

Narimasu People Update

Name Ellen Arakawa (ladies maiden name) Sayama

I lived in Japan From 1962 to 1965

Member of the Class of 1965

In Japan I Lived At : Tokiwadai before moving into Grant Heights (my parents wanted us to learn about the Japanese culture but the lack of adequate central heating nixed that effort)

Best Memory of Japan Seeing Mt. Fuji rise majestically on the horizon, framed by cherry blossom trees in the spring. Visiting my ancestral home villages during summer vacation and meeting relatives for the first time – unfortunately, I wasn't fluent in Japanese. NHS didn't offer Japanese, so I took French!

Senior Ski Trip – I was in charge of the trip and arranged to stay in a central heated ryokan. Unfortunately, the central heating was a hibachi in the middle of the room. Talk about losing something in translation. It was interesting explaining to the innkeepers that the boys and girls couldn't sleep in the same room! Then there were the community ofuros (Japanese baths) – luckily there were separate men and women baths!

The DSD sorority – pledging, banquets, fun “sisters”

Teacher I Remember Best

John Kessel, my junior English teacher, who really taught us how to think and write! We had weekly journal entries due on Monday that were returned on Wednesday and marked with red with two grades – one for grammar, etc, and the other for creativity.

Dave Taylor, my Chemistry and Physics teacher and Sr. class advisor who was a true friend to many. Karen Lipsey and I delivered his wedding cake from the Sanno Hotel – our class gift. It was one of those kamikaze cab rides which made keeping the cake in one piece even more challenging.

Margaret Brown, my Sr. English teacher and Sensu advisor. She was ahead of her time – suggested that we choose the Women of Japan as our yearbook theme – as Editor, I wanted Children of Japan. Luckily, she prevailed, and I was able to meet and interview some remarkable women in Japan – the wife of the US Ambassador, the only woman (at that time) on the Foreign Affairs Committee of Japan's House of Councillors

Best Friend(s) in Japan Lynnette Nishioka, Helena Hu, Cindy Bohn, Vicki Stapp,

I Graduated from Narimasu High School 1965

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What Have I done Since Japan (continue on back) Graduated from Lewis and Clark College in '69 with fellow classmate Pat Cavaco. MSW from the U of Hawaii in '71. Married Myron Arakawa. Had two daughters, Shelley and Lauren . Now have two sons-in-law, Jarrid Whitney and Brian Higa and two granddaughters, Jessie Higa and Kalia Whitney. Worked as school social worker, psychiatric social worker, legislative analyst, budget analyst. Retired in 2004. Luckily, I now have the time to reconnect with old classmates as I sometimes accompany my husband on his college visits. He is the Director of college counseling at Punahou School (President Obama's school).