

Shared Vision

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Volume 13 Issue 1

President's Message



Filo Tu

Greetings to all of you! I wrote this message during the holidays, so I would like to say happy holidays! I know that my last message to you was very harsh, but it is time to be nice for the holidays. You know, Blind Vendors Ohana has so many things to be thankful for. We have our jobs, and most of all, family and health. God has been very good to Blind Vendors Ohana.

Our new store is doing very well. People come to me and tell me how nice it is. I like to congratulate Garret for a great job. I have to say

he really worked hard for this store.

Well, another year is here, accept this one is very special because four months from now, we will be celebrating our tenth year anniversary. Let me share something with all of you. In the beginning, the State wanted to hire a big company to run Blind Vendors Ohana because they thought it was too big for blind people to run. Well, we are doing just fine. Even though we are blind and may not see, we still have our minds. We run our business like any good business person would! They hired good people!

I know our anniversary is still four months from now, but I'm just getting so excited about it, and I hope you are too! Again, I wish you and yours a very, very happy holiday!



Operations Manager's Message



Garret Suzuki

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
I wish for all of you, much happiness, good health and success in 2004.

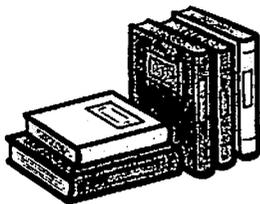
2003 was an exciting and fruitful year for Ohana because of your help, support, and hard work. Let's all continue to pull together to make 2004 a record setting year for Ohana.

In the last issue of Shared Vision, our newsletter, I spoke to you about the importance of good customer relations in our business. Treating our

customers in the best possible way will leave a positive impression on all who enter our shops. This positive atmosphere will encourage people to come into Ohana's stores and purchase our products.

Another aspect of good customer relations is **HONESTY**. Honesty is being truthful and trustworthy. It also means treating people with respect. It does not mean cheating anyone or taking things that do not belong to you. Remember, **OHANA** means "family". So let's all work together as a family, respecting each other and our customers, so Ohana will continue to be a successful enterprise. Remember, if Ohana is successful, you too will be truly rewarded.

Bookstore Opens



On Friday, August 29, 2003, Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. held its grand opening for its newest newsstand store (Bookstore) at the Honolulu International Airport. Filo Tu named this store the Bookstore because

his main focus was to provide travelers a larger variety of reading materials of newspapers, magazines, and books. In fact, the Bookstore holds the most reading materials compared to the other newsstand stores, which Ohana operates.

Reverend Kaleo Patterson did the honor of blessing the Bookstore. The owners, managers, office staff, sales associates, friends, and other occupants of the airport were in attendance for this very special occasion. Refreshments were served after the blessing at Ohana's administrative office.

One of the key people that helped made the Bookstore a huge success is Ohana's Operations Manager, Garret Suzuki. With Filo's leadership and guidance, Garret worked closely with various people such as architects, contractors, state property managers, and others in planning, coordinating, and executing the innovative and breath-taking bookstore.

The Bookstore is located at the International Terminal across from security checkpoint 4 by Gate 13. From the outside of the Bookstore looking in through the gleaming glass windows,

you can see how the products are well arranged and organized and how attractive the fixtures are. The Bookstore has a huge display of magazines, polished wooden shelves filled with paper back, hard cover, and tourist print books, and glass fixtures filled with candies, snacks, sundries, cigarettes and Hawaiian souvenir items. In addition, the Bookstore is equipped with contemporary ceramic flooring, and fluorescent lighting.

All of you may be wondering, "How did Ohana get the Bookstore?" It was a couple of years ago when the State was in the planning process to renovate and improve the Honolulu International Airport. Filo felt that Ohana was treated unfairly because Ohana was not included in this project. From that point on, he attended numerous meetings with state officials to propose and fight for a location for Ohana. It was a long process and there were many obstacles in the way, but that did not stop Filo. With Filo's drive to succeed, ability to overcome barriers, hard work, confidence, determination, and support from the managers, Julia, and Maricen he was able to get the Bookstore. Congratulations to Filo Tu

for his positive outlook, continued effort, and for a job well done!

2003 Christmas Party



On Friday, December 12, 2003, Ohana hosted its 9th annual employee Christmas party. This celebration was held at the Honolulu Airport Hotel and approximately 100 people were in attendance.

The entire evening was filled with the Christmas spirit. The buffet table was laden with delicious food – salads, starches, entrees, and desserts. The company was warm and amiable, the center pieces and favors were attractive and the program was most entertaining. **Betty Kumata** was the M.C. for the evening, and she did an excellent job. She was very pleasant and made everyone feel relaxed and comfortable.

The program consisted of a karaoke singing contest and the awarding of perfect attendance prizes. The contestants for the karaoke contest did very well in their renditions of their selections. Everyone was a winner.

However, the top three winners were:



1st Place of \$100 –
Erlinda Betonio

2nd Place of \$75 –
J.R. Villaruz

3rd Place of \$50 –
Alfrey Pacada

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of door prizes. The first grand door prize (a 25” color TV) was won by Sonia Haynes. The other grand prize (trip for two to Las Vegas), was won by Virginia Ibay.

Our sincerest thanks go to **Maricen Olipares** for planning and executing a most enjoyable Christmas party.

Attendance Recognition Policy

Congratulations!

Once again, the goal of the Attendance Recognition Policy is to reward and recognize employees who have perfect attendance. We would like to encourage more employees to be recognized

with this policy (no sick leave, or unpaid leave of absence). We are extending this program for another 6-month period from December 2003 to May 2004.

During our Christmas party these individuals had the opportunity for special prizes. The lucky winners were:

20” Color TV – Ruth Jamile

Stereo System –
Bonifacio Villaruz, Sr.

\$40 Bravo Gift Certificate –
Stanley Mundon

We would also like to recognize all Attendance Recognition Recipients:

Employees recognized were: Lily Delos Santos, Linda Fuchigami, Gena Gamayo, Harold Nitta, Brenda Bart, Karen Galeon, Virginia Ibay, Stanley Mundon, Bonifacio Villaruz, Sr., Leonor Yonemura, Ruth Jamile, Margaret Nagai, Randall Okimoto, Eida Pascion, Calmond Tang

**KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK!!!!!!**



Pa'ahana Award Winners



Our first Pa'ahana Award winner is Leonor Yonemura. This young lady is a very warm, personable, conscientious and responsible person who is employed at Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. in two capacities. Three days a week she works in the cash room and the remaining two days she is a Sales Associate (She is a good example of what a Sales Associate should be. She smiles a lot, is always pleasant, and serves the customer very graciously).

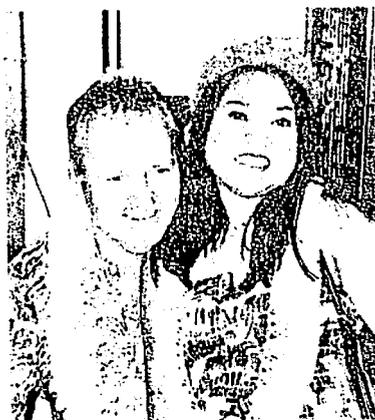
Leonor loves to sing. She has a portable karaoke machine which she uses quite often at home, singing her favorite songs.

Leonor is quite a talented person. She is very artistic and creates beautiful money leis. She is also an outstanding cook. She not only prepares authentic Filipino dishes, but she does an excellent job of

improvising and creates most delicious cuisine. Her lasagna is out of this world and her lumpia and pancit are most scrumptious. These are just a few of the dishes Leonor is known for.

Our second Pa'ahana Award winner is Elena (Lynn) Pearce. This is Lynn's second Pa'ahana award. She is a Sales Associate at the Inter Island Terminal. Lynn is a gracious, friendly and dependable employee.

On Friday, August 1, 2003, Lynn married Richard Pearce. Her wedding ceremony took place at Magic Island. She chose this location because of the beautiful ocean setting. Leonor Yonemura and another friend were witnesses.



The newlyweds' reception was held at their apartment. The happy couple served Filipino and various local food which blended into

a beautiful banquet. The company was terrific and the food was most delicious. Part of the entertainment involved people enjoying karaoke singing. Many employees from Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. and other personal friends were in attendance to help make this a momentous occasion.

Gena Gamayo is our third Pa'ahana Award winner. This warm, friendly, and cordial young lady is a Sales Associate at the Honolulu International Terminal.



Gena is married and a mother of a 10 year old son. She is a family oriented person and thus, spends majority of her time with her son and husband. She tries to visit her family in the Philippines as often as possible.

When time permits, Gena enjoys shopping, especially for purses and jewelry. She loves to watch

TV, Filipino shows in particular. Another favorite activity for Gena is eating and her favorite dishes are shrimp kabob and grilled fish.

Maria Jones is our fourth Pa'ahana Award winner. She is a Sales Associate at the International Terminal. Maria is a very friendly and conscientious person. If she is not waiting on customers, she is busy cleaning the shop and does whatever necessary to be certain that the shop is inviting and attractive. Maria has an excellent command of the Japanese language and thus, is able to communicate with our customers from Japan.

Maria is a mother of a 14 year old boy. She is a devoted mother and spends as much time as possible with her son. Maria tries to be at every basketball game he is playing in. Maria says, "My son is my inspiration."



Maria has a beautiful voice and entertained in Japan a few years ago. She loves to sing, in particular, the oldies and the songs Whitney Houston sings.

CONGRATS LANCE!



Congratulations go out to **Lance Choe** upon graduating from Kapiolani Community College with a degree in Technical Science with a major in Media Arts. He received his diploma in December of 2003.

Lance is in the midst of compiling his portfolio and upon completing this task, he intends to apply for a job creating special effects and creating character designs for video and movies. His ultimate goal is to be able to design SUV's.

Lance is employed at Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. in the warehouse.



Newly Weds



Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. sends its congratulations to **Corey and Linda Ma'ae** who were married on Saturday, September 13, 2003 (Linda is the daughter of Sa and Victor Ortiz). The ceremony was held at the beautiful Moanalua Park, which was a perfect setting for such a special occasion. The ceremony was a blend of American and Samoan customs. Corey said, "It was beautiful and deeply emotional."

The reception was held at the Okinawa Center in Waipio. Again, the celebration followed both American and Samoan traditions. The buffet table was laden with most delicious food. The program was very interesting and entertaining. Filo Tu, President and CEO of Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. was the Master of Ceremonies. This occasion was certainly a most

enjoyable and momentous one for the bride and groom.

Babies are Special



Congratulations to **Monico and Edna Orina** upon the birth of their third child. The arrival of a son was a thrill for both parents because they already are blessed with two beautiful girls ages 6 and 2 years. Little Ellis Quinibin arrived a little ahead of schedule. He was born on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, at 8:03 a.m. He weighed in at 4 lbs 8 oz. and 18.6 inches in length. Proud mom says, "He is a beautiful baby."

Edna is a Sales Associate at the Honolulu International Terminal.

Jackloid Jr., second son of **Jack and Rowena Carino** arrived on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, at 10:22 p.m. At birth, Jack Jr. weighed 7.9 lbs. and was 19.75 inches in length. Rowena is a Sales Associates

at the Honolulu International Terminal. Rowena's first child is 5 years old Troy. Proud mom says Jack Jr. has lots of hair and is so cute. Congratulations, Jack Sr. and Rowena!



On November 21, 2003, at 9:26 p.m. **Corey and Linda Ma'ae** were blessed with the arrival of their son Thia Victorino. He weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 oz. and he was 19 inches in length. Proud parents also have a 2 year old son, Mikey. Corey is a warehouse employee at Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. Congratulations Corey and Linda!



On Thursday, January 22, 2004, Lindsey Naoko Fuchigami was born at Kapiolani Children's Medical Center. **Paul and Linda Fuchigami** are Lindsey's proud parents. Lindsey weighed 6 lbs and 8 ozs, and was 19 1/2 inches in length. Lindsey looks exactly like her big brother Paul Boy.



Paul is employed at Ohana in the warehouse and also Filo Tu's driver. Linda is a Sales Associate at Ohana.

Congratulations Paul and Linda!

Congratulations, **Cecilia Rescue**, on the birth of your second grandchild. On Tuesday, January 20, 2004, Cecilia's daughter, Dania, was blessed with the birth of her daughter, Tareava Shine Acery (Tareava Shine Acery means beautiful face in India). She weighed 6 lbs and 8 ozs and was 20 inches in length. Cecilia said she can't wait until she can clock

out and go home to be with little Tareava Shine Acery. Cecilia is a supervisor at Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.

U.S. Citizen



Wednesday, November 19, 2003, was a momentous day for **Bonifacio Villaruz, Sr.** On this day, Bonifacio took the oath of allegiance and became a citizen of the United States of America. This proud man said, "I am very happy to be a citizen of this great country."

Bonifacio arrived in Hawaii on June 9, 1990. He began his employment with Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. in 1994. He is married and the father of five daughters and one son. He is also a grandfather of eleven.

Bonifacio said he is very happy to be working for Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.

Congratulations Bonifacio!

HR Manager's Message



Jim Kahue

Jim Kahue

As we ended the year 2003, I thought about some of the positive things that we might overlook or get overshadowed by the sad and bad things that happen in our world and brings us down at home or work.

The following are some of the things that I thought we can and should be thankful and happy for:

Getting a paycheck to pay our bills and have some funWe should be thankful that we have jobs.

Having enough food for ourselves and our family to eat everyday and on holidaysWe should be thankful that we are not starving.

Not having to go to the hospital or a major medical billWe should be

thankful for having good health and/or a good health plan.

Having someone to spend life and time withWe should be thankful for having a spouse, family and friends (or a pet).

Not having to be afraid of bombs and bullets everydayWe should be thankful that we live in a place, free from war and daily attempts on our security.

Having the ability to hear, or see or feelWe should be thankful that we can enjoy the many beautiful things in Life and the world.

If we are able to think, do or say what we wantWe should be thankful that we live in a country that allows us the freedom of speech and making choices.

If we are able to visit friends or family or tour other placesWe should be thankful we have the money and time to travel to places where we want to go.

Working or socializing with people who make you feel goodWe should be happy to have work and off-work friends.

What are some of the things you feel thankful for? Perhaps you can think about it and write some of them down, so when you feel down or sad you can refer to your list to get you up again.

A Look at "OHANA"

