

**Quarterly Newsletter** 

### HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION

Issue 150

PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR IN HAWAII BY THE HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION

### STORIES ... AND MORE ... YOU'LL FIND INSIDE

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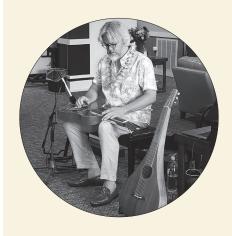
Malie Lyman headlines '23 Festival in Cupertino, California

### Join Us at Festival '23

By Roberto Alaniz

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association will hold its 2023 Festival on September 21, 22 and 23rd in Cupertino, California. Malie Lyman, steel player and vocalist, will be our special guest performer. Malie is the granddaughter of the legendary Hawaiian vocalist Auntie Genoa Keawe. Our fellow HSGA member Alan Akaka will be conducting his Hawaiian steel guitar symposium at the same location on Sunday, September 24. For more information on the symposium, please email Alan at: info@KeKulaMele.com

Saturday afternoon will again feature local guest performers, including Patti Maxine, and Mikiya Matsuda, as well as our own Christo Ruppenthal, Chris Kennison, Alan Akaka and Malie Lyman.



#### MAHALO, MEMBERS!

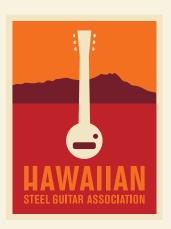
Keep those great emails, letters and photos coming! If possible, send original photographs or digital camera output. We cannot use grainy or washed out photos. Please send news, comments, or photos to:

#### **HSGA Quarterly**

2145 Tiffany Walk Manteca, CA 95336-9555 Email us at hsga@hsga.org.

# WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

Various ad sizes are available. Email us at hsga@hsga.com for a rate sheet.



### Letter From the President

Aloha members,

I'm so looking forward to our Cupertino gathering, which is coming up September 21–23! We are excited to welcome this year's special guest, Malie Lyman, as our featured artist. We're also working on inviting more special Bay Area guest steel guitar professionals to perform for all of you, including Patti Maxine, Mikiya Matsuda, and others. Steel guitar maestro Alan Akaka will also be in attendance, as well as some hula dancers. The performance schedule is coming together for all three days. But there are still some slots open. So sign up, even if you only have a song or two to share!

Throughout this issue, you'll find important information and announcements in regards to ticketing and hotel lodging for the festival. Please read through all this information. We are very much looking forward to seeing all of you and hope that we have a large gathering this year! I also wanted to let members know that we will have a table of Hawaiian LPs and other things that have been donated to help aid the relief effort in Maui. If you have music or other items to donate for the effort drive, please bring them to the festival.

I would like to again recognize HSGA member Josephine Johnson, who has generously donated her father's vintage Rickenbacker A-22 frying pan to the club. We will be raffling the instrument at our Cupertino gathering. Its proceeds will benefit our education and scholarship programs. You can find details on the raffle in this issue. There is still time to get some tickets in advance, and we will be selling them at the festival. This process has been beneficial in adding to our membership as well, which I'm very pleased about.

I'm feeling really positive about the direction our club is going these days. It's exciting to see all these various projects really moving forward. I can't wait to gather, listen, and play with all of you in Cupertino in September. As always, if you have any thoughts or questions for the board, please feel free to reach out.

Mahalo,

# Christo Ruppenthal

Christo Ruppenthal HSGA President

### **Lunch with Bobby**

By Roberto Alaniz



This is my second "Lunch with Bobby" article. Since the last quarterly newsletter, Bobby and I have actually gone out to lunch several times. I wouldn't say that we are permanently "out to lunch", but both of us have a tendency to forget names during our conversations. That makes sharing stories a little challenging. I suppose that as long as we remember our own names, we're doing OK.

There are not a lot of good restaurant choices in our area, so we tend to frequent three or four eateries. One of our favorites is Denny's in the city of Ripon (next to our home city of Manteca). This particular Denny's is at a truck stop off of Highway 99, and the food and service are very good. When we go there, we usually order breakfast rather than lunch, even if we go in the afternoon. (Try the multi-grain pancakes).

Going to a Denny's is also somewhat nostalgic for both of us. We recall many a meal at Denny's at 3:00 in the morning

after playing gigs in various bars and clubs. My club gigs ended in my early twenties, while Bobby continued on for a few years longer...75+ years to be exact. So, I'm pretty sure Bobby has been to Denny's as in the early morning hours a lot more than I have, as well as the Waffle House.

When Bobby and his brother Larry Black moved from California to Nashville, Tennessee back in the early 70's, they were very fortunate to have steel guitarist Pete Drake as a friend and mentor. Pete employed the brothers in his music business, which included a recording studio, music arranging and talent booking service, and other aspects of music production.

Pete was also able to plug Bobby into recording sessions with the "Nashville A team."

Wikipedia's description of this group of studio musicians:

THE NASHVILLE A-TEAM WAS A **NICKNAME GIVEN TO A GROUP OF** SESSION MUSICIANS IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA, WHO EARNED WIDE ACCLAIM IN THE 1950S, 1960S, AND EARLY 1970S. THEY BACKED DOZENS OF POPULAR SINGERS, **INCLUDING ELVIS PRESLEY, PATSY** CLINE, BOB DYLAN AND OTHERS.



#### NOTABLE MEMBERS OF "THE NASHVILLE A-TEAM" INCLUDED:

- Bassists: Bob Moore, Ernie Newton, Henry Strzelecki, Junior Huskey, Joe Zinkan, Norbert Putnam, Floyd "Lightnin" "Chance,[3] Joe Osborn
- Drummers: Buddy Harman, Jerry Carrigan, Farris Coursey, Doug Kirkham, Larrie Londin (1970s), Kenny Buttrey
- Keyboardists: Floyd Cramer, Hargus "Pig" Robbins, Owen Bradley, Bill Pursell, David Briggs, Steve Nathan
- NASHVILI

- Guitarists: Chet Atkins, Grady Martin, Hank Garland, Ray Edenton (also mandolin, ukulele, and banjo), Harold Bradley, Velma Williams Smith, Paul Yandell, Pete Wade, Jerry Kennedy, Norman Blake, Jimmy Capps, Spider Wilson, Fred Carter Jr., Billy Sanford, Joe South, Wayne Moss, Jimmy Colvard, Chip Young
- Fiddle: Tommy Jackson, Johnny Gimble, Buddy Spicher, Dale Potter, Vassar Clements, Brenton Banks
- Steel guitar: Pete Drake, Jerry Byrd, Buddy Emmons, Ralph Mooney, Lloyd Green, Buck West, Shot Jackson, Jerry Kennedy, Maurice Anderson, Hal Rugg, Weldon Myrick, Little Roy Wiggins, Walter Haynes
- Banjo: Earl Scruggs, Buck Trent,
   Sonny Osborne, Bobby Thompson
- Mandolin: Jethro Burns
- · Saxophone: Boots Randolph
- Percussion: Farrell Morris, Sam Bacco
- Harmonica: Charlie McCoy (also keyboards, brass, percussion and guitar), Jimmy Riddle
- Harp: Mary Alice Hoepfinger
- Backing singers: The Jordanaires,
   The Anita Kerr Singers, The Nashville
   Edition

Pete Drake, knowing the quality of Bobby's steel guitar playing, had no problem in arranging for Bobby to go into the recording studio with some of these seasoned musicians. Bobby recalls, "I was so nervous during my first recording session with some of the A Team members, I could barely hold onto the bar". Fortunately, he got enough positive reinforcement from some of the old pros to relax and enjoy his studio time with them. And just like any workplace, most co-workers are cordial and friendly, and one or two are not. Overall, he found the experience to be very satisfying and productive.



Pete Drake was a fine steel guitar player, and made a name for himself with his "talking steel guitar". Some of you may recall that the talking steel guitar was used by many radio stations in the 60's to promote the station's call letters and frequency number. Having grown up in Los Angeles, I recall hearing the talking steel guitar sing "KFWB, Channel 98" for many years. After 60 years, that tune is still stuck in my head. Bobby says, "eventually, Pete got tired of recording the talking steel guitar radio station commercials, and he asked me to take them over, which I did". Bobby did his share of talking steel guitar commercials until, like Pete, he tired of the task.

#### ONE OF MY FAVORITE STORIES THAT BOBBY HAS TOLD ME A COUPLE OF TIMES IS ABOUT THE GREAT MARTY ROBBINS.

Bobby was working as an A&R (Artists and Repertoire) man in Pete Drake's recording studio and office in downtown Nashville. "Marty Robbins was working in a studio right next door. One day, Marty walked into Pete's place and introduced himself to me. We got to talking (about music, of course), and Marty claimed that he knew how to play a great number of songs on the piano. I challenged

his knowledge by naming an old children's song that my Mother used to sing to me. Marty sat down at the piano and played and sang the tune. It quickly became quite evident that Marty Robbins was an excellent pianist and a human encyclopedia of popular music."

Both Bobby and I fondly remember video recordings of Marty's early television show, with one episode that featured Marty and Jerry Byrd playing and singing Hawaiian songs like "Beyond the Reef" and the instrumental Kohala March. Here are YouTube links to some of these wonderful songs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\_oaEw0p3js

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8jU092xDW0

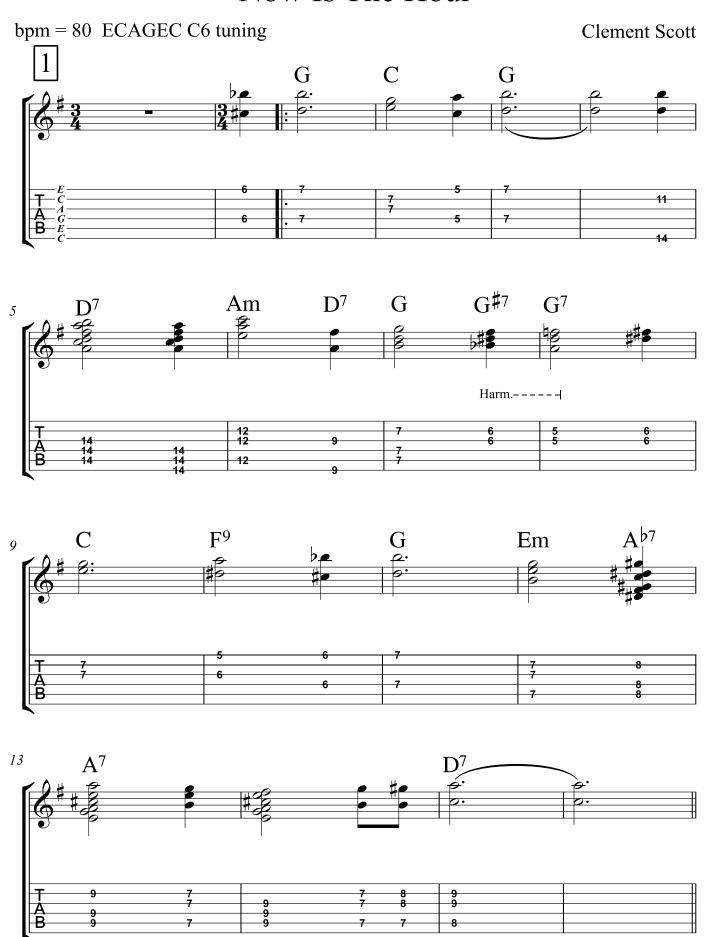
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https://youtu.be/BDJ3Rspx0LY?si=bd-JyAd4PE-2wRjTJ

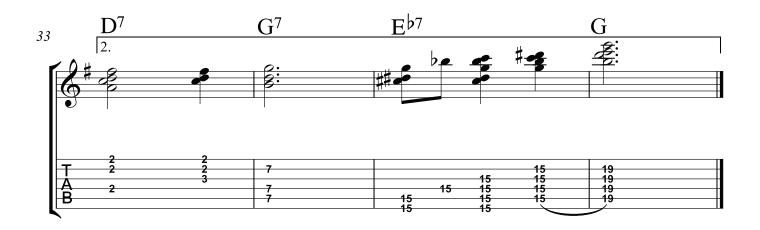
There are more stories to share, but I will stop here. I can only hope that I don't put on too much weight because of "Lunch With Bobby".



### Now Is The Hour













Tapered Titanium - Made in USA! 3.1 oz. - 3 1/8" Length Taper 13/16" to 5/8" Founding member of the Indy Pedal Steel Club, machinist and founder of Arthur's Music Store in Indianapolis, IN, Amos Arthur always kept a tapered steel bar in his case. Now you can, too!

### Buy the Amos Steel Bar now on Reverb.com!

Buy - Sell - Trade New - Used - Vintage Lap Steels, Pedal Steels Guitars, Amps, & More!



931 Shelby St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317.638.3524
ArthursMusic.com

### Now Is The Hour

bpm = 80 ECAGEC C6 tuning

Clement Scott





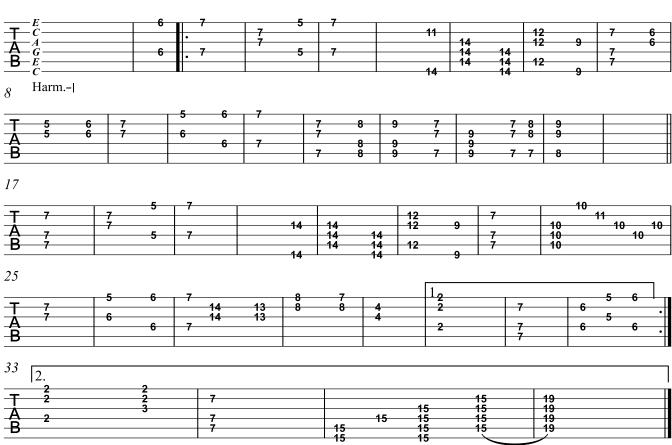
#### Hawaiian Steel Guitar

### Now Is The Hour

bpm = 80 ECAGEC C6 tuning

Clement Scott

Harm<del>.</del>











### 2023 HSGA Festival Information

We request that members who plan on attending complete and return the festival registration form by August 30, 2023. If you would like to perform at the festival, please complete the Performer portion of the registration form, Both of these forms can also be completed online at the hsga.org website. For those who wish to perform, keep in mind that you do not have to play an entire 25 minute set. Just let us know on the registration form how much play time you would like.

The hotel of choice for this event is the Cupertino Hotel, which is a short, walkable block from the Odd Fellows Hall. The Cupertino Hotel has set aside a block of suites for our Festival guests at the rate of \$179 per night. (daily breakfast buffet and two complimentary happy hour drinks are included for hotel guests).

### RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE BY TELEPHONE OR EMAIL.

Email: res2@cghotelgroup.com

Phone: 408-522-4927 Mon to Fri (9am-4 pm) Only

Please reference the following information: Group name: Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Group

Group code: 1084|8

### TICKET PRICES FOR THE FESTIVAL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### **Members:**

- \$125 for 3 day pass (not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- \$50 per day (Thursday/Friday)
- \$25 Saturday only
- \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show

#### **Non Members:**

- \$150 for a 3 day pass (not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- \$60 per day (Thursday/Friday)
- \$30 Saturday only

(FREE for new members who join during the three day festival)

- \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show
- Students: \$10 per day
- \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show

# TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED ONLINE THROUGH ZEFFY.COM AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/59bf0258-5e33-454b-9522-200e109463c6 (Zeffy is a free service for non-profit organizations, but they do request a donation from the ticket buyer.)

# TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED BY CHECK, PAYABLE TO THE HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION.

#### Mail to:

HSGA 2023 Festival c/o: Roberto Alaniz 2145 Tiffany Walk Manteca, CA 945336-9555

In addition to the big raffle for the Vintage Rickenbacker Frypan Steel Guitar Model Electro A-22, the festival will feature a door prize raffle for those who attend. If you have any fun and interesting small items that you would like to donate for this raffle, please contact me (roberto.alaniz@comcast.net). Thank you







### 2023 HSGA Festival Schedule

#### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm.

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Check-In / Registration

Welcome / Annual Member Meeting

Member Performances

Malie Lyman

Social/Happy Hour (Cupertino Hotel)

Workshop (Odd Fellows Hall)

Kanikapila / Jam Sessioi

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm.

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Member Performances

No Host Lunch (Several Area Restaurants)

**Member Performances** 

Malie Lyman

Social / Happy Hour (Cupertino Hotel)

Workshop (Odd Fellows Hall)

Kanikapila / Jam Session

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23,**

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm.

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Member Performances

No Host Lunch

Saturday Super-Show

Social / Happy Hour (Cupertino Hotel)

Luau Dinner & Show (Odd Fellows Hall)







First time at an HSGA Event?

### 2023 HSGA Festival Registration

Registering is a two-step process:

# STEP 1 RESERVE YOUR ROOM AT THE CUPERTINO HOTEL

HSGA has arranged for a block of rooms at the Cupertino Hotel from September 20 through 24, 10889 North De Anza Boulevard, Cupertino, CA 95014. We request that members who plan on attending complete and return the festival registration form by August 30, 2023.

The hotel is one short block from the Odd Fellows Hall. The room rate is \$179 +12.195% city tax+ 0.195 tourism tax. www.Cupertino-Hotel.com (includes buffet breakfast and two complimentary happy hour drinks)

HSGA HAWAIIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM

#### **Email & Phone reservation options:**

Email: res2@cghotelgroup.com

Phone: 408-522-4927 Mon to Fri (9am-4 pm) Only Group name: Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Group

Group code: 1084J8

### STEP 2 REGISTER FOR THE FESTIVAL

To register online, go to the **HSGA.org** website

fill out the form below and send to: Roberto Alaniz, 2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336.

The registration fee is payable online, when you send in this form, or on arrival. The fees are:

\$125 for a 3-Day Pass (\$150 for non-members)

**\$50** for a 1-Day Pass: Thursday or Friday. (\$60 for non-members)

**\$25** for the Saturday Super Show (\$30 for non-members & FREE for new members who join during the three day festival)

**\$10** for a 1-Day Student Pass: any day

**\$65** for a Lūau Dinner & Show Ticket (separate from the festival pass fee)

**\$10** per day for Student

September 21, 22, 23, 2023 at the Cupertino Odd Fe	llows Hall	
First & Last Names Of Attendees (Please Print)	Address	City
	State / Prov / Country	Zip / Postal Code
Home Phone Number	Payment Of Registration Fee (Check One)	Will You Need Help Finding Back-Up Players
Email Address	Do You Plan To Perform? Yes / No	

Please mail this form by August 31 to Roberto Alaniz, 2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336. Make checks payable to HSGA.

Members requesting playing time will have 25 minutes on stage including set-up time. Please bring 2 sets of chord charts for your backup players. Players, do not wait until August 31 to get this form to us! We will assign playing spots on a first come, first served basis. Don't delay!



# Experiencing Aloha in the Midwest with the Aloha International Steel Guitar Club

By Christo Ruppenthal

I recently attended the Aloha International Steel Guitar Club festival in Winchester, Indiana. It was my first time attending the event, and I had a great time! I had a wonderful time both performing and listening to a variety of lovely players.

I felt warmly welcomed by AISGC's chairman, Mark Prucha, and other members of the club. I was also happy to finally meet other members of the greater steel guitar world in person for the first time, including fellow dedicated record collector Bill Wynne, another of their board members.

The wonderfully talented Kapono Lopes (Honolulu, HI) was their special guest this year. I really enjoyed both his excellent steel guitar playing and his beautiful falsetto vocals! It was his first time getting the small-town Midwest experience. It was my pleasure to both meet him and hear him perform. I consider him a top candidate for future

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association events to come.

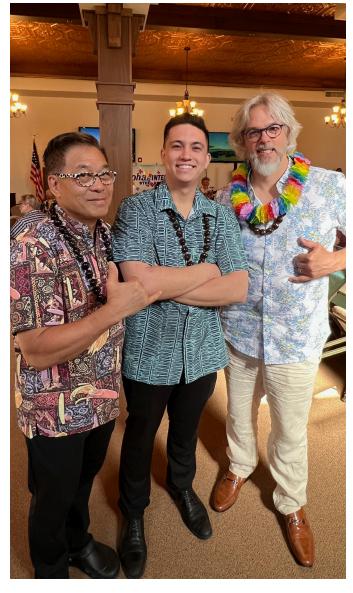
Alan Akaka was in attendance this year. Besides consistently playing through the weekend, he also led the crew nightly to the local ice cream stand after dinner. Of course it was great to touch base with him again!

I was happy to see a number of HSGA members in attendance, including Ivan Reddington, Vickie Van Fechtmann, and Mike Bonnice, to name a few. I also had the opportunity to make some new friends in our tight-knit community.

At the time of my writing, both Mark and Bill from AISGC are planning to attend our event in Cupertino. I look forward to hearing both of them perform and continuing to work with them to bring the greater steel guitar community closer together in the coming months and years!







### **HSGA New Members Issue 150**

**ALFREDO IGLESIAS, HONOLULU, HI** 

MARTIN SMITH, ROSAMOND, CA

MARK SEGELMAN, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

TED MEISTER, PETALUMA, CA

MIKE SCOTT, ORLANDO, FL

HENRY SAPOZNIK, OLIVEBRIDGE, NY

PETER LABARBA, LONG BEACH, CA

DAVID SHAMMA, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

LARRY NAGER, KALAHEO, HI

KAPONO LOPES, KAMUELA, HI

MICHAEL AND SUZANNE KIESE, COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA

RHONDA MUROTAKE, CULVER CITY, CA

RICH POWERS, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

JAMES OVEREND, SYMINGTON, BIGGAR, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE UK



Get your HSGA Member sticker at the '23 festival. (They're Free!)

#### The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association

# Treasurer's Report

#### 3RD QTR, 2022-2023

Beginning Balance (1/1/23)	\$ 32,785.22
General Fund	\$ 22,142.04
Scholarship Fund	\$ 9,363.81
Ending Balance (03/31/23)	\$ 31,505.85
Japan Account Ending Balance	\$ 1,244.48 (1)

#### **Expenses**

Printing	\$ 393.64
Postage	\$ 0 (2)
Web/Software/Subscriptions	\$ 261.96
Scholarships	\$ 1,100.00
2023 Festival Expense	\$ 1,730.00
State of Hawaii Filing/Annual Report	\$ 14.00
Total Expenses	\$ 3,499.60

#### Income

Dues	\$ 170.00
Donations (General)	\$ 1,500.00
Donations (Scholarship)	\$ 550.00
Donations (Virtual Festival)	\$ 0
Total Income	\$ 2,220.00

- (1) Japanese Yen = 164,538
- (2) Newsletter postage expense

#### 4TH QUARTER, 2022-2023

Beginning Balance (4/1/23)	\$31,505.85
General Fund	\$23,468.90
Scholarship Fund	\$8,539.03
Ending Balance (6/30/23)	\$32,007.93
Japan Account Ending Balance	\$1,185.00 (1)

#### **Expenses**

Printing	\$610.11
Postage	\$227.62
Scholarship	\$550.00
Software/Tech Subscriptions	\$359.77
2023 Festival Expense	\$756.46
Miscellaneous Expense	\$26.05
Total Expenses	\$2,634.47

#### Income

Dues	\$1,886.67
Donations (General Fund)	\$210.00
Donations (HIMELEScholarship)	\$275.00
2023 Festival Ticket Sales	\$660.00
Savings Interest	\$0.22
Total Income	\$3,031.89

(1) Japanese Yen = 164,361



#### **HSGA DONATIONS ISSUE 150**

Lynn Keene, Pewaukee, WI \$500 Bill Rosen, Seattle, WA \$100 Kalina Wong, Fremont, CA \$100 Beat Iseli, Winterthur, Switzerland Margo L. Klundt, Sherrard, IL John D. Marsden, Sheffield, England L. Bogue Sandberg, Chassell, MI David S. Wier, Okeechobee, FL



#### **OFFICERS**

Christo Ruppenthal (WI), President John Limbach (MT), Vice-President Roberto Alaniz (CA), Secretary-Treasurer

#### **DIRECTORS**

Mike Wittmer Daryl Brooke

Eric Rindal Thomas Hammerman

Shinichi Kakiuchi Phill Walker

#### FORMER DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Jerry Byrd

#### **JAPAN COORDINATORS**

Masahiko Ibamoto, Shinichi Kakiuchi

#### **MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

Daryl Brooke

#### **NEWSLETTER DESIGN**

Eric Rindal

#### **WEBMASTER**

Mike Wittmer webmaster@hsga.org

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR**

John Mumford

#### **ORIGINAL CLUB FOUNDER**

Lorene Ruymar (1985)

#### 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, 2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336-9555 USA; E-mail: hsga@hsga.org. In addition, email submitted items directly to the editor at Mike Wittmer webmaster@hsga.org. Letters to the president and general club comments should be sent to: Christo Ruppenthal at 552 Apollo Way, Madison, WI 53718 or emailed to christo@christoruppenthal.com.