

REPORT ON THE **SLC '55** FINE DINNER OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

Saturday evening, September 21, 2013, 36 floors above the city, at the top of the Ala Moana Hotel, in the Signature Steak & Seafood Restaurant; we gathered there to "break bread". As it happened, we "broke da mouths" and "broke da eyes".

It started at 4:30 P.M. when our "guests" (our Classmates and their spouses/partners/guests) started arriving to see the **spectacular** restaurant and the really "**stunning**" views of the city. From Diamond Head to Punchbowl to Mililani and the Waianae mountains and beyond; that was the panoramic view that everyone had. The buildings, the ocean, the sky, the approaching sunset; all in perfect sync just as God meant it to be! It was breathtaking! Then, each of the ladies received a red-ribboned rose.

After arriving, we walked around and ordered cool and refreshing (some were alcoholic) drinks, these also helped in "talking story" with each other. A "newbie", Bob **Stender**, came with his lovely wife *Marie*. It was very good to see Bob; some of us after 58 years (since graduation). There were 30 people; 14 Classmates & spouses/partners, 1 honorary Classmate & spouse, and 1 guest couple.

These were the participants:

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| Damien FARIAS & Nancy Yoshioka | Robert & <i>Marie</i> STENDER | Gordon & <i>Betty</i> SAM |
| Claude HOTTENDORF & Kyong Gehrig | Johnson & <i>Elaine</i> YEE | Norman & <i>Marie</i> CRUZ |
| George & <i>Dori</i> CORENEVSKY | Allen & <i>Betty</i> PERKINS | Jim & <i>Emme</i> BURNS |
| Bob & <i>Mary Gail</i> BONIFACIO | Louis & <i>Barbara</i> PARESA | Lionel & <i>Elizabeth</i> CAMARA |
| Fred & <i>Fran</i> HACKBARTH | Mike & <i>Evie</i> CHUN (our honorary Classmate) | |
| Byron & <i>Dolores</i> HANSEN (guests of FARIAS) | | |

CORENEVSKY gathered all at 5:50 P.M. and relayed all the pertinent info:

Welcoming everyone - Valet Parking validation - ordering off the menu - stating that the wonderful staff of the Restaurant would do everything that they could to make our evening a perfect one (and they really did) - advised against separating couples at their table so that the Mr. & Mrs. table cards really meant that the man & woman were actually close to each other - stating that if Name Tags came off that there were safety pins available - using the "Identification Keys" to ensure that food & beverage orders got charged to the correct person. Then, he called on Damien **FARIAS**, the **Big Poobah**, to say a few words.

FARIAS greeted everyone with "Thank you for being here". "It's so good to see everyone, & I see that we even have Bob **STENDER** & his wife *Marie*". "We should do this kind of dinner again". He then reported that "George **REGO**, couldn't be here, because he is recovering from stomach surgery that he had on September 19th". "This is a really nice place, and the food is excellent. Enjoy".

CORENEVSKY then said the prayer for the meal:

Now we fold our hands to pray,
Thank you God for our Dinner today!

Then the waiters, in great numbers, pounced on us (at least that's the way it seemed). "Yes, can I have the 22 oz. Porterhouse Steak?". "We would like to order the Seafood Tower and share it, is that OK"? "Can I get it this way?", "How is this cooked"? "Uggghh, I can't eat that if it is raw". "Does that come with a sauce"? "OOOHHH, we want the Wagyu Tomahawk Longbone 28 oz. Steak, we hear that its very, very good". Those and many other comments and statements were made. Then came the "waiting period" for the food to arrive; and that meant "more wine", and "I'll have another cocktail, please". More schmoozing, more friendship, more love was being shared - how great was that?

The ordered food started coming and there were lots of "OOHHS & AAHHS, when the waiters brought out three Signature Seafood Towers to waiting guests. Geeezzz, those things were a foot and a half high, in stainless steel "tubs" with diameters of around 20 inches, filled with a mountain of ice and covered with Lobsters, Jumbo Shrimp, New England Sea Scallops, and Oysters on the Half Shell. **STENDER, PARESA** and **CRUZ** ordered those - and that was just PuPus; they all ordered entree's to "fill them up". Others ordered Prime Porterhouse (24 oz.), or Prime Bone In Rib Eye steaks; there were several others that had the Rack of Lamb, then too, Miso Butterfish was ordered as was a special Monchong (fish). Lots of Ahi Sashimi and Calamari & shrimp, also iceberg wedge salad, and spinach salad.

It was a great meal, if only the center overhead lighting would have been brighter (they were at their max, we were told). It was heartwarming to see the ladies talking to each other about "how great you look", and "wow, you have on a great dress", and "your hair looks good", and "what a pretty outfit". All those things that the men don't/won't/can't see. They were enjoying the evening and just let their "men" "do their thing".

Before the arrival of the bulk of the Classmates and their spouses/partners & guests; as is her beautiful Hawaiian style, **Bobbi Paresa** placed 30 individually packaged (in clear plastic containers) large servings of her galactically famous BREAD PUDDING. She also had some extras, and those too were given out to "certain people" that "begged" for extras (not). Many, many Mahalos *Bobbi*.

Johnson Yee was like a darting bee, going from table to table to take pictures of all who were there. Then, he focused on showing the ordered food. Tell you what, "Johnson Yee is a wonderful person and Classmate". Think about it, where would we be without Johnson's pictures at all of our functions. For those that are in fact at a function or event, they know (visually what was there and how people were dressed and looked). All other Classmates and their spouses/partners, & our widows don't have that benefit. Johnson's pictures allow all to "be there". Thank you Johnson for your truly valuable gifts.

At the end of the evening, bills got paid, and farewells were said. **CORENEVSKY** thanked the staff of the Signature Restaurant, including management and wait staff and cooks/preparers. Then he thanked everyone for being there, stating that “it was a very nice evening”, and that “we were all one Ohana and we shared love with each other”. He then thanked his wife *Dori* for, well, just for being his wife. Everyone was asked to “take care, drive safely and watch for new things to come from the SLC '55 gang”

If you would like to view the pictures taken by Johnson Yee, please hold down your Ctrl button and simultaneously point to either “View Album” or “Play Slideshow” and click your mouse.

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