

40th Annual Message

November 5

2016

Hawaii gifted association , Happy 40th Year in 2016!Our focus for the year continued on “sailing to Higher Education” . We were 40 years strong come 2016 and although Hga had evolved into something a bit different from its origin, our practice and attention to excellence remained (see SHE, Sailing to Higher Education , IAGC Journal)positive. We continued to respond to parent and educators inquires with available resources and bring to the forefront National issues that affected gt at several layers. By the end of January we held our semiannual Board Meeting to plan the upcoming year and evaluate resources. Cost still remained a major factor but a priority was building the Scholarship Fund. By early Spring we were ready to join up with affiliates on the” Hill” and address key issues of ESEA and Talent Act as we knew this would be a pivotal year for GT, which it was! Alas, our advocacy efforts were not blindsided , we were grateful for the positive legislation that resulted from everyone’s efforts. Hga was welcomed and did our usual State House and Senate visits on the Hill (Hirono, Schatz, Gabbard, Takai) and attended an informal “talk story” with Senator Hirono. By late spring GT online gallery was preparing for submission as a call for artwork continued, Thanks to Priscilla Hall who formats the prospective and call for artists, Patrick who works on the video and Lynette, our webmaster, we pulled it off again; “Taking Education to a New Elevation”!!

**Taking
Education to a
Higher
Elevation!**



Our featured Artist, Lance Walters, an Architect, Artist and an avid “Droner” carried on Hga’s annual message! He participated in several local gallery shows as well. Hga also coordinated and started a traveling gallery; “Artloft at Aloft” near SFO as we continued on our connection with Board Members on the west coast!

We welcomed new Board Member, Maryanne Long, an added asset to Hga and former gt educator who currently does online art classes and also initiated a Matching Hga Fund Donation this summer! BWW was also a supporter for Hga Scholarship funds and we were delighted to be the Charity for the Frist Monday of ever Month at Buffalo Wild Wings(BWW). Donations (10%) assisted in monthly expenses and funneled also into Hga Scholarship Fund. We feel fortunate to have a past Featured Artist give a 100% donation for her sold painting to Hga this year as well! I suppose its these rare times that make doing what we do rewarding on the local level and make volunteering worthwhile for many of us. Hga participated in several Networks this year, making sure we casted our votes for new elections and nominations on a National level, for outstanding service to GT Education supporting the movement for excellence.

By September Hga’s Annual Meeting/40th Celebration at Chaminade University brought together many GT Advocates, educators, Patrons, Parents etc. the creativity was everywhere . Two Scholarships have been awarded; one to a high school freshman student for college planning and the other for professional development in advancing one’s career/ lifelong learning. We also intertwine highlights of programs and individuals whose contributions in Creativity, Music , the arts, Literary works, visual arts, STEM that evening. As we moved forward, we tried to kept in mind the creative and collaborative efforts that were being made to build our foundation on.

Thank you to NAGC and Affiliates, we are grateful for the many opportunities that have crossed our paths and so many gifted and talented individuals that made a difference in 2016. **Thank you** to our Board Volunteers and the other many contributing members and supporters who make us who we are today. On behalf of the Board of Directors and our many volunteers, Hga wishes you and yours Happy Holidays and a positive 2017!

Christine Ohtani-Chang

Christine Ohtani-Chang, President

Sundance Friedrich, VP

David Rockwood, Secretary

Charlie Hui, Treasurer

Debb Aiken

Jasmine Baker

Lynette Chun

Priscilla Hall

Brian Housand

Maryann Long

Patrick Nishimura

Sue Noon

Sai Suwannasarn

Zach Trow

Lance Walters