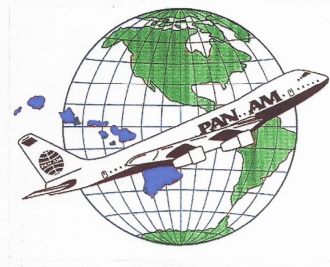


PAN AM ASSOCIATION



ALOHA CHAPTER



**Happiness is
An Association Meeting!**

HOORAY! WE HAVE A SCHEDULED MEETING!

Can you believe it? Finally, after 17 months, we can meet again! The setting is the beautiful Oahu Country Club. (Currently Waialae Country Club is not open to non-member groups.) The Oahu Country Club is centrally located and will be an easier drive for some of you.



The lunch will be served at the tables as buffets are not allowed under the current Covid-19 regulations. We will have 2 menu choices and you will need to include your choice on the reservation form. Simply check the box signifying your selection on the form which is on page 5. The two selections each come with Oahu Country Club's famous bread pudding for dessert and a beverage. (Iced tea, Plantation tea and coffee are the choices and will be offered as they were at WCC.) The meal choices are:

- Chicken Caesar Salad with avocado, Parmesan cheese and herb croutons, served with roll and butter and OCC Signature Bread Pudding Dessert.
- Reuben Sandwich with Braised Corned Beef, Swiss cheese and Sauerkraut, served with French Fries and OCC Signature Bread Pudding.

OCC requires a longer time span than the 8 days we were used to so please note the instructions on the reservation form about sending it in early. Social distancing and masks are required inside until you are seated at a table. The tables are round, making conversation easier. The Club normally seats 8 to a table. Our meeting will be in the Nuuanu Ballroom, as seen below left.



Mahalo Nui Loa!

We owe special thanks to Mae Takahashi and OCC member Amy Okamoto for setting this meeting up for us.

Thank You

Please do not call the Oahu Country Club if you are not pleased with the choices. If you have a dietary health problem, please contact Carol Suyderhoud, whose phone number and email address are at the top of page 6.

Parking on the main level near the pro shop and the main entrance of the club is reserved for OCC members. Drivers may drop PAA members and guests off at the entrance and proceed to the lower parking level behind and below the pro shop. Access back up to the entrance is available by a ramp or by stairs.

GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE MALEKO McDONNELL OF KITV

If you are a morning news person, you may be familiar with our guest speaker, Maleko McDonnell, pictured at right. He anchors "Good Morning Hawaii" from 4:30 to 7:00 AM.

Maleko grew up in Kailua and graduated from St. Louis School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications, Broadcast Journalism from Northwest Missouri State University.

He joined KITV's News team in 2016, after 20 years in radio at iHeart-Media. As a radio announcer on Star 101.9-FM, Maleko won the Honolulu Star Bulletin's People's Choice Award for Best Personality in 2006. In that same year, he was the first radio announcer to break into regular programming to provide non-stop coverage following an early morning earthquake resulting in an island-wide power outage. When Oahu's power grid failed again in 2008, he was on the air from the start providing radio coverage throughout.



In March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic forced the closure of all planned musical and theatrical events, Maleko spearheaded a campaign to bring televised concert performances to fans at home, creating "Living Room Live—#AlohaTogether", featuring local and international recording artists. The show was used as a benefit, raising money to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Hawaii's healthcare workers and first responders.

Maleko hosts a weekly podcast on the iHeartRadio network, in which he interviews local business leaders, experts and musicians. He appears regularly as the master of ceremonies for local events. He is the official announcer and voice of the Honolulu Marathon Association.

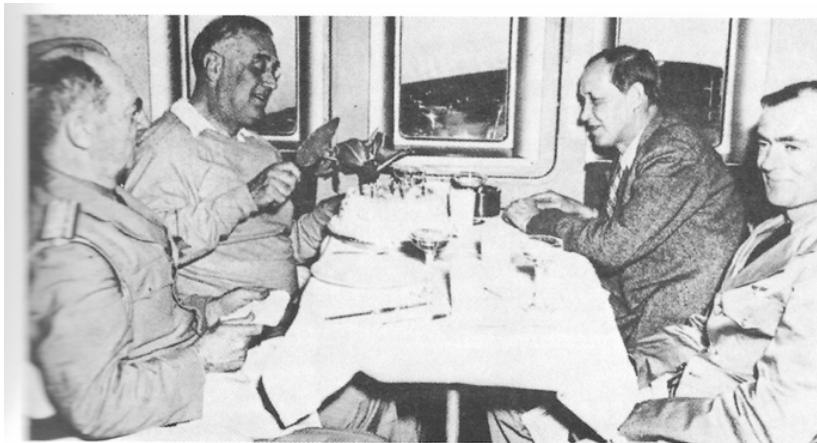
In addition to his work, Maleko enjoys community theatre. He has received multiple Po'okela Awards, appearing most recently in Manoa Valley Theatre's critically acclaimed production of "Shipment Day" and the Off-Broadway hit show "Tony n' Tina's Wedding."

You won't want to miss this meeting. Note that the reservation form asks you to send it, along with your check, to Carol by July 1st. Just like Waialae CC, Oahu CC requests advance notice so they can ensure they order the correct amount of food and are prepared to set up the room for us. If you forget and suddenly remember at the end of June, please call Carol. She may be able to help you.

PAN AM—THE FIRST AIR FORCE ONE

In the May issue, I referenced an article from the Baldwin/Kriendler book, *Pan American World Airways: Aviation History Through the Words of its Employees*. The article was on Pan Am's Protocol Department. I had written that "even President Roosevelt flew on Pan Am."

At the request of the United States Government, Pan American got involved with the Top Secret mission of getting President Roosevelt to a Top Secret conference in Casablanca with Winston Churchill. Stalin declined to attend, citing his need to support his army against the Germans. The French government-in-exile was represented by Charles De Gaulle and Henri Giraud though they

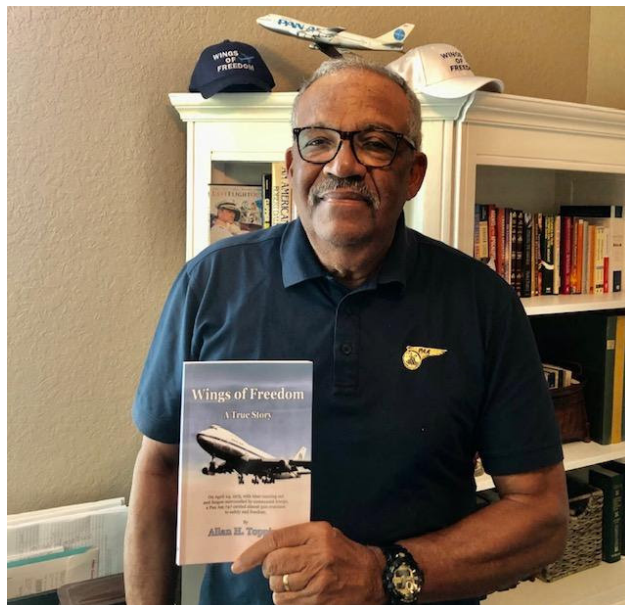


President Roosevelt was presented with a birthday cake on the B-314 bringing him home from the Casablanca Conference where he met British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in January 1943.

were not involved in the decision-making. The U.S. Government was worried about the German submarines that were plying the Atlantic Ocean and thought Pan Am could provide a safer trip for the president. The company sent two Clippers to Miami where the trip was to begin.

The first, the *Dixie Clipper*, was boarded by President Roosevelt and his staff, thereby becoming the first "Air Force One". Pan Am's chief steward, Al Tuinman, and steward Eddie Garcia were chosen to be the cabin crew. The second Clipper was for other dignitaries and the press. It became the first Press Charter. The late Valerie Lester interviewed the purser of the press charter, Phil Casprini, for her book *Fasten Your Seatbelts* which she published in 1995. Her interview with Casprini is an interesting account of the first President to fly while in the White House.

(Continued on page 4)



Allan "Al" Topping

Copies of Wings of Freedom are available on [Amazon](#) and at [Blue Water Press](#)
Price - \$18.95

Autographed copies are available for \$23.50 (includes shipping & handling).

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Because the war was ongoing, the route was south to Port of Spain in Trinidad, then across the Atlantic to The Gambia in the westernmost bulge of Africa. It wasn't until they arrived in Port of Spain that the cabin crew was told where they were going. When they arrived and landed in the mouth of the Gambia River, a warship was waiting there for them. The President and his fellow travelers were put on the ship and from there, they were flown to Casablanca.

Lester writes: *Phil Crispini watched in awe as the President was lifted by a crane from the Clipper, gently swung across the water and over the warship, where he was lowered slowly onto the deck to the cheers of the watching seamen. Phil comments: "He was perfectly safe, perfectly comfortable. It wasn't as though he was hanging from a helicopter."* [The conference lasted several days and time was heavy on the hands of the Clipper crews waiting for the return of their passengers but finally they arrived. Lester's story continues:]

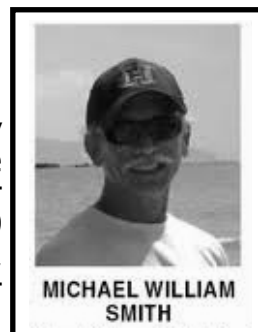
Phil recalls that the atmosphere on board the escort Clipper on the return flight was very relaxed and vacation-like; the atmosphere aboard the Dixie Clipper was heady, and to cap it off, Al and Eddie presented the President with a birthday cake, champagne, and caviar to celebrate his 61st birthday. . . . On arrival in Port of Spain, the President, his party, and the Pan Am crews dined together at the army base. "He shook hands and talked to all of us. He was very impressive," recalls Phil, "but he was already pretty deaf. If you spoke to him, he didn't know what you were saying." The following morning, the President boarded an army aircraft for the journey back to Washington, and the Pan American crews returned to New York in the two Clippers.

PAN AM PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Ed Gencarelli has decided to resign from the Aloha Chapter Board of Directors. He became a member of the association in 2009 and joined the board in 2013 serving as vice-president. Ed says he has gotten too busy with a number of projects to continue board duties. We appreciate your time of service, Ed. Thank you. . . . **Clare Takayama** also submitted her resignation to the BOD a short time later. Clare badly fractured her femur in a fall on New Year's Day in 2019. She has since had many surgeries. She is resigning because of health problems. Clare, thank you. You will be missed. . . . The fun of being your **Aloha Clipper editor** includes receiving many communications from members. In the event I did not answer your question or respond to you in recent months, please accept my apology. In looking back through messages for something I suddenly recall and want to check on, I pass other messages and wonder, "Did I ever respond?" I do appreciate the many notes of support as well. The good news is that I am going to take a break and maybe I will return with a better memory. Yes, you can giggle here. I know that is wishful thinking. But I do want you all to know that I will be traveling to Oregon to visit family for 3 weeks. During that time I probably will not even check my messages. I am looking forward to it and even have my covid test scheduled a few days before my July 1st return. Our out-of-state members may not be aware that Hawaii residents cannot return home at this time without having a covid test within 72 hours of departure from the mainland. This is in spite of having been vaccinated. Of course, this is true for all of you who want to visit Hawaii as well as returning residents. The regulation is expected to be in place until sometime after the 1st of July. . . . **Darlene and Lee Laster, Sumiko Carroll**, and I attended some of the planned services for **Kristin "Kiddy" DeCoster** on May 24th. The service was lovely and it is clear that Kiddy was a funny, "can-do" and capable lady by the many eulogies she received. The many retired submariners especially had wonderful stories to share. She was a member of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association among others. There was a large crowd at the Celebration of Life later in the afternoon.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .

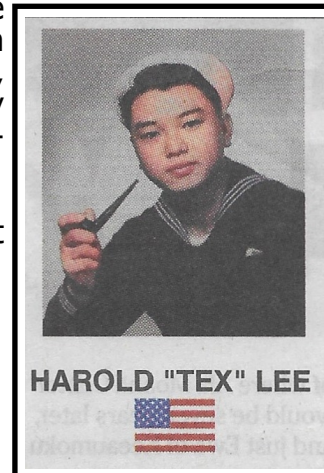
Michael William Smith, who worked as a mechanic for Pan Am, passed away on December 20, 2020, at his home in Kamuela. He was 76. He was a graduate of The Kamehameha School for Boys (1962). He was a lifelong softball player and a major highlight for him was when his team, Ho'o Ikaika, won the 2019 Huntsman World Senior Games. Michael is survived by his spouse of 57 years, Aulani; sons Mikela, Keoni (Michael Hogan), and Hauoli (Ray Lopez); daughter



Kilikina (Jason) Mazik; brother George Smith; sister Maxine (Patrick) Smith-Sullivan; and three grandsons.

Harold "Tex" Lee passed away on April 30, 2021, at the age of 88. He retired from Pan Am as a Duty Passenger Service Manager. Before Pan Am, he served in the US Coast Guard. Tex was predeceased by his wife, Bertie. He is survived by his daughter Michelle Lee Choe, son-in-law Tony Choe, sister Evelyn Lee, nieces, nephew, grand-nephew and loyal companions Kona and Malia.

Tex is remembered fondly by his friends in Passenger Services as a great member of the team.



Luncheon Meeting Reservation



Next Meeting—**July 21**, 2020
Oahu Country Club
150 Country Club RD.



11:00 Social hour, 11:30 Lunch

\$33.00 per person (Includes tip and parking)

Important: Carol must receive your check by July 1st..

Member Name _____ \$33.00

Guest Name _____ \$33.00

Total _____

Please check box for meal choice:

Reuben Sandwich
Includes French Fries and
OCC Signature Bread Pudding Dessert

Chicken Caesar Salad
Includes Roll and butter and
OCC Signature Bread Pudding Dessert

Make check payable to PAA and send to:
Carol Suyderhoud, 7503 Maka'a Street, Honolulu, HI 96825-3127

NOTE: If you received this newsletter electronically and would like to attend the meeting, print this page or enclose a note with your check, stating what and who the check is for.

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

Darlene Carver Laster	President & Chapter Chair	Darleelas@aol.com	394-8981
John Medlock	Treasurer/Membership	johnmiii@earthlink.net	347-7404
Marie Jahnsen	Secretary	marie.jahnsen@gmail.com	832-752-4982
Al Chun	Annual Gala Coordinator	alhwchun@gmail.com	395-0525
Mae Takahashi	Director/Gala Committee	takten@hawaii.rr.com	218-7773
Carol Weiss-Suyderhoud	Meetings Coordinator/ Speaker Chair/VP	carolws@hawaii.rr.com	396-5225
Diane VanderZanden	Editor, <i>Aloha Clipper</i>	alohadvz@gmail.com	200-4322
Harold Chow	Director	hkychow@juno.com	988-7817

(Note: area code for all phone numbers is **808** unless otherwise specified.)

Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 200-4322 or send mail to 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #26-D, Honolulu, HI 96825-1734 or by e-mail: alohadvz@gmail.com.

Members, we encourage you to print this page and give the application below to your Pan Am friends who are not members. If you are a former employee and not a member of the Aloha Chapter of the Pan Am Association, we encourage you to complete and submit the application below and help keep our association healthy. Thank you.

PAN AM ASSOCIATION—ALOHA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check all applicable boxes and complete all applicable lines.

- Renewal New Member
- Retiree—Pan Am retiree who received lump sum pension or is receiving PBGC checks.
- Associate—All other former Pan Am employees
- Ohana—Surviving spouse, child or relative of above; sponsored person with close connection to Pan Am (subject to BOD approval).

PRINT CLEARLY PLEASE

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street Apt # City State ZIP code

Home Phone: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, which is in color? Yes _____ No _____

Retiree/Associate: Dept: _____ **PAA Service:** _____ **Receiving Pension?** _____
of years worked Yes or No

Ohana: Pls. state category & PAA sponsor (See above): _____

- Annual Membership: \$ 30 US Residents \$ 35 Overseas residents
- Lifetime Membership: \$150 US Residents \$175 Overseas residents

Please make check payable to **PAA** (Pan Am Association) and send with this application to:

John Medlock, 411 Kaelepu Drive, APT F, Kailua, HI 96734-3309