

## SLC '55 2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY

What a great time we all had. Our Christmas Party was a luncheon and it was held at the Kapiolani Community College Culinary Arts Institute, on the grounds of the old Fort Ruger location. It happened on a Saturday, December 8, 2012.

These were the participants:

Louis & Barbara Paresa	Damien Farias & Nancy Yoshioka	George & Kathleen Rego
George & Dori Corenevsky	Claude Hottendorf & Kyong Gehrig	Harold & Gladys Chun
Norman & Marie Cruz	Stanley & Phyllis Yasumoto	Robert & Gail Bonifacio
Johnson & Elaine Yee	Donald & Marjorie Young	Fred & Fran Hackbarth
Stanley & Doris Osada	Edward & Kenneth Lelling	Michael (cl of '61) & Evelyn Chun
Bernard Freitas	Charles Arakaki	Lionel Camara
Gordon Sam	James Burns	Sylvia Nakakura (Harold)
Carol Phillips (Gary)	Blanche Kort (Alvin)	(2 musicians)

We gathered at around 11:30 A.M., and milled around talking story, and schmoozing, and reminiscing. The **Yasumotos** had come in from San Francisco. Charles **Arakaki** was in from Irvine, California. Newbies, Bob & Gail Bonifacio, came from Mililani. Semi-newbie Ed **Lelling** and his brother Kenneth were there. There was a whole bunch of friendship & laughter.

Louie **Paresa** was the Chief Planner and Matrimonial Goodwill Adjudicator for this event, and he was also the M.C. He told a few jokes, just to get us "primed" for the afternoon.

Just before eating, Sylvia Nakakura pre-engineered a very interesting game situation. She had previously made (enough for all forty diners) Chinese themed "necklaces" called "Li See" with each Li See containing a coin of "real money".....so everyone had to wear a Li See, then each of us had to Jan-Ken-Po challenge each other. If you lost the Jan-Ken-Po, you had to give your Li See to the victor, who then went on to challenge others, until the "last one standing", was the one with all the Li See had all the coins which totaled \$10.00. It was quite funny, as some of the classmates and some of the wives/spouses/widows weren't really good at Jan-Ken-Po, so that the verbal "Jan-Ken-Po, I kenna show" words were far from being in time/in rhythm with the hand motions. BTW, Claude **Hottendorf** was the big winner. And...Sylvia donated all the flower centerpieces and all prizes!

We then sang, by table, whatever Christmas Song that was selected by the guests seated at that table, in an effort to "see which table sang the best", but after the singing, there was no judging; so there was not a "winning table". Auwe!

Then, Damien **Farias** called to order, a "special meeting". There was an immediate motion on the floor, to vote to include Michael Chun (class of 1961, but a regular at most of our functions) as an Honorary SLC Class of 1955 Classmate. In a matter of a few seconds, Mike Chun was voted in to be an Honorary Classmate. The meeting was then adjourned. **Farias**, then spoke about all the things that the Classmates did in the past year:

6 Classmate Meetings    At least 5 Core Group meetings    1 Fine Dinner    This Christmas Party  
With this December's Golf event, there will have been 6 Golfing Events.

1 Recognition Write-up (Caliboso) for the Classmate Web Site.

Participated in the Vote Counting for the SLAA B.O.D. election.

We've lost two Classmates, Clarence **Chun** and Creighton **Richards**; and Classmate Raybern

**Freitas** lost his wife *Patricia*.

We've had discussions on future reunions; on the relationship between the Classmates and the School and the Alumni; on the "changing of the guard" of the "Core Group"; on the health and well being of Classmates that are or have been ill/sick.

**Farias** ended with "Given all the things that have happened and are happening, and our advanced ages, we're quite busy, we've done a lot, and look forward to continuing".

**Paresa** then asked for anyone to come and comment on "anything". Don **Young** got up and revealed his fight with heart problems, and then Johnson **Yee** got up and told us his "heart story" including how he really likes all kinds of food and that now he is being "restricted" in what he eats. Up came Bob **Bonifacio** who immediately told us "forget you guys I gon go to Begas, what you tink about that"? We also had Stan **Yasumoto** and Charlie **Arakaki** come up to speak, and they both related to having a great holiday season, and that the classmates continue to "stay together".

There was one thing that was really evident during the whole program of festivities, and that was that a lot of us have severe medical problems. Don **Young** detailed his 7 hour operation to fix the two holes in his heart. Johnson **Yee** who had on his "heart hugger" apparatus after his long heart surgery. Bob **Bonifacio** hobbling around with a cane even though he had had a stroke and a seizure in recent months. **Corenevsky** who just had a TIA the day before. Jim **Burns**, still recovering from throat cancer. And - - - we haven't mentioned the spouses who collectively have the same kinds and amounts of ailments as those of the classmates. **And yet, we were there.** All of us; at times struggling perhaps, but striving to celebrate the event, reacquainting with old classmates and friends, and giving thanks to **Jesus** for EVERYTHING; even the struggles. There were others that were present, that may also have been in medical stress and/or pain, but they remained silent.

There was some difficulty in getting the food out to be served, but **Paresa** diligently resolved any and all problems that he encountered. Meanwhile, we were serenaded by musicians that played & sang mostly Christmas Carols/Songs, but interspersed their routine with some Hawaiian songs.

It was now time to get down to some really serious stuff - eating! **Corenevsky** said a Luncheon Prayer that was in English and Hawaiian. Then B. **Freitas**, sang a Hawaiian Pule Mele (Singing Prayer). On Bernard, on Lionel, on Fred.....to the Buffet Line with care. Prime Rib, Sauteed Sea Bass in Black Bean sauce, Honey Walnut Shrimp. Then all of the other reindeer followed. As we ate, the musicians performed in the background, and this made the time feel really Christmasy. Some of the guys and gals even had dessert (more than once)!

Johnson **Yee**, even though he had major medical problems, developed, at home, a beautiful montage of pictures from past Christmas Parties. Several bound copies were distributed. He had also packaged together, individual pictures of Classmates and guests from Christmas Parties Past, and gave them to the appropriate individuals. Everything Johnson made was very professional and compiled with much care and attention. Then, as always, he took pictures of this Christmas Party. To view Johnson's pictures: [https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=jjsy.ewy2&target=ALBUM&id=5820158264559070513&authkey=Gv1sRgCKneyb\\_2sWn-QE&feat=email](https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=jjsy.ewy2&target=ALBUM&id=5820158264559070513&authkey=Gv1sRgCKneyb_2sWn-QE&feat=email) (pres Ctrl button and simultaneously point and click your mouse).

As we approached the end of this wonderful "Christmas Get Together", Louis **Paresa** thanked all for their participation. He expressed special thanks to his wife **Barbara**, who had helped him in all of the planning for the Party. Also, **Barbara** had again, as is her wonderful style, baked her "Special Bread Pudding" (some with sugar and some with Stevia) and had placed individual packages of the Bread Pudding at each and every table(s) seat(s) for us to take home and enjoy! Not wanting to wait till she got back to San Francisco, **Phyllis Yasumoto** opened up her package, and promptly ate "hers". Louie also thanked the staff of K.C.C., and **Sylvia Nakakura**, and Johnson **Yee** for all of their involvement in making the Party a success. He closed out the "thank yous" with mentioning the "behind-the-scenes" work of **Farias, Corenevsky & Rego**; and lastly thanked **Jesus**, cause He helped us make it happen. Then **Paresa** said the Parting Prayer; very nice, very moving, and very apropos.

Thank you so very much Louie, for all you have done and continue to do for the Classmates. Your M.C. work today was fantastic.

The Classmates and all guests rose up and then the SLC Alma Mater was sung. Most of us still remember all the words. George **Rego** paid the remaining balance of the "bill".

And then it was over. "Happy Holidays", "God Bless", "Merry Christmas", "Be Safe", "It was such fun", "We have to do this again next year"; were being exchanged all over the room.

BTW, if anyone wants a copy of either of the Luncheon and/or Parting Prayer, contact **Corenevsky** @ 8084557955., or at [gcorenevsky@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gcorenevsky@hawaii.rr.com)

**Next year.....will you be there?**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!!**

