

Christmas email

Subject line: Holiday Greetings from Sandy and David Bangert

2016 has been a great year for us. The big event was getting married. We pride ourselves on the shortness of the engagement – we decided to marry during a lunch at Zia's in Kaneohe on November 13. We left our home at 11:00 am the next day, and drove to Department of Health for the marriage license. We took a number and had the license in 15 minutes – the most efficient State of Hawaii operation we have ever experienced. We were given a map to Judge Trader's private office – he does marriages on his lunch break. By 1:00 pm we were Sandy and David Bangert.

Here is our wedding photo that was taken by another couple in line with us (Judge Trader performed 20+ marriages that lunch break, each a private ceremony in his office, each at \$80 a pop. Not a bad lunch time overtaking.)



Sandy's aside: I never thought it was possible to get married in such a short time. That morning, in a rush to talk to Nancy, our neighbor, about our party, I had thrown on my red, go-to dress over my birthday suit and slipped out the backdoor with no makeup. Upon returning to our kitchen, David immediately said, "Okay, let's go and get the license now." Certain that it would take weeks or months to actually get permission to marry, I hopped in the car. I was in shock for 3 days. Married! No makeup photos! And, who knew!!!!!! A commando wedding!

We threw a Christmas party on December 10. The invitation said "Special announcement at 7:30." Sandy's friends were assuming ENGAGEMENT. Who thought MARRIAGE? We kept the secret for a month.

Working backwards through the year. In October, we went for a month-long trip. First stop was Las Vegas and the SupplySide West Trade Show. Sandy is reviving Linda's Bamboo Extract business. SupplySide West is a big food ingredient show and beyond our little firm of Golden Basin International.



Army Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet  
2016



We are going to work on organic growth by building on the contacts that Linda and Ying established. While in Vegas, we collected a couple of Michelin stars at Restaurant Guy Savoy, rode train at the Grand Canyon where bandits on horseback robbed David of \$1, and visited Sedona.

Next stop was Washington DC. Collected more Michelin stars, gained 5 pounds each, toured monuments via hop-on hop-off bus and wineries via limo, saw three

shows at Kennedy Center, drove to West Point for Tony Clay's induction to Sports Hall of Fame (David's junior year roommate), and attended the Les Dames d'Escoffier international conference (we were sponsored by Dame Maria Tucker). Sandy got to meet David's close friends, the Pans, Catos, and Guenthers. Unfortunately, Kay Cato told her to hold out for two engagement rings, a West Point miniature and a traditional ring. One never knows when your outfit demands a gold ring or demands a silver ring! Sandy learned well! She now has three rings: a West Point miniature, a platinum with diamonds and blue sapphires, and a gold with yellow diamond.

In August, we went to Vancouver and spent a week with Sandy's family. We stayed with her sister Freda, nephew Peter, and his wife Cynthia. Her other sister and brother-in-law, Mugs and Max, and niece Tobi, and her husband, Dave, and other important friends drove to be with us. It was another run of great, excessive food. Are you seeing the pattern? travel = gluttony!

June and July combined into a month-long trip to China. We flew non-stop from Honolulu to Beijing on Hawaiian Air. On our own, we explored Beijing by mastering the subway system. Then, we joined a Harvard-led, ten-day tour of the highlights of China. Saw the normal tourist stuff, Great Wall, Forbidden City, Pandas, and Tera Cotta warriors, cruised through the Three Gorges, and ended in Shanghai.



*At Hong Kong Jockey Club*

Then, we joined our business partner in Golden Basin and explored the bamboo sea, Michael's factory, and met many officials over non-stop large meals. It was an interesting five days of seeing the non-tourist China from the back of Michael's car.

Then, five days in Hong Kong. A great concierge floor, a hotel arrangement set up by Bee Leng Chua. Collected two more Michelin stars at Amber, were on the final race day at the Jockey Club (a highlight of the trip), visited Macau, shopped, and saw the city lights from Victoria Peak.

Final four days were exploring Seoul. We stayed at the centrally located Lotte Hotel and Department Store. Sandy wants to return with her girlfriends to do some serious power shopping.

Early 2016, we combined households. Too much stuff.

We now split our time between a house in Manoa and the Hauula beach house. Mail is best sent to PO Box 758, Hauula, HI 96717

Sandy's phone is 808 388 8836 and David 808 293 2981

Have a wonderful 2017

Sandy and David