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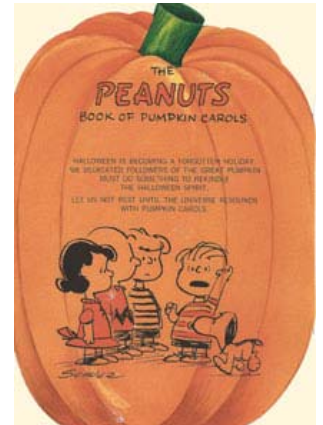
Pumpkin Carols

In 1966, the Hallmark card company printed *The Peanuts Book of Pumpkin Carols* to coincide with the first airing of the TV special "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown." This small booklet included eight Halloween-themed lyrics to standard Christmas carols: *O Pumpkin Cards*, *Great Pumpkin is Comin' To Town*, *Pumpkin Bells*, *The Twelve Days of Halloween*, *Pumpkin Wonderland*, *I'm Dreaming of the Great Pumpkin*, *Deck the Patch*, and *I Heard the Bells on Halloween*.

I was in high school at the time, so I was too old to trick-or-treat. My friends and I decided to go Pumpkin Caroling instead. Each time we knocked on a door, the owner would give us a dirty look and start to tell us we were too old. But as soon as we started singing, they got very excited and often called for other family members to come and listen. Everyone loved us, and we got more candy than we ever did trick-or-treating!

We also wrote our own Pumpkin Carols. Here was our favorite, sung to the tune of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

*O pumpkin patch in my back yard be quite sincere tonight.
The Great Pumpkin will rise from you as he starts on his flight.
I hear the lesser pumpkins, the joyous story sing.
Come visit us. Arise from us. O Thou, Great Pumpkin.*



Pumpkin Caroling with the Mayor of Kauai

First of all, here's some information about the Hawaiian government. The governor, state House of Representatives, and Senate are all based in the capital city of Honolulu, on Oahu.

The eight major islands of Hawaii are divided into five counties. Honolulu is the only city with local government; the rest of the state is administered at the county level. The highest official in each county is the mayor, elected in a non-partisan election every four years. Here on Kauai, the seven-member County Council has the legislative authority. Our current mayor is Derek Kawakami.

JoAnn Yukimura was the mayor of Kauai when my husband Tom and I bought our house in Hanalei in 1990. She was the first female mayor of Kaua'i, and the first Japanese-American woman mayor in the U.S. JoAnn was Kauai's mayor from 1988 to 1994. She also served as a Councilmember intermittently for 22 years from 1976 to 2018.



PUMPKIN CAROLING IN KAUAI

Although we lived in California, Tom and I spent almost every October on Kauai throughout the 1990s. In 1991 our friends Mimsy and Pierre invited us out to a restaurant. Their other dinner guests were Mayor JoAnn Yukimura and her 7-year-old daughter Maile. We started talking about Halloween, and I told the story about going pumpkin caroling. Maile was very excited and wanted to try it.

On Halloween evening, JoAnn and Maile came down to our house. We practiced a few carols using the lyric sheets that I had printed. Then, we went pumpkin caroling to the homes of several shut-ins that JoAnn knew in the neighborhood. Caroling with the mayor and her lovely daughter was so much fun! (The photo of the two of them shown here was taken about the same time.)



There's a P.S. to this story. The day after we went pumpkin caroling, someone wrote a nasty "Letter to the Editor" in our local paper. It said something like this: "Last night, Mayor Yukimura's car was seen parked in Hanalei. We are sure that she was having a secret, illegal meeting with developers." Boy, if they only knew that she was actually bringing joy to shut-ins by pumpkin caroling!

You can make this Halloween extra-special by going pumpkin caroling with your friends and family . . . with or without your harp! Make up your own lyrics or do a Google search for "pumpkin carols" to find lots of fun songs.

LONG LIVE THE GREAT PUMPKIN!