

Kahiki Polynesian Supper Club 1961-2000



3583 E. Broad, Columbus, Ohio

- To Polynesians, "kahiki" means "sail to Tahiti." To the Kahiki Restaurant customers, Kahiki meant a tropical adventure filled with exotic Polynesian artifacts, customs, and cuisine.
- When the Kahiki Supper Club opened its doors in 1961, the architecture designed by the late Coburn Morgan, a painter, decorator and sculptor with degrees in electrical engineering and architecture, was so much different than anything ever seen in the area it became quite the topic of conversation. When the torches were lit the traffic passing was bumper to bumper with "rubber neckers".
- Filled with wonder, area residents "checked out" this new and different establishment
- Entering with awe at the sight of the Village Dining Room, with more than 1,000 tropical fish living in an aquarium that lined the east wall, the foyer with the huge tiki god with a fiery red mouth, glaring green eyes and water bubbling from the top of its head, the Music Bar, Kalakua Street, the Molokai Hut, the Kauai Garden Booths, the Niihau Hut, Rain Forest Booths,, the drinks served in the unique Tiki's, made originally by [Hoffman Pottery](#)(now highly collectible), all combining to work the charming magic only found at the Kahiki
- With even more wonder they realized the food was not just good, it was great, and the Kahiki quickly became popular. Sunday brunch became a custom
- Even more amazing is how quickly it became world famous.
- Celebrities such as Raymond Burr, Gig Young and Arthur Godfrey "hung out" at the Kahiki. An autographed picture of late comic Paul Lynde used to hang in the Outrigger Bar.
- In my travels I would often be told of a visit to the Kahiki, or asked if it were true all that was said about it. Yes every bit of it was true.
- My last visit to the Kahiki is still fresh in my mind. My favorite grade school teacher and I had lunch next to the aquarium wall. The food was just as good and the service just as pleasant as my first visit in 1961.

- The Kahiki closed its doors, despite public outcry, August 26, 2000, and the beautiful structure is gone, but it is still living in the hearts and memories of many