While in Las Vegas to attend the Trade Wind Tours reunion, I took the time to watch the Society of Seven perform with Lani Misalucha in the showroom of the Flamingo Hotel. Together they put on a dynamic show that lasted nearly an hour and forty-five minutes. Lani’s strong vocal lead beautifully complemented the many songs, impersonations, and antics that have made the SOS famous for over four decades. Much of the material is fresh and well-adapted to the spacious, beautifully equipped Flamingo Showroom. There was never a dull moment.

At the end of the show, the audience gave the performers a standing ovation and then flocked around them when they appeared in the lobby outside the showroom to greet fans and sign autographs.

It was great to see my long-time friends of the Society of Seven again. The original members of the SOS arrived in Hawaii in 1966 and began performing in the Main Showroom of the Outrigger Waikiki in 1968, 39 years ago, shortly after the property opened. They played at the Outrigger Waikiki almost exclusively for many years and then added gigs in Reno and Las Vegas to their schedule. Two members of the initial cast, Tony Ruivivar and Bert Sagum, are still part of the group.

The Society of Seven recently received the Na Hoku Hanohano Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawaii Academy of Recording Artists. (See the March 17, 2007, edition of Saturday Briefing at www.outrigger.com/sb.)

Las Vegas loves them too, and the Flamingo Hotel has just extended their contract to January 2008. In the meantime, the companion group, SOS LV, wows audiences Tuesday through Sunday at the Outrigger Waikiki.

Both groups are well worth enjoying time and time again.