

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

April 1995

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Women's Forum

NOTE NEW DATE AND TIME!

Date: **Thursday, April 27, 1995**
Time: **4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**
Place: **Plaza Club**
Speaker: **Sandra E. Ritz, RN, NP, MSN, MPH**
Topic: **"Lighten Up Seriously!"**

The Women's Forum for April will feature Sandy Ritz, a legal nurse consultant, whose presentation *Lighten Up Seriously!* has been given to nurses, doctors, teachers, businesspeople, hospital personnel and disaster survivors, and at conferences in Hawaii and on the mainland. This address should be of special interest to women attorneys who need techniques for dealing with the stress of work and home. Through her unique manner of *edu-tainment*, Sandy shares humor skills and strategies to find the absurdity in adversity so that when we seriously need it, we can "lighten up seriously."

Sandy has been the owner of MedicoLegal Research Services for the past ten years. A nurse practitioner and a clinical nurse specialist, she is presently pursuing a doctorate in public health (Dr.PH) at the University of Hawaii with a research focus on Survivor Humor in disasters. Sandy is an actress in community theater and has been seen on Hawaii stages in *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Noises Off*, *Equus*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, and *Amadeus*.

Sandy takes her own advice, drawing cartoons that have been featured in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, the Garden Isle Newspaper, the Price of Paradise II, and several national journals.

Cost: \$15 includes the program and pupus. RSVP ASAP to Mary Houghton at 395-9743 or 948-1402.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center Fundraiser!

Once again, the East Honolulu Association of Life Underwriters is sponsoring the annual Sex Abuse Treatment Center Charity Golf Tournament on April 27, 1995, at the Klipper Klub at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. Spaces are still available! Come brush up on your game and enjoy the dinner and silent auction afterward. SATC, like so many human service organizations, has suffered budget cutbacks and needs your support to keep providing its unique and necessary services.

Call 973-8337 for more information.

Chop Sui Generis

Congratulations on More New Babies!

Penny Brown and Steve Noufer of the Maui firm of Noufer & Brown welcomed nine-pound Ryan Kainoa to the world on March 28, 1995. Ryan joins older siblings, 2 year old Nicholas and 5 year old Dawn.

Former HWL Board Member **Robin Wurtzel and Carl Varady** are the proud parents of Ezra Alexander, born January 20, 1995 and weighing in at 7 pounds, 9 oz. Robin is an attorney with Na Loio No Na Kanaka and Carl has his own practice.

Movers and Shakers

Hazel Beh, formerly of the Honolulu Corporation Counsel's office, was named Acting Associate Dean of the U.H. William S. Richardson School of Law.

Deputy Public Defender **Jill Nunokawa** has become the first woman elected president of the State Association of Hawaii Basketball Officials. SAHBO is a 65-member, 25 year-old organization which handles Interscholastic League of Honolulu and recreation league games. Jill began refereeing intramural basketball 10 years ago when she played for the UH women's basketball team. One of Jill's first actions as President was to assign three — instead of two — officials for the ILH girls' playoffs.

determined to find a way for me to go to college. Just think of this, of how special this gentleman was. Except for my progress in school, we hardly knew one another. Yet, he took it upon himself to help me and within a period of a month he called me in and asked me whether I'd be willing to go to a Lutheran college. My family was not Lutheran. On the contrary, we were a very, very orthodox Jewish family. He said that if I was willing to go to this college he could get me a scholarship for one year. I said, "That will be fine." Then he said that after the first year I would have to make it financially on my own. So I said, "I'll try to find a way." He said...there's still something else. You have to study Christianity for four years. Are you willing to do that? I thought about it for a moment and then said I would. I felt that would be a rare opportunity for me to learn something about another religion that I was not schooled in. And so, I did go to Upsala College. It was a Lutheran college and I enjoyed the religious training I got. After my first year of college all of my funds had run out so I worked full-time in the summer as a legal secretary and I had a part-time job in the evening which I kept. I worked during the day and at night and I saved up enough to be able to pay my way for my second year. Then, in my third and fourth years people where I worked part-time, who came to know me, me get scholarships for my third and fourth years. I also continued to work at that part-time job from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. While at Upsala I trained to be a teacher. I've always loved dealing with children. When I learned that I was Valedictorian of my college class at graduation time, I shared this with my late husband Charles whom I later married. He suggested that I become a doctor or lawyer. Becoming a doctor was out of the question because I didn't have the science courses. Even becoming a lawyer was almost out of the question because I had absolutely no funds. However, with his counsel we found out the names of the five top law schools in the nation and sent them all a letter about my background. I was told at that time that Harvard didn't accept women. And then the University of Chicago accepted me with scholarship. So that's how I happened to get an excellent legal education in one of the five top law schools in the nation.

MAGALI: *I was curious. When you graduated did you work as a lawyer back East?*

NAOMI: Yes, but I practiced in Illinois first. After getting my J.D. from the University of Chicago, everyone in school was taking the bar and so I went ahead and I took the bar, too. Thereafter, I became attached to a law firm that was engaged primarily in criminal law. This was not exactly my cup of tea and both Charles and I made a decision that we really didn't want to put down stakes in Chicago, Illinois and we decided to go to New York.

MAGALI: *Did Charles have ties to New York?*

NAOMI: Yes, we both had family ties in the East.

MAGALI: *How did you pick New York?*

NAOMI: Well, we wanted a metropolis and I wanted to practice in a place where I could gain really good experience. So I took the New York Bar, the second bar. And in the meantime I had my daughter, Lori and after she was a little over three, I began to work on a fairly regular basis. I remember I was on a television show called "The Verdict is Yours." And then...

MAGALI: *What did you do on the show?*

NAOMI: I was an attorney. That was the only time I was ever on a dramatized show.

MAGALI: *As an Actress?*

NAOMI: Yes, as an actress. Then I opened up a tiny little office on Fifth Avenue between 41st and 42nd Street. I began to do a little bit of most anything that came up, primarily civil law. I also taught law at Fairleigh Dickenson University and between the two of those I was making a living. We lived in New Jersey where we had a lovely little home. Charles taught high school and became involved in youth activities. The Mayor appointed him as chairman of his youth committee. In this connection he often attended conferences. On one occasion he attended a youth conference in Washington, D.C. and quite coincidentally encountered Senator Daniel Inouye with whom he had lunch. I don't know exactly what the conversation was, but he did tell Charles that Hawaii was the best place in the world to bring up a family. And so when Charles came home from Washington, D.C. practically the second thing he said when he walked into the house was, "How would you like to be on perennal vacation for the rest of your life?" Whereupon I knew something was up! I said, "Just what do you mean by that?" He said, "Well how would you like to go to Hawaii?" I exclaimed, "Hawaii!" "No!" First of all, I didn't want to leave New Jersey because it would have meant leaving my mother who was not well, and then again it meant taking another bar exam and I just did not want to take another exam. And so when I mentioned it to Charles he said, "Oh, they probably have reciprocal rights, don't worry about it." Well, of course, they didn't and the Hawaii Bar exam turned out to be the most difficult bar

of any bar exam I had ever taken. It was five days long and it was extremely difficult. I was on the Board of the Harris United Methodist Church at the time and Ted Tukiya, who was also on the Board, was one of the Board of Bar Examiners. We became friends and I shared with him what I had heard about how few people were able to pass the exam. He assured me I would do all right. This put my mind at ease but once I began taking the exam I never thought I'd get to the end of it. But I did. I think there were about 45 people who took that bar exam.

To be continued in the next newsletter.

HWL MEMBERSHIP

HWL invites you to become a member, or to renew your membership dues, if you have not already done so. Please send the following form and your check to: HWL, P. O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Dues are as follows:

- Regular members \$40 Out-of-state members \$20 Student members \$10
- New admittees (within 1 year of Hawaii admission) \$20
- HWL President's Circle: \$100 \$500 \$1,000

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Please indicate if you are interested in information about serving on the HWL Board or Committees or note any topics or projects in which you would be interested in assisting.

If you have any announcements you wish to submit for the monthly newsletter, please call Susan Jaworowski at 625-1386 (afternoons), or send a copy to HWL by the end of the month.

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