



## The Magic of Didi Alama

Didi Alama has been a precious friend not only to the Class of '69, but to her friends outside of our class, her family and to the Hawai'i community. Whenever anyone needs help, Didi never asks about the difficulty of the task. She jumps right in. In school, she was always there to make things work for us. She took on hard jobs, sometimes alone and not expecting any thanks or recognition. This seems to be her philosophy of life. Wherever she is needed, that's where you will find her. Didi has helped with charitable events with organizations such as the Kaimuki Business and Professional Association.

She is also a supporter of the Royal Hawaiian Band and has been a tremendous help with planning many of our class reunions. Sometimes Didi helps behind the scenes, as a quiet, mild-mannered individual. However, once in a while, she will don her alter ego and performs onstage as "Didi the Magician"! Yes, among her secret talents is MAGIC! As part of her solo act, she makes fun balloon animals.

After high school, Didi began working at Liberty Bank. (Only people of our vintage could remember Liberty Bank.) She then worked for First Interstate Bank, and she now works for Central Pacific Bank. You can find her at the University branch. Drop by and say hi! Don't wait too long because she is planning to retire in 3 years. Didi currently lives in our wonderful hometown neighborhood of Kapahulu.

An example of Didi's caring and sensitive nature can be seen in an omiyage that she gave to her grandmother. In 1984, Didi visited the Vatican City. While waiting in the rain for the Pope's appearance, she bought a rosary and holy water for her grandmother. The moment the Pope showed up, the clouds receded and the rain stopped! Like magic! Chicken skin! The Pope blessed Didi and the gifts for her grandmother. Didi says it was a spiritual moment. The gifts meant a lot to Didi's grandmother, not only because the Pope had blessed them under such auspicious circumstances but also because they were given with aloha by her granddaughter. A few years later, when Didi's grandmother passed away, she was buried with that rosary. Didi took comfort with the knowledge that her gift and story brought a measure of joy and enchantment into her grandmother's life.

Did you know that Didi loves hula? Hula is a huge part of her heritage. Her aunts, Leilani and Puanani Alama, were the longest-lived practicing hula instructors in Hawai'i. On Sunday, August 3, 2014, Didi and our classmates, Marsha Yonemori and Carolyn Okubo Tokunaga will perform at the Waikiki Bandstand in Hawai'i's longest-running, free hula performance which was created and supported by Didi's aunts! Save that date and support Didi, Marsha and Carolyn!

Didi enjoys traveling and looks forward to doing more when she retires. She has been to Canada, Asia and Europe. She is a cruise veteran and has taken cruises to Catalina Island, Mexico, the Inside Passage to Alaska and a Disney cruise in the Caribbean.

One thing that most people don't know about Didi is that she is an avid Toyota fan. Let's go places! Didi's first car was a Corolla that she purchased in 1976, which she refused to give up for 15 years. She then bought a Tercel, which she kept for 20 years! She now has another Corolla and she has bewitched it to last forever. She is determined to drive this car until she can't drive anymore, which she expects to be over 20 years from now.

Didi has many happy memories of high school pep rallies and football games. Her very fondest memories are of the cheering and competition between the classes. She felt that we had the best school spirit and the best pep squad of any school. And she especially loved sharing those wonderful, magical, exciting moments with all of us. Didi looks forward to seeing everyone at the next reunion. We're sure she will bring some magic with her.