

HSGA QUARTERLY

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At the 2019 Osaka Convention, HSGA "rep" Masakatsu Suzuki playing steel with Shuzo Kono (left), Takeshi Shirakata and member Moto Suzuki. (See page 10 for the full story.)

Fort Collins 2020 Falls to Coronavirus

We got the seemingly inevitable news from HSGA President Frank Della-Penna on April 6: "Aloha everyone. As you all can guess, the coronavirus pandemic has made it inadvisable for HSGA to hold our September 2020 festival in Fort Collins, Colorado in order to ensure the health and safety of our members, guest artists and other participants. We first looked into the cancellation option with the Hilton Hotel staff managers and learned that canceling would involve a hefty penalty that would threaten our club financially. Fortunately, with the rescue package passed by Congress and signed by the President, relief was on the way for businesses like the Hilton and they agreed to waive the cancella-

tion fee. So I am pleased to inform everyone that we have been able to cancel the HSGA September 2020 festival without any financial consequences to the organization. We look forward to planning the next festival when this pandemic allows."

Existing Hilton Hotel reservations were also canceled and Chris Kennison added, "Turns out the only advance purchase of festival registrations on Brown Paper Tickets was from me." So no refunds should be needed in lieu of the cancellation.

A Virtual Festival?

This from new board member Roberto Alaniz: "Having retired from a career

Continued on Page 2

HSGA QUARTERLY

Volume 35, Issue 137



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association is a tax-exempt, nonprofit educational corporation in the State of Hawai'i under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our primary purpose is to develop a global network of players and lovers of traditional Hawaiian music and to encourage the study, teaching, and performance of the Hawaiian steel guitar. Our primary financial goal is to provide scholarship assistance through donations to steel guitar students who demonstrate the ability and intent to become accomplished performers.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all steel guitar players and non-players around the world who support the perpetuation of the Hawaiian steel guitar. Annual dues are US\$30. The membership year begins July 1. Members receive the *HSGA Quarterly* and other group benefits. The *Quarterly* is mailed four times a year First Class to addresses in the United States and by Air Mail to foreign addresses. Members can obtain an Associate Membership for a spouse or family member at a cost of \$10, added to the annual dues; an Associate Member is entitled to discounts at certain HSGA functions and can vote in HSGA Board elections.

SUBMIT ARTICLES & COMMENTS TO:

HSGA Quarterly, 3442 Greystone Ct, Fort Collins, CO 80525 USA. Our e-mail address is hsga@hsga.org. Submitted items should also be e-mailed directly to the editor at johnely@hawaiiansteel.com. Letters to the president can be sent to: Frank Della-Penna, P.O. Box 18323, Washington, DC 20036.

FORT COLLINS *Continued from Page 1*

in public health, I totally appreciate current efforts to contain the virus. Even so, it is difficult to cope with the idea of cancelling our 2020 festival. We do enjoy our annual gathering!

"I would like to put forth the idea of a Virtual HSGA Convention. I am not very knowledgeable about the technology, but I am very aware that it is quite possible to set this up with video-conferencing software. I also see it as an opportunity to extend the reach of HSGA and potentially increase the membership of the organization.

"In my mind, a virtual conference would be a one-day event instead of the usual three-day format. I am sure that most members and guests would be willing to pay a nominal registration fee to help defray the costs of producing this event.

"A quick Google search brings up a long list of resources and guides for organizing a virtual conference. I propose that a small working group of HSGA board members, club members

and volunteers review the literature and consider the idea in more detail. Even if we need to push back the usual September date, I believe that we could put together some sort of event this year."

Great idea, Roberto! We'll follow up on this idea in the upcoming newsletter and on our website. ■

Treasurer's Report

(Balances as of March 31, 2020)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$24,380.78 |
| General Fund | \$14,046.49 |
| Scholarship Fund | \$10,760.39 |
| End Balance | \$24,806.88 |
| Japan Account | \$577.79 |

Major Expenses

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Newsletter/Postage | \$1,819.09 |
| Misc | \$190.00 |

Major Income/Donations

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Dues | \$2,254.93 |
| General Fund | \$20.00 |
| Scholarship Fund | \$130.00 |

A great shot of what our festival seminars look like at the Fort Collins Hilton. Enthused participants "dig in" as Guest Artist Ed Punua conducts his steel guitar clinic last year.





TSGA President Albert Talley presenting the 2020 President's Award to Margie Mays for her dedication and support to TSGA.

Texas Steel Guitar Association Honors Margie Mays

By Frank Della-Penna

Big congratulations go to HSGA Board member Margie Mays, who received the Texas Steel Guitar Association President's Award for 2020 this past March at the annual TSGA jamboree in Irving, Texas. The award is unique in that it is the first time it was given to a Hawaiian steel guitarist; normally the award goes to pedal steel guitarists. Furthermore, Margie did double duty at the jamboree by performing at both the Rick Alexander Non-Pedal Session and on the convention main stage, usually reserved for pedal steel guitarists. It was her debut performance on the main stage where she was received enthusiastically with a set that included versions of "Beyond the Reef" and steel guitar favorite "Sweetin'," penned by Herbie Remington. Margie noted afterwards the anxiety she and her spouse Don felt during their long wait to get on an airplane to return home. This was one of the last steel guitar events if not *the* last, prior to the general coronavirus shutdown. In the nick of time! We congratulate Margie for yet another significant accomplishment. Below is the text on the award's plaque, which was presented by TSGA President Albert Talley.

"Presidents Award presented to Margie Mays for your dedication and support to the Texas Steel Guitar Association 2020. God Bless You, Albert Talley, President." ■

From longtime member **Janis Crum**, known also as one of the **Williams Twins**: "Good news! We finally made contact with **Julie Waters** [ED: wife of now departed HSGA VIP **Bob Waters**, who use to emcee our Joliet Convention lū'au shows]. After several tries, she finally answered her phone. We were so thankful when we heard that voice!! She really made our day. She is now living with her nephew on the Big Island. Though she doesn't travel anymore, she has the same "upbeat" appreciation of life and lives with happy memories of her hubby, Bob, and the rest of her musical friends. We had a great visit with her. Our "dream trip" of visiting our four friends in Hawai'i all petered out. Our trip with **Joanne [Parker]** [ED: the other Williams Twin] and my two grandchildren may be cancelled, too, due to COVID-19 guidelines. We have made plans to visit the Maui Steel Guitar Festival and hope to see some of the group there. We also want to get the playing schedule of **Alan Akaka** and the **Hiram Olsen Trio**. We were told that they are back at the Halekūlani Hotel again!" [ED: Great news if true, Janis! Please keep us in the loop, won't you?]

This from **Wally** and **Peg Pfeifer**: "We are sorry to report that longtime HSGA member **Donna Miller** has had another stroke and is currently in the hospital. The situation sadly is serious. Meanwhile husband **Frank Miller** and their kids can't visit as they are all quarantined under coronavirus protocol. Prayers to Donna, Frank and all their friends."

Wally also passed along some news about longtime member **Warren Slavin**, who we haven't heard from in quite a while. Warren's son David writes, "It has been around a year since I moved my parents out of their independent apartment and into the nursing wing at their senior residence. I can't say that they are doing well, but they are hanging in there. Mom is almost 91 and dad is almost 94." ■

HSGA Board Election Results

Thanks, members, for your participation in the HSGA Board elections this past newsletter cycle for the 2020-22 board term. We're happy to announce that the membership has overwhelmingly approved the proposed slate of candidates! Congratulations to **Roberto Alaniz** and **Chris Ruppenthal** who will join our current board officially on July 1. In other board news, Secretary-Treasurer **Tony Fourcroy** has decided to step down after years of tireless service in organizing our Fort Collins festivals and in the accurate accounting of our finances, both so crucial to the survival and health of our association. His contributions are really too numerous to even list here. Bigtime mahalos go out to Tony!

Remembering Uncle Ernie Palmeira

By now many of you have heard the sad news: we lost Kaua'i steel guitar legend Ernie Palmeira on January 8, 2020 at age 90. Mahalos to Kaua'i steeler and longtime HSGA member Jess Montgomery for passing the story along to us. He recommended that we simply excerpt from the eulogy given at Ernie's service by his nephew, Randall Palmeira.

Aloha I'm Randall Palmeira, Ernest Palmeira's "almost favorite" nephew. The Palmeira family would like to thank all of you for being here and sharing your support and Aloha with our 'Ohana.

Ernest Palmeira was the second of four sons born to Daisy and John Palmeira, Sr. He was born on July 9, 1929 in the Wailua Homesteads. His oldest brother was Tony, Jimmy came in third and the youngest was Wally, who all preceded Ernie in death along with his grandson Wesley Palmeira.

He is survived by his first wife Alice, children Alan, Gary, Warren, Adele, their spouses, 12 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, his lifelong companion Josephine Ornellas and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Uncle Ernie was a man of many talents—musician was just one of them and the talent he was most recognized for. He was also a successful cattle rancher who loved to be "out there" in the elements working his cattle, fixing fence and helping out his fellow ranchers. And when the work was done they'd "buss out" the pupus, toss back a few "Olys" [Olympia, a popular budget beer at the time] and talk story.

I spent a lot of weekends in my teens in the back of Uncle Ernie's pickup with my cousins Alan, Gary and Warren. We rounded up the cattle, branded them, cut and

A 1940s shot of Ernie (left), Wally, and Jimmy Palmeira, Joaquin Ornellas and Raymond Mendes at Kapa'a's Blue Lei Bar. Wow!



An encore photo of HSGA member Jess Montgomery (left), Ernie Palmeira and Larry Allen at one of their Tuesday jam sessions.

poisoned da guava and fixed fence just "livin' da Portagee cowboy life." But Da Palmeira Ranch had no horses, so we chased those buggahs down on foot and sometimes those buggahs was chasing us. But we got paid every day—one Higashi Store box lunch.

Now, Uncle Ernie always made the best out of what he had to work with. While still in high school he wanted to learn the steel guitar but there was no one on the island to teach him. He had to take care of his cattle and had no time or money to go Honolulu for lessons. So, he taught himself to play the steel guitar, standard guitar, 'ukulele and mandolin.

He held garage jam sessions with his brothers Jimmy and Wally, cousin Raymond Mendez and "Joekeen" [local pronunciation of the actual name, Joaquin] Ornellas. He often referred to that time as "back in the good-ole' days" and that's where he honed and refined his music skills. Uncle Ernie was 16 when he landed his first paying gig—it was at Club Blue Lei in Kapa'a with brothers Wally, Jimmy, Cousin Raymond and Joekeen performing with him.

His oldest brother Tony was there but not as a musician. Tony's job was to be on the lookout for the liquor inspector; Ernie and the boys were too young to legally play in the club. So, Tony would give'm da heads up when the inspector was near, Ernie would end the set, and they'd take a break. When the inspector moved on, the boys got back on stage and continued to play.

The brothers not only played music together, they also worked at the pineapple canneries in Kapa'a and boxed for

It's Dues Time Again!

Remember, HSGA's membership year begins on July 1, 2020. Dues are \$35 for a hard copy newsletter and \$30 for the electronic version. You can renew via our website. Convenient!

the local CYO club. They'd all chip in a portion of their music money to help Grandma Daisy pay the mortgage on the Wailua Homesteads property.

In 1950 Uncle Ernie joined the army and shipped out to Korea. There's a picture in the Kaua'i Veterans Hall Office of Uncle Ernie and a group of lei-covered Kaua'i boys in front of an Aloha Airlines DC-3 just before heading to boot camp. Ernie was assigned to "da big guns" in an artillery unit in Korea.

Brothers Jimmy and Wally also joined the military after Uncle Ernie enlisted.

When there was a break in the chaos of war, Uncle Ernie would "buss out" his guitar and play a song or two for his fellow soldiers. He was kind of a one-man Portuguese USO show in Korea.

When Uncle Ernie returned from Korea he reunited with his steel guitar and reconnected with his passion for performing Hawaiian and contemporary music on stage. Some of his early steady gigs were at Lovell's Tavern and Lincoln's Tavern with falsetto singer Kai Davis.

Uncle Ernie, his brother Wally, and sister-in-law Polei often teamed up and performed gig's together. They were



At Fort Collins last year, Vicki Van Fechtmann from the Hilo side of the Big Island playing her Bakelite Rickenbacker.

chosen by Aloha Airlines and the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau to perform and promote Hawai'i in the mainland and abroad.

Continued on Page 16

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A Coronavirus Listening List

by Frank Della-Penna

Here is a collection of varied music and dance video and audio recordings I think will offer a pleasant diversion from the cares and responsibilities of our day-to-day activities amid the global pandemic. The electronic edition of the newsletter includes clickable links (in brackets) to each of the audio/video clips referenced below. If you have the printed newsletter, you can do a Google search or a YouTube search as described under each item.

Hawaiian Guitar by Francisco Canaro

On a Disco Nacional 78 rpm recording (#4613B), you can hear the beautiful Hawaiian acoustic guitar of Francisco Canaro along with accordion, playing a delightful tango number titled “Mimosa” with the Orquesta Tijoca recorded in November 1929. The disc label includes the words Grabación Eléctrica (electric recording) indicating that this recording has better quality than that of an acoustic, horn-produced 78 rpm platter. Do a Google search on “Hawaiian guitar in tango.”

Billy Hew Len and Myra English

A real treat is this rare video clip of steel guitar master Billy Hew Len playing his Fender 400 pedal steel guitar with Myra English on the Hawaiian standard “Anapau.” Billy was a colleague of Barney Isaacs and they did an album together. Billy is doing back up vocals and steel guitar. Myra calls up two wahine from the audience for some impromptu hula dancing. I do not know who the rhythm guitarist is. Can any of you help? Go to YouTube and search on “Anapau - Blue Dolphin Room 1974.”

Delighting the Fort Collins 2019 audience with hapa haole standards, Jerry and Karen Wagner from Santa Rosa, California.



At Fort Collins last September, steel guitarist Alan Akaka showing how it's done with festival guest Ed Punua on rhythm guitar.

Alan Akaka with Genoa Keawe

This YouTube video clip features Genoa Keawe and band with Alan Akaka on a 1995 episode of the TV series *Hot Hawaiian Nights*. What more could you ask for? Go to YouTube and enter “Genoa Keawe 1995 Hot Hawaiian Nights” in the search box.

Spanish Guitar Tango

Check out this 1952 recording of the tango instrumental “El Puntazo” by Juan D’Arienzo and his Orquesta Tipica featuring accordion, violins, Spanish guitar and piano. Delightful pictures of beautiful dancers appear during the playing of this video. You can also see Juan standing by his windup horn Victrola. “El Puntazo” was composed by Alejandro Jannissi. Go to YouTube and enter “El Puntazo Tipica” in the search box.

Barney Isaacs with Haunani Kahalewai

Here is my dear friend and former mentor Barney Isaacs with Haunani Kahalewai in a rendition of the Hawaiian classic “Auhea ‘Oe,” penned by Barney’s dad, Alvin K. Isaacs, Sr. Although there are exciting clips of Haunani and the hula dancers, the video does not include band members. Thus, you will not see Barney, but his playing is unmistakable and superb. Go to YouTube and enter “Auhea Oe Haunani Kahalewai” in the search box.

Classic Tango Film Clip

This amusing Tango video is taken from a live theater production featuring Tita Merello singing “El Choclo,” a popular tango written by Argentine musician Ángel Villoldo. In the scene, a tempting, sultry woman approaches a man for a cigarette. He gives it to her and demands a kiss in return, but she

just blows smoke in his face. The dance scenes are enticing. Go to YouTube and enter “Tita Merello El Choclo” in the search box.

Pomaika‘i Lyman Live

This video of a free Honolulu concert from 2009 features Pomaika‘i Keawe Lyman with the Makaha Sons and Emily Abrigo of the Abrigo ‘Ohana. What an exciting musical experience! Pomaika‘i sings the classic “Alika,” made famous by her grandmother Genoa Keawe with its long held high note, which has become a sort of benchmark of Hawaiian singing virtuosity. Go to YouTube and enter “Lyman Makaha Sons Abrigo” in the search box.

Mālie Lyman

This video features HSGA scholarship student Mālie Lyman with her version of her great-grandmother’s “Alika” at the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival at Ka Makana Ali‘i Shopping Center in 2018. She is playing the Hawaiian steel guitar that I gave her. Go to YouTube and enter “Alika with Malie Lyman” in the search box.

Incidentally, as a reminder to our membership, please follow my example and get out those unused steel guitars and send them to HSGA to support our scholarship students. For more information on the program, contact Vice-President and Scholarship chairperson, John Limbach. Send him an email at jflimbach@yahoo.com ■

Dues Options Reminder

As you know our dues structure has been revamped to help defray mailing costs. Dues for a regular hard-copy newsletter are now \$35 per year. If you would like the electronic version and have Internet access, dues is only \$30. Make sure you have an email address we can use for delivery. You can renew on our website and specify which version you’d like to receive. Mahalo!



HSGA “Prez” Frank Della-Penna relaxing at his home in the Washington, DC area.

Virus Claims Noted Musicians

by Frank Della-Penna

Sadly there are a host of famous musicians who have fallen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here they are in no particular order:

Jazz guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli, 94, whose acclaimed work crossed many genres. During personal interactions I had with Bucky at the Blues Alley here in Washington, D.C., I found him down-right friendly: he told remarkable stories about Les Paul being his neighbor and about musical icons like Zoot Sims who were a part of his musical family. My interview with Bucky was published in the Fall 2015 newsletter.

Ellis Marsalis Jr., 85, pianist, educator, and patriarch of the illustrious Marsalis family of jazz musicians.

John Prine, 73, legendary singer-songwriter and fixture of the late-’60s Chicago folk music scene. Bob Dylan said of him, “Prine’s stuff is pure

Proustian existentialism. Midwestern mindtrips to the nth degree.”

Marcelo Peralta, 59, Argentine saxophonist, the first noted jazz musician to succumb to the pandemic.

Manu Dibango, 86, a Cameroonian saxophonist and songwriter, known for blending jazz, funk and traditional Cameroonian music and especially for his 1972 hit song “Soul Makossa.”

Mike Longo, 83, jazz pianist and composer who served as musical director for Dizzy Gillespie’s band.

Wallace Roney, 59, jazz trumpeter, a Miles Davis’s protégé, who made a name for himself performing with icons of jazz such as Art Blakey and drummer Tony Williams.

Hal Willner, 64, record, film and TV producer who worked with Lou Reed, Marianne Faithful, Lucinda Williams and wrote musical sketches for *Saturday Night Live* for four decades. ■

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(Melvin Paoa)

Arrangement by Tony Fourcroy

Swing ♩ = ♩³

Intro

Chords: E_m7, E_bm7, D_m7, G7, E_m7, E_bm7, D_m7, G7

Steel Gtr. (Drop C6th)

Section A

Chords: C, A7, D_m7

Section 10

Chords: A7, D_m7, G7, C6

let ring - - -

Section 16

Chords: B7, G7

let ring - - - - -

HSGA Japan 2019 Osaka Convention Report

By Masakatsu Suzuki, HSGA Japan Representative

Along with our regular conventions on even years, HSGA Japan, starting in 2017, organized a regional convention to be held on odd years. This year's second regional convention was held on October 12, 2019 at the Shin-Osaka Esaka Tokyu Rei Hotel.

In spite of a severe typhoon that hit Japan on that day with most railways shut down, 87 members and guests gathered (70 people from West Japan and 17 from greater Tokyo) and included 38 steel guitar players. The main purpose of our regional convention is to interact with local members from the Osaka area and share their steel guitar stylings with players from around Japan. Many local steel guitar players gathered and displayed their skills.

Opening the show was Sachio Kubo and the group Na Lei 'O Three from Hyogo. Mr. Kubo is a local member with a long career in music, and he set the tone for the show with a rich, inspired performance. Also featured were Masaichi Akita ('ukulele and vocals), Hitomi Tanaka ('ukulele and vocals), Teruo Furukawa (bass) and Shuzo Kono (guitar). They performed "Nā Lei O Hawaii," "My Sweet Gardenia Lei," "My Little Brown Gal," "Hanalei Moon" and "Don't Sing Aloha When I Go."

Next was steel guitarist Masakatsu Suzuki from Kanagawa performing with Shuzo Kono (guitar), Moto Suzuki (bass) and Takeshi Shirakata (guitar and vocals). Their performance included revised versions of "Autumn Leaves," "Hawaiian Shores" and "Ā 'Oia."

West Japan steel guitarist Jiro Kimura from Kyoto "catching a wave" with his sharp-looking surfboard steel guitar!



At the 2019 Osaka convention, Kaoru Hirano playing steel in the style of Buckie Shirakata with Buckie's son, Takeshi Shirakata!

The next group, Nui Loa from Saitama, featured steel guitarist and vocalist Shinichi Kakiuchi with a unique steel guitar he built himself. Joining him was his wife Kumiko on 'ukulele and vocals. They performed "Hanamizuki," "Lei Ho'oheno," "Mapuana," "Pua 'Olena," and "Kaula 'Ili."

Then, local steel guitarist Kaoru Hirano from Hyogo played in the style of Buckie Shirakata with Buckie's fourth son, Takeshi Shirakata on guitar and vocals! Their selections included "Dream Paradise," "Moon Medley," "St. Louis Blues," and "On a Little Bamboo Bridge."

The Aloha Two from Kanagawa featured steel guitarist Moto Suzuki and vocalist Reina Miki. They are regular attendees of HSGA Japan conventions and their set including an interesting variety of styles. Moto's "Caravan" was stunning! Their set also included "Blue Skies," "Tei Rai Sha," "Paoakalani," "On a Little Bamboo Bridge," "Yume Shibai" and "Quando Quando Quando."

A highlight of the show was Kiyoshi "Lion" Kobayashi and his group from Tokyo. Featured first were the Lion Ladies Four with Lion, Yoko Tanaka from Kanagawa, Masako Wakamatsu from Saitama, Akiko Watanabe from Chiba and Sakae Machida from Tochigi. They performed "Aloha Sunset Land," "Undecided," "Samba de Beyond the Reef" and "Kamehameha Waltz." Next up was Lion playing nice solos on "Stars Fell On Alabama" and "My Little Brown Gal." Winding up Lion's portion of the show was the Lion Halau with Nobuo Numata from Tokyo playing "Wave" and "One Note Samba"; and Norio Usui from Tokyo and Masahiko Ibamoto from Kanagawa playing "Silhouette Hula" and "Hawaiian Guitar."

A host of West Japan steel guitarists then took the stage: Toshio Nakamura from Osaka played "Odoru Koyoi" and "Bésame Mucho"; Haruyoshi Nakajima from Nara performed

“Aloha Jive”; Hidetoshi Seo and Kazuo Takatori (‘ukulele and vocals) from Fukuoka played “My Yellow Ginger Lei,” “E Mama E,” “Waikiki” and a medley that included “Lullaby of Itsuki,” “Moon of Koujo,” and “Port of Habu”; Jiro Kimura from Kyoto did versions of “Hawaiian Paradise” and “Riding on the Wave”; and finishing out the West Japan segment, Osaka’s Jiro Tsutsumi performed “Hawaiian Paradise,” “Ore Wa Omae Ni Yowainda,” “Waikiki Is Good Enough for Me” and “Aloha Nui Loa Ia ‘Oe.”

Wrapping up the show was steel guitarist Kikuo Urushibara and the big band ‘King of Hawaiians’, all Kinki University graduates including Hiroshi Ohashi (guitar and vocals), steel guitarist Shinpachi Iwasawa, Norie Nakagawa (‘ukulele and vocals), Teruo Shibata (bass and vocals), Hiroto Kashima (bass and vocals), Kazuo Nozaki (‘ukulele and vocals) and Tatsuhiko Yasui (guitar and vocals). Their set included nice versions of “Haole Hula,” “South Sea Island Magic,” “Sophisticated Hula” and “Dare Yori Mo Kimi Wo Aisu.”



A highlight of the Osaka show, the Lion Ladies Four featuring Kiyoshi “Lion” Kobayashi and (l. to r.) Masako Wakamatsu, Sakae Machida, Yoko Tanaka and Akiko Watanabe.

I would like to express our thanks to local HSGA Japan members Mr. Urushibara, Mr. Kubo, Mr. Togawa and the other guest players. We had very exiting convention. [Note: The 5th HSGA Japan Convention has been moved to spring 2021 pending containment of the coronavirus pandemic. Stay tuned!] ■

Please Contact Us!

Send news, comments and high resolution photos to: HSGA Quarterly, 3442 Greystone Ct, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Email us at hsga@hsga.org and cc your editor at johnely@hawaiiansteel.com.

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Virus-Related Updates

By Addison Ching

For those interested in attending any of the island steel guitar festivals put on by the Hawai'i Institute for Music Enrichment and Learning Experiences (HIMELE), here's the latest info in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The following steel guitar events are still "on" in theory:

- The Keiki Kine Steel Guitar Festival at Kahala Mall on August 15.
- The Maui Steel Guitar Festival on October 16 at The Shops At Wailea.
- The Hawai'i Island Steel Guitar Festival at the Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Worldwide (date TBA).

These events, however, cannot be absolutely confirmed as conditions "on the ground" are apt to change as social policy evolves. Also, these events are contingent on Hawaiian and Southwest Airlines resuming their travel schedules. To boot, all festivals are contingent on policy changes of the venues themselves.

My guess is that we're not going to do any festivals until the Hawai'i Island event, which is currently unscheduled but likely to occur near the end of the year. Stay tuned, folks! For the latest updates, go to the Steel Trappings website at: <https://steeltrappings.com>. ■

It's Dues Time Again!

Remember, HSGA's membership year begins on July 1, 2020. Dues are \$35 for a hard copy newsletter and \$30 for the electronic version. You can renew via our website. Convenient!

Events Calendar

June 20, 2020—Steel Festival at Windward Mall
Canceled due to coronavirus guidelines.

July 13-18, 2020—Waikiki Steel Guitar Week
Canceled due to coronavirus guidelines.

July 23-25, 2020—AISGC Steel Guitar Festival
Canceled due to coronavirus guidelines.

August 15, 2020—Steel Festival - Keiki Kine
The Second Annual Steel Guitar Festival Keiki Kine will be again held at East O'ahu's Kahala Mall starting at 1 PM. Featured will be Keiki NextGen steel guitar players and musicians age 10 and older from Alan Akaka's Ke Kula Mele School of Hawaiian Music. Free to the public. Check the club website at www.hawaiiansteelguitarfestival.com/km/.

September 21-23, 2017 – HSGA Fort Collins Festival
Canceled due to coronavirus guidelines.

October 16-18, 2020—Maui Steel Guitar Festival
The 2020 Maui Steel Guitar Festival will be held on October 16-17 at the Shops at Wailea in Wailea, Maui and on October 18 at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center in Kahului. The festival will feature open stage performances, workshops, evening programs and public kanikapila on Friday and Saturday. Event website: www.mauisteelguitarfestival.com.

[Date TBA]—Hawai'i Island Steel Festival
Location: Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection, Kamuela, Hawai'i Island. For date confirmation and event updates check the website at www.hawaiiisteelguitarfestival.com.

Wrapping up the HSGA Japan 2019 Osaka Convention show was steel guitarist Kikuo Urushibara (third from left) and the big band King of Hawaiians, all Kinki University graduates, playing popular hapa haole selections to an appreciative audience.



Our HSGA Luthier

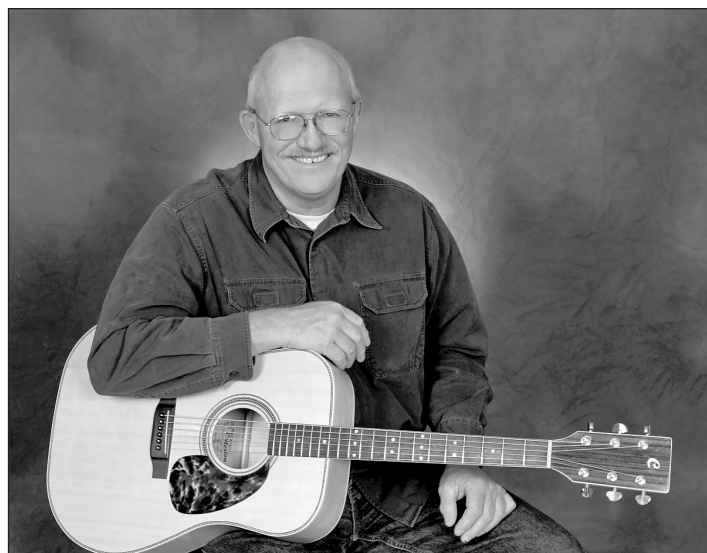
By Frank Della-Penna

In our 35-year history HSGA has been fortunate to count among its membership a host of talented individuals dedicated to our club's core mission, and our own Bob Moore is no exception. Bob's HSGA contributions include past membership on our board and chair of the membership committee. At our conventions, Bob's display table always draws a lot of people to see his beautiful handmade instruments including guitars, resonator guitars and 'ukuleles, all with exquisite sound qualities. Observing Bob's instruments gives one an appreciation of not only his craftsmanship, but also of the various colors and grains of natural wood he showcases. Here is Bob's story in his own words.

"I attended Western State College of Colorado with an Industrial Arts major concentrating on woodworking and drafting, with a Fine Arts minor. Most of my working life I spent as a carpenter doing lots of commercial finish work, cabinet making and installation. I retired in 2007 as a commercial superintendent and started building instruments in my beautiful, comfortable, well-equipped 1500-square-foot shop behind my house. I'm currently working on instrument numbers 22 to 25 and have hopes of building a total of thirty before I can't do it anymore. I still do lots of repair and adjustment work and am still in love with the processes involved. My wife Mary Lu and I used to do a duo act and I was in a couple of bands playing rhythm guitar, bass and singing harmony. Now it's Hawaiian instruments and music."

Bob, we encourage you to keep going beyond instrument #30, supplying musicians with the best sounding and extraordinarily aesthetically pleasing instruments. Thank you for this amazing contribution to the music community! ■

Luthier par excellence Bob Moore with one of his creations.



A promo shot of the Florida-based Conch Pistols band featuring HSGA member Steve Marinak (lap steel) and his sons Stevie Marinak Jr. (bass) and Ryan Dietrich (guitar). Gig ready!

Meet the Conch Pistols!

By Steve Marinak

"Do one thing every day that scares you" is an appropriate quote for my first gig on steel guitar. On Saturday, February 8 my sons and I, in the debut of our band the Conch Pistols, played Hawaiian music at the Surfing Florida Museum for a reception after a paddle-out for recently departed Dr. John "Chummer" McCranels. Chum, a multi-instrumentalist and one of my musical mentors, was a local legend in the surfing community and a big influence on me as I was close friends with the family for the past 45 years. [ED: A paddle-out is a time-honored tradition adopted by those with an ocean-centered lifestyle and dating back to Hawaiian burial rituals. Participants enter the water together and float on the surface, hands linked one by one to form a circle.]

At the funeral a few weeks ago, they chose to play a recording of an original song I wrote called "Don't Say Goodbye, Say Aloha 'Oe." There were over a thousand people in attendance and the song got a thunderous applause, as the song is a eulogy and was a perfect fit. I was happy, they were happy. The paddle-out at the Lake Worth Pier was scheduled a few weeks later, and I offered to have our trio play live at the reception.

I have been learning steel guitar for the past few years but had not hunkered down to build a full repertoire. Like a college student cramming for an exam I hustled, and in two weeks' time I was confident on over twenty songs. We'd have at least an hour and we could stretch them out longer and repeat some. Most of the songs I lifted off of old 49th

Continued on Page 16

CLOSING NOTES

Don Keene (1940-2020)

Sad news from Lynn Keene, wife of longtime HSGA member and board member Don Keene: “I wanted to let HSGA know that Don passed away about two weeks ago. It has been difficult, but he was 89 and as prepared for this passing as anyone could be. He had dementia and slipped away peacefully.

“He was raised in Burbank, California and took steel lessons from Lani McIntire. This must have been in the 1940s, as Don was born in 1930. He played professionally with a western group in Burbank for a number of years, but I do not recall the name or dates, as I met Don in 1976. By that time, he was divorced from his first wife, who hated his playing (!), so he did not pick the steel up again until he met me. Then, we started going to as many steel guitar conventions as we could. Don gradually felt more confident in his skills and began playing at the Hawaiian conventions—sometimes with the Durand brothers—who accompanied us on one trip and played backup for him. Otherwise, Bernie Endaya, a friend of ours, played backup for him in Hawai‘i along with Lorene and Art Ruymer. We missed the Honolulu steel guitar conventions most of all, but as you know, we also went to Joliet.”

“Don was a longtime donor to HSGA’s Scholarship Fund and was focused on steel guitar music being carried on by a new generation.” [ED: Don donated his triple-neck Fender, the one he played at so many of our conventions, to a current student of the steel guitar. Mahalo, Don and Lynn.]

Dennis A. Scott (1939-2019)

More sad news from wife Linda Scott on the passing of HSGA member Dennis Scott this past summer:

A “pre-lū‘au” shot of Dennis Scott (right) with wife Linda and their son Mike taken during one of their trips to Hawai‘i.



A super photo of longtime member Don Keene and wife Lynn from Cambria, California, taken at our 2008 Joliet Convention.

“Dennis Scott was born on September 1, 1939 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Tech High School in 1959, serving as a reserve and later in the United States Air Force for short times from June 1957 to August 1, 1961. He took guitar lessons at Harlin Brothers in the mid-to-late ‘50s and taught guitar at Harlin Brothers before he graduated from high school and for a short time thereafter.

“Dennis was employed at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis and later in Greenfield, Indiana where we met. We were married for 49 years. He retired in 1993 and after attending a steel guitar convention in Winchester, Indiana, he became interested in playing again. We attended several conventions in St. Louis. He was always looking for sheet music or rhythm tracks any opportunity he had.

“There were several occasions when friends or family would come over and hear him playing in the basement. It was always relaxing to hear him play, and we knew he would go on for hours if possible. As streaming music became popular, one of the first genres of music he searched for was steel guitar and Hawaiian. These were a “must-play” while on the boat or on a sunny day in the Midwest when he dreamt of being on an island somewhere.

“On one of our visits to the Big Island of Hawai‘i, we enjoyed a tour of the Shriners Hospital for Children. Dennis served on the Board of Governors at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Lexington, Kentucky for 18 years. We traveled to Hawai‘i 15 times after retirement, and he was always searching for Hawaiian sheet music. He enjoyed woodworking, and after losing part of a finger, he still found a way to use his bar and continue to play. He recorded a CD for his children of his favorite Hawaiian music.

Although the steel guitar was not adopted by his children, they still find a fondness and appreciation for those that continue to play this beautiful instrument.

Joanne Hanawahine (1941-2019)

We got the sad news this past fall that we have lost longtime Las Vegas-based member Joanne Kimiko Leinani Hanawahine, who attended and provided hula at many of our HSGA conventions and festivals, often accompanied by her husband, Hawaiian steel guitar legend Herb Hanawahine.

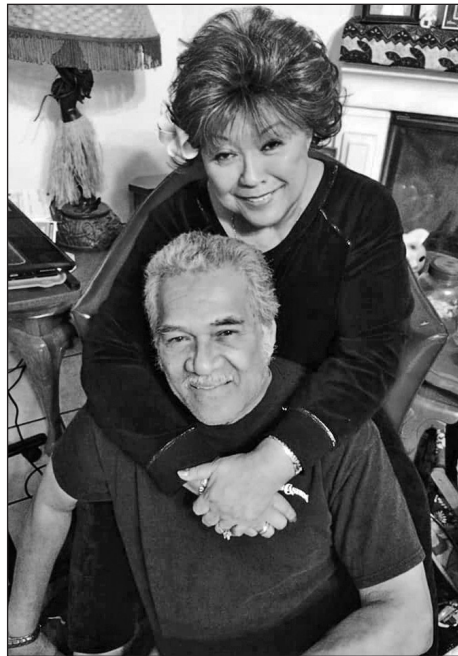
From President Frank Della-Penna: "Joanne will be warmly remembered for her grace and performances with Herb in the Hawaiian steel guitar community of Joliet and Winchester. May she rest in peace."

Former club president Paul Kim adds: "Love to her and her 'Ohana."

From Janis Crum of the Williams Twins: "My sister [Joanne Parker] and I were terribly saddened to hear about Joanne [Hanawahine]. She was such a sweetheart and shared her aloha spirit tremendously. She gave Joanne such great advice in presenting the hula. We will always remember her as our dear Hawaiian friend who carried grace, beauty and charming ways in every move she made. (She was always very spunky, too!) Herb and Joanne Hanawahine will always be remembered by their admirers in Winchester, Indiana.

Eleanor Sweatman (1929-2019)

We recently got the sad news from niece Lynda Wardell that HSGA member Eleanor Sweatman, wife of longtime member Don Sweatman, has passed away. Lynda writes, "Eleanor and Don thoroughly enjoyed being a part of HSGA and enjoyed many years with all of you. Thanks so much. They spoke so often of the group and of the many times they spent together with all of you at the conventions. And thanks for all of the joy HSGA brought to my favorite and terribly missed Uncle Don, [who we lost in 2013]. Those were the happiest times of Don's life, and we have many pictures and albums to prove it!" The following was excerpted from the Harmon Funeral Home obituary:



A terrific shot of Joanne Hanawahine and husband, steel ace Herbert Hanawahine.

Eleanor B. Sweatman of West Brighton, formerly Eleanor Bauer passed away peacefully at home on March 16, 2019.

She was born 90 years ago at the Old Staten Island Hospital. Her late husband Donald was born nine days prior at the same hospital. Eleanor graduated from Port Richmond High School prior to attending Drake Business School in Manhattan. She worked as an executive secretary to a vice president at the former Irving Living Trust Company, now known as the Bank of New York. She was later employed at Wagner College in the science department. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Donald in 2013 and her brother Richard in 2018. She is survived by her brother Robert Bauer of Florida, as well as 9 beloved nieces and nephews, and many great and great-great nieces and nephews. Eleanor and her husband were members of Grace Christian Church. They were avid travelers and their fondest memories were made in Hawai'i and Bermuda. Eleanor was a gourmet cook, a wonderful baker, gardener and photographer. She was a woman of great grace and beauty and will be dearly missed. ■

HSGA Donations

Thanks, HSGA members for your generous donations this past quarter!

Special thanks to **Bill Rhyne** of Sebastopol, California for yet another most generous donation of \$165 to our Scholarship Fund. Also, a big mahalo to Milwaukee member **Mark Roeder** for his \$100 donation to our General Fund. Many thanks to both of you for stepping up once again!

The following members donated at least \$10:

Clifford Adams, Huntington Station, NY
Robert Clifford, Tumwater, WA
Beat Iseli, Winterthur, Switzerland
Anthony S. Lis, Brookings, SD
John D. Marsden, Sheffield, England
Wally & Peg Pfeifer, Dwight, IL
Russell & Kathleen Pollock, Zanesville, OH
Rusty Strange & Laurie Raymond, Falmouth, MA

Our "would be" festival guest Geri Valdriz, at a History of the Hawaiian Steel Guitar exhibit in Maui, part of the Story of Hawai'i Museum that he helped curate.



E Komo Mai! Welcome, New Members

Is your address correct? Please notify us!

UNITED STATES

ROBERT BELL, 2303 Owens Ave, #204, Fort Collins, CO 80528

PAUL FOSTER, 2500 N. Van Dorn Street, Unit 908, Alexandria, VA 22302

RICHARD GALLARDE, 98-731 Moanalua Loop, #121, Aiea, HI 96701

OVERSEAS AND CANADA

DEAN OWEN, Box 664, 1337 Idaho Street, Carstairs, Alberta T0M 0N0 Canada

ERNIE PALMEIRA Cont. from Page 5

Caracas, Venezuela; Tokyo, Japan; Victoria, British Columbia; New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco are just a few of the many exotic places they performed at.

Uncle Ernie's performances and reputation as a master steel guitar player caught the attention of Coco Palms manager Grace Guslander. She hired him to perform with Johnny Ho'opi'i and Doric Yaris at her luxurious fine-dining restaurant "The Coconut Palace."

The band was known as the Palace Trio and they entertained wealthy locals, tourists, movie stars, dignitaries and the VIPs that visited the resort.

With the passing of Johnny and Doric, the band added Bernard Naea and Willy Carrillo. The Palace Trio was renamed and from then on known as the Ernest Palmeira Trio.

Uncle Ernie headlined at The Coconut Palace for 18 years. The gig ended in 1992 when Hurricane Iniki severely damaged both the hotel and The Coconut Palace.

But despite the loss of his steady gig at the Palace, Hurricane Iniki gave Uncle Ernie the time and opportunity to perform more gigs with the island's best entertainers in the finest hotels, resorts, restaurants and other venues on the island.

In his later years Uncle Ernie frequently performed with Albert Genovia, Paul Togioka (Ernesto Carbonel) and Charlie Fu.

He and Charlie often performed in the main lobby of the Līhu'e Airport entertaining passengers. He was in his 80s and still one of the go-to entertainers for the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau.

Uncle Ernie was also a studio musician for many local artists and is featured on the CDs *Na Hoku O Ke Kai* and *Olohena - Wailua Homestead* with Albert Genovia.

He's also on Paul Togioka's *Ohana 'O Kaua'i* with Buddy Panoke just to name a few of the CDs Uncle Ernie has collaborated and performed on with local musicians.

Back in January 2016, I attended E Kanikapila Kakou, a music festival held in the Jasmine Ballroom at the Kaua'i Beach Resort. Uncle Ernie was recognized and honored for his lifetime of outstanding musical performances. He was 86 years old and on stage performing with Kenny Raposo and Paul Togioka.

Many of the entertainers Uncle Ernie performed with are here for the [funeral] service. You've heard their voices, listened to their music, and felt their Aloha for him and the 'Ohana we all are a part of.

Uncle Ernie lived his life with passion, and his outgoing way and mastery of the steel guitar will long be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him or attended one of his many performances.

Fortunately, his recorded music will live on for generations to enjoy, making Uncle Ernie Palmeira's legacy truly unforgettable. ■

State LPs with Benny Rogers on steel guitar. I would recommend them to others learning Hawaiian style in the early stages like myself.

My son Ryan plays rhythm guitar in the old chunking style from that era, while my other son Stevie plays upright bass. Ryan took on the task of condensing the songs into single-page charts similar to the Real Book so we could use them for reference if needed while on the job. We started at 11:30 AM and played till almost 2:00 PM with a break in between for some of the commemorative moments. My hands were so clammy from nerves; the bar stuck like glue! I misplaced my glasses during the break and found them in what was probably less than a minute—but it felt a lot longer! The bass amp didn't light up on arrival, and after trying many outlets, I noticed that the tubes were glowing and realized it was just the "on" bulb that was out!

So we got our first Hawaiian gig behind us with no train wreck moments—well, I'll admit I got lost on one song (probably daydreaming), but we all recovered and no one knew. We had a bunch of people ask us for our business cards, which we don't have! One guy followed us out to the truck like a groupie, he was so thrilled with what we were doing. And my favorite compliment was from one couple who said, "We want to get remarried just so we can hire your band!" The experience was a very good one. It elevated my playing, as I'm sure it did for the boys. We are even more excited now and looking forward to doing this again. ■

Renewal Alert...

If a renewal form was inserted with your newsletter, that indicates that your membership expires on June 30, 2020. See the form for details. Handy tip: renewing via our website is a snap! Mahalo.