

At the Helm for Thirty Years

By Barbara Del Piano

She's everywhere! She's everywhere! With camera in one hand and notebook in the other, you'll see her at nearly every Outrigger sports or social event, attending more than one committee meeting each month, meeting with members or staff for interviews or business, or occasionally, just enjoying the Club with her family. If you haven't guessed, we're talking about Marilyn Kali, celebrating 30 years as editor of the *Outrigger* magazine.

Marilyn was born and raised in Pasadena, California, where early-on she developed an intense love for water sports including swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, and water skiing. As a child, she spent summers at Huntington Beach where she learned to surf.

At the age of just 15, she began working part-time writing columns for the *Pasadena Independent* and *Star News* newspapers. After graduation, she worked for the papers full time while attending college, spending half her time writing articles for the sports department and half on the city desk. Somehow, she managed to squeeze in classes.

In the early 1960s she wrote a weekly surfing column for the papers which was syndicated all over Southern California. It was during this time that she met Baby Dave Rochlen who was a Los Angeles County life guard and provided Marilyn with surfing information about Malibu and the South Bay Beaches. What a surprise to reconnect with him years later at the Outrigger!

In 1966, Marilyn and her sister came for a surfing vacation to Hawaii where she met her husband Danny. After marrying in 1967, she moved to Hawaii; they have been happily married for 48 years and have two accomplished grown children, Kehau and Keone.

Marilyn's first job in Hawaii was as food editor for the *Honolulu Advertiser*. With her second child on the way, she gave up the position and it wasn't until her children started school that she returned to work, this time at the Department of Social Services and Housing where she worked with Outrigger member Gerry DeBenedetti. Gerry sponsored both the Kali children as Junior members and Marilyn as well. She was on the waiting list when the Club began its search for a new magazine editor in 1985.

At the time, Gerry DeBenedetti was chairman of the Public Relations Committee, and Gerri Pedesky was Coordinating Director. With high recommendations from both, Marilyn was selected for the position as Editor and took it on as "her hobby" on July 1, 1985. In her "real life" she was spokesperson for the State Department of Transportation, a job she also held for 30 years until retirement.

With the Outrigger job she was given a temporary membership in the Club until her name finally came up and she became a regular member. Marilyn gives credit to Cline Mann for pointing her in the right direction, calling on her at her downtown office to chat even before she took over the magazine.

He was particularly concerned about misspelled names and inaccurate information getting into the magazine, and was also a great history buff; they spent many hours on the Hau Terrace with Cline passing on all sorts of historical information about the Club and its members. He also served as a proof reader for the magazine until his health declined.

Even with Cline's help, Marilyn must have had second thoughts when she started the job. One of the biggest challenges was filling space each month. She found that promised articles and photos often didn't come through, so instead of just editor, she took on the jobs of photographer and writer to make sure the magazine came out each month.

Then she discovered that the Club had no records of any sports events that the Club had sponsored or participated in over

its 77 year history. We're not just talking canoeing and surfing, as Outrigger has been involved in numerous other athletic activities.

Undaunted, Marilyn has spent thousands of hours over the last 30 years researching them all, including football, basketball, volleyball, golf, paddleboard, swimming, canoeing, and surfing. Not only that, but she has put together accurate histories of ODKF, OCC's Olympians, and Winged "O"s and our Club canoes. In addition, she has scanned all the photos in the Historical Committee's library, which add up to more than 5,000.

With the blessing and support of the Board of Directors she is now in the process of developing a website to chronicle Outrigger's sports history.

As the Club's volunteer photographer, she estimates she has taken more than 20,000 photographs of members and Club activities, many of which have appeared in the magazine.

With the help of Baby Dave and Kawika Grant, she has catalogued the entire collection of OCC trophies in a document titled *The Outrigger Canoe Club Waiwai Collection: Trophies and Na Mea*. The collection is available on the OCC website under History.

Marilyn says she loves the job of editing the *Outrigger* magazine, which involves an incredible amount of work; planning what goes into each issue, writing or editing articles, taking, selecting and processing photos, doing the layout, working with the graphic designer and printer, and proofing the magazine. There's no break in between. As soon as one magazine is finished, she starts work on the next.

She also enjoys working with the many Club members who contribute to the magazine each month and the committee volunteers who put on all the events.

Despite problems with the magazine before she became editor, she has never missed a deadline or an issue of the magazine in the past 30 years. During her tenure, the magazine has evolved from eight pages to as many as 28 pages a month. From strictly black and white, the magazine now has full color. Marilyn credits Liz Perry for this, when, as Coordinating Director, she pushed the Board for the funding for color.

The Outrigger is extremely fortunate to have been blessed with such a competent and devoted person who has resurrected and preserved our Club's illustrious history while putting out a great magazine each and every month.

Mahalo, Marilyn. We hope you hang on for another 30 years!





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