Hall, and investigated, then inadvertently found the daughter of the Clauses, and also a Lingerie Model and a Geisha girl (the battle patients must have been having lots of fun).. These three then were led in to the restaurant, and.....

.....then, with the theme song (music only) from the Miss America Pageant being played and substitute words being sung by the M.C., in came our three Princesses. They were introduced by their new “wahine names” and then they were individually asked to “strut their stuff” to selected music. Mikaela (Mike **Lyons**) did a great job to the tune “I Am Every Woman”, and managed to unabashedly seduce the M.C. Then, “Claudia” (Claude **Hottendorf**), AKA “Yokohama Mama” “did her thing” to the tune “I Am Woman”, all the while hitting people with her bamboo fan whenever someone tried to touch her. Our last Princess “Donna” (Donald **Young**) strutted around to the tune “You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman”. “Donna” was the only Princess that “showed some skin” (man – she was hot). They each also had to sing “in their best female voice”, the song Jingle Bells. It was hilarious. Mikaela tried hard, but Claudia & Donna were superlative. As you can imagine, from their very first appearance(s) through the door, there was continuous and loud laughter and applause. These guys were really great sports and did magnificently, because they really “played their parts” and wanted very much for everyone to have a good time. For everyone's info, Johnson **Yee's** photos show a small portion of these “doings”. We will be trying to include videos of the action, on to the class web site.

There were three 2-woman Make Up Artist Teams that worked their magic on the classmates: *Fran Hackbarth & Kathleen Rego* had selected Mike **Lyons**. *Barbara Paresa & Betty Perkins* choose Claude **Hottendorf**; and *Barbara Wong & Stephanie Bellefeuille* (Joe **Ornellas/Stephanie** duo) did Donald **Young**. These ladies were given the task of dressing up the guys, and they did so with a lot of enthusiasm and verve.

As this part of the “entertainment” ended, the Princesses were awarded prizes for their performances. Voted as the PRETTIEST was Donna (Donald **Young**); as SEXIEST was Mikaela (Mike **Lyons**), and as HOTTEST was Claudia (Claude **Hottendorf**). They each received a laser engraved Koa Wood pendant reflecting their achievement(s) at this 2009 Christmas Party.

Then, each table was “required” to sing one Christmas Carol, from a compiled Christmas Song Book handed out to all. As we went around to each table, it became quite evident that the gals could really sing, and the guys weren't half bad. We were treated to a solo rendition of the C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S Song sung by Bernard **Freitas**. It was beautiful, and Bernard can really sing. We sang loudly and with feeling. So much so, that another party of diners, over in a private room, started singing Christmas Carols too. We wanted to “challenge them”, but they were too good. In the end, this group of people that we did not know, came out en masse and joined us in singing a rousing “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”. It was wonderful and there was so much love and Christmas spirit in the restaurant. The spirit caught on to all of the other patrons of the restaurant and even the restaurant staff and management joined in on the happiness. It was truly a very nice thing and full of special good feelings.

Although it was planned and programmed, the M.C. forgot to have Bernard **Freitas** give the ending prayer and blessing. The M.C. was having a serious Senior Moment. There were thanks and acknowledgements to all, and especially to Louis Paresa who was the Chairperson of the Christmas Party – he did a fantastic job. Kudos also went out to Johnson Yee for taking still pictures & videos of the entire event. The Restaurant was also thanked for letting us “show our spirit”.

And then - - - - - it was over. A hui hou.....till the next time. Mele Merry & Hauoli Happy!