



Newsletter 2020-3 From Hawaii



Warmest Aloha's to our dedicated group of newsletter-readers !

March 7th – Nancy could not stand it any longer (she was suffering from Fabric Purchasing withdrawal) so we had to visit her most favorite fabric store. Kimura's Fabrics is located in a sleepy little town about 20 miles south of Kona (west side of the Big Island) and has been in business since 1929. The building began as a hardware store and then morphed into a fabric store. They have an unbelievable selection of fabrics and most are Hawaiian style prints. To appease me, she made me select some fabric that she will turn into a shirt for me. Across the street from Kimura's is a thrift store operated by the Daughter's Of The King. We visited the store and Nancy made a few purchases. If Kimura's and the thrift store weren't enough, there is also a terrific Japanese restaurant in the same town. We noticed something very special on their menu. There was an item listed as Tempura French Fries. We just had to try them out! This tasty item is crinkle-cut potatoes dipped in a tempura batter. Yummmmm. To round out the day, we went to a ukulele festival at the King's Shops at the Waikoloa Beach Resort. It was a fabulous event and we heard three musical groups play fantastic music. The event is held outdoors and is free.

Landy wants to keep reasonably busy while in Hawaii. Sometimes he refers to it as a “working vacation”. Well, maybe he got more than he wished for. St. James Episcopal Church (Waimea) has a fairly large campus and many, many “handyman projects”. St. James has a paid Sexton (Google this word if it is unfamiliar to you) but he is overloaded with work. He can use all the help that he can get. Landy has spent many hours doing some re-finish work on some of the church woodwork and doing painting at their remodeled Thrift Store. Most of the woodwork in the church is made from Koa wood. Good thing that he brought his work clothes with him. They also have a rare piano that is made from Koa.

The composition of the newsletter and the e-mailing of this and the photo album occupy a certain amount of time. We try not to let this conflict with doing touristy things. I was using Thunderbird for the e-mailing. This program was giving me some trouble, so I had to download another one (Mail bird). Hopefully, this will make for a smoother way of getting information out to you all.

On Friday we had the pleasure of hosting dinner for a boyhood friend from my hometown of Bluefield, WV. For us die-hard mountaineers, that would be “West, by God Virginia”. His name is Mike and he has lived on Oahu island (think Honolulu) for over 25 years. I have not seen him since the late 1960's. We had a lot of “catching up” to do.

Sunday, March 15 – As usual, we attended church services at St. Columbia's (Pa`auilo). Two important things happened on this day. First, we sang a hymn by Hank Williams (Senior). The tune, “I Saw The Light”. Second, the Rector announced that today would be the last church service for at least two weeks (thank you, Corona virus). This edict was from the Bishop of Hawaii. This began a string of other cancellations. One of the biggies was the cancellation of the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival in Hilo. This was **HUGE** deal. This event, to the Hawaiians, is like the World Series (baseball), Super Bowl (football), Stanley Cup (hockey), Fourth of July all rolled into one. Who knows what economic and cultural effects this cancellation will have. As the days and weeks go by, there will be more cancellations and restrictions. We are experiencing many of the same things that you mainlanders are, but to a lesser degree. So far, we have a few confirmed cases on some of the other islands, but not here on the Big Island. Please stay safe and disinfect, disinfect, disinfect.

March 20 – This was the day that we hopped in our car and headed for the Puna district. This area is in the southeastern part of the island. The area is also known as the “Wild West of The Big Island”. It is sparsely populated and is the area that received the devastating lava flow in 2018. In 2016, We

stayed in an area adjacent to the Kopoho tide pools. It was a very special place. Unfortunately, the lava flow wiped out many of the homes in the area and filled in the tide pools. What a shame! There are not any through roads and there are many detours. As bad as the destruction was, the lava flow formed a new (about ½ mile long) black sand beach.

The Coronavirus has really changed most of our lifestyles. With “sheltering-in-place” (I hate this expression), social distancing, take-out food, etc. we have had to make changes to a lot of our plans. However, we feel that we are in a safer place than some other places in the world. Our accommodations are terrific and in some ways we are living in a Garden of Eden (less the snake and the fig leaves). We have tangerines, avocados, lemons, limes & bananas right here on the property. We are stocking up on Vitamin C from all this citrus. A new renter moved in to the apartment in the front of our building. Just so happens that she is a pastry chef. She gave us a box of goods from her work. Included were a delicious chocolate muffin, some assorted muffins, a croissant, etc. Lucky us!

On Wednesday evening, we watched the streaming version of the study course that we had been attending (Faith Confirmed). Landy is also video conferencing with a men's study group from St. James. Only problem is that the event happens at 7:30 **am** ! It is OK since I don't have to dress up and can sit in front of my laptop and drink coffee. Landy has become obsessed with installing the video chatting software called Zoom. The main reason that he has spent a gazillion hours doing this is so that we can video chat with our daughters. We do not own a smart phone, so all of this is being done via laptop. Anyway, it keeps him busy and he can really practice social-distancing. Nancy has several sewing projects going at this time. However, she has not “become friends” with her borrowed sewing machine. I try to close my ears to expletives coming from her work room. Toilet paper and hand sanitize are still fairly non-existent in our local stores. I guess we just need to find out when the delivery trucks arrive and camp out in front of the stores so we can get in before they are sold out.

We hope that our friends and readers are hunkered down and adhering to all of the precautionary health protocols. Stay safe, stay calm, and consume just the right amount of adult beverages.

Nancy & Landy