



# Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

MARCH/APRIL 2018

## ***A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA***

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

When I arrived in Kōloa in February of 2014, I was told by one of our Council members that the beautiful old tamarind tree in the backyard of the Smith Memorial Parsonage had to be cut down. The church had asked a tree expert his opinion on the tree and the recommendation was to cut it down. Since I love big trees, I suggested we ask three additional “tree experts” for their opinion. They all looked at the tree, pointed out major rot throughout the trunk and suggested it be cut down. They showed me that I could stick my entire arm in one side of the tree, reach as far as I could and not touch the other side of the tree. The majority of the trunk had rotted away to almost nothing. They told me: “If you don’t cut it down, it *will* fall down, and there’s a good chance it will fall on the parsonage.” When I told the final tree expert who visited the parsonage that I really wished there was some way to save the tree, he said something like this: “Trees are like any other living organism; they don’t live forever. Just like people, a tree’s life eventually comes to an end.” The Council decided to take down the tree, and I agreed with the decision.

When the tree was cut down, I was surprised by how sad I felt—even though I believed it was the right thing to do and I knew the life of the tree was coming to an end whether we cut it down or wait a few more years and risk significant damage to the parsonage. It was kind of like attending the funeral of a loved one. As saws cut into the tree, it was as if they were sawing at my own soul. With time, I have adjusted to the loss of the tamarind tree.



There are two things that made the loss more bearable. I read that Queen Emma, when she was living on Kauaʻi in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, visited the home of Dr. James Smith and was quite impressed with the tamarind tree on his property. The good doctor gave her a couple of seedlings to

plant at her home in Lawai Valley—now Allerton Gardens, part of National Tropical Botanical Gardens. I had the opportunity to take a tour of the gardens, and the tour guide pointed out the tamarinds and said, “Queen Emma herself had theses planted right here.” I almost shouted, “She got those from my backyard!” (I resisted, however, and let the tour guide finish his talk.)

And then...a man by the name of Robin Clark showed up at the church a couple weeks ago carrying a bowl made of tamarind. He told me that he got the wood from the tree in my backyard. Just before the tree came down, I put the word out to the wood workers on the island that there was free tamarind for the taking. Robin told me that he salvaged a whole bunch of tamarind from our tree and wanted to give me a bowl in appreciation for all the free wood. What a special gift that I will cherish forever!

The bowl reminded me this week of the story of Easter. Resurrection follows death. New life follows loss. Beauty follows destruction. Joy follows sadness. I hope each of you has the opportunity to see this bowl. When you do, may it remind you of the message of Easter. I know it will always remind me of it!

Aloha nui loa!  
Kahu Alan Akana

### Easter Schedule

**March 25:** Palm Sunday; service led by church youth; skit "Colors."



**March 29:** Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

**March 30:** 10:30 am  
Decorate Easter eggs & lunch (please sign up).



**Good Friday Meditation**, 7 p.m. Kahu Akana will lead the congregation in a time of quiet meditation and readings. Scriptures of the Passion of Christ will be read, followed by a time of silence after each reading.



**April 1:** Easter Sunday; Sunrise Service 6 a.m. Kukuilono Park (Kalaheo); church at 10:30 am; egg hunt & Aloha Hour at our parsonage at noon—please sign up for egg hunt and potluck lunch.



### ALOHA HOUR

Mar 04—Ito Rebb Shim  
March 11—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey  
March 18—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares  
March 25—Ramos Baptiste Stoner  
April 01—Giovanni Osuga Strong (Easter potluck)  
April 08—Odo Honjo Foley Dunas  
April 15—Ito Rebb Shim  
April 22—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey  
April 29—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares

### OGHS —One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday (March 25), Maundy Thursday (March 29), Good Friday (March 30) and Easter Sunday (April 1). A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables our church to share God's love with people in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry and help empower the poor and oppressed.



*Thank you for your generous gifts!*

### USHERS

#### MARCH

Graceleanor Baird  
Christine Kube

#### APRIL

Virginia Dunas  
Doug Duvauchelle

### LAYREADERS

March 04—Virginia Dunas  
March 11—Kei Osuga  
March 18—Rosemary Smythe  
March 25—Edie Moe  
April 01—Kerry Mori  
April 08—Debbie Gunning  
April 15—Kaylee Alapai  
April 22—Doug Duvauchelle  
April 29—Graceleanor Baird  
May 06—Jean Odo  
May 13—Angela Dressel

Prayers for healing and strength for Mahina Anguay, Steve Sparks, Willie K, Nanci Lewis, Alison Koepfgen, Blake Johnson, Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin, Eleanor Olin, Sharon Mahaffey, Van Pribilovics, Scott Coffey, Martha (Heather's mom), John Pekoe, Kekoa, Belinda Bartels, Rowan (requested by Sharon McCoubrey), Cori Swanson, Rochelle Lorenzo, Becky Breedlove (Cathy Evan's friend), Shellee Riggio, David Vitt, Francisca Padua, Kanaina Smythe, Jose Bulatao, Ella Batalucco, Barbara Johnson, Lizzie Macaninch, Steven, Vernon Fu, Joseph Alapai, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Ted Asahi, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of peace and comfort for Emiko Akana and Miyeko Yamane; prayers of comfort for the family of Paula Wilson.



## Wednesday Soup Supper and Lenten Reflections

We meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in Moore Hall for soup and then spend time reflecting and discussing the theme of “Blessings.” Each Sunday during Lent, Kahu will focus on a particular kind of blessing during his sermon and then use that topic for our time together the following Wednesday evening. Throughout the Season of Lent, Kahu will be following one chapter per week of John O’Donohue’s book, *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*.

## Hawaii Conference Strategic Planning Session

March 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Koloa Union Church. The evening will include dinner and a time with our Strategic Planning Consultant Cynthia Scherr (a friend of Kahu's who serves with him on the Board of Trustees at Pacific School of Religion!). Please sign up and give your input regarding what you believe our priorities need to be and where our energy needs to be given—both here at Koloa Union Church and throughout the Hawaii Conference. All are welcome to attend! Activities are available for children! Please RSVP by signing up on the church bulletin board or contacting Penny.

## Annual Rummage and Bake Sale

**Saturday, April 7, 2019**

We are still accepting donations. Please sign up for “working shifts” from April 3—7, 2018. Elizabeth Mares is spearheading the Bake Sale. She asks that your baked donations be “sale ready.” Proceeds to go to our “youth fund” and “food ministry.”



## KAUCC Youth Fund Raiser

### Supporting High School Students

Kahu is organizing a gala on April 22 to support high school students who are connected to churches belonging to the Kauaʻi Association of the United Church of Christ. The gala will include a meal served by the youth, and a fun auction! One of the prizes will be a 2-night stay in a suite at the *Moana Surfrider, a Westin Resort*, in Waikiki! Details will be announced in the coming weeks. Please let Kahu know if you have an item you would be willing to donate for the auction. The proceeds will assist students who will be attending the Western Regional Youth Event at University of Hawaiʻi, Mānoa.

*Dear KUC Friends,*

*As most of you probably know by now, our annual trip to Kauai was cancelled just six days before our departure due to Al's health. After 36 years of visiting your beautiful island, we decided that long trips across the ocean were not wise for anyone who is a stroke risk.*

*Although we miss Kauai's beauty and hospitality, what we miss even more are the wonderful people of Koloa Union...YOU! We will always treasure your friendship and we will never forget your generosity, kindness and love.*

*Please keep us in your prayers, as we will also pray for you. We are confident that with Alan's leadership, Koloa Union will continue to thrive, how could it do otherwise with people so dedicated to sharing God's word in such beautiful ways? Thanks for the memories.*

*Aloha, Al and Carole Pugsley, Kansas City*

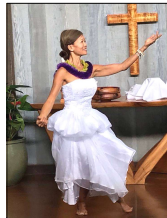


# AUNTY NIELE'S NEWSY NOTES

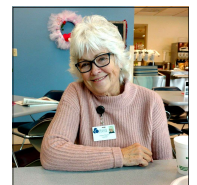
By Penny Osuga

**NOTE:** Penny Osuga is Auntie Niele, our reporter for this column. Niele is the Hawaiian word for "nosy." If you have any news to share in this column, please contact Auntie Niele at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: [kucpenny@gmail.com](mailto:kucpenny@gmail.com).

Per MSN: Hawaii is the 3rd "happiest, healthiest state!" Thanks to **Chris** for all he does for KUC! He just installed outside speakers! Sang "happy 96th birthday" to **Bob Hammerquist!! Christine Kube** got a new car!!! "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"-sung by **Doug**, hula by **Rose**, for **Marie Buckner** as she heads back to Washington! Saving trees: if you would prefer reading our newsletter on our website instead of receiving one in the mail, let me know. BTW, clarity is much better online. The *Prayers & Squares* girls met at **Bonnie's**—here are **Debbie & Carol Bowen**. **Kelsey Duvauchelle** is on a Caribbean Cruise!!! Life is great, huh? **Garrett Sakimae** skied Northstar in Truckee with a group of friends!! Had a fun annual TTT (Taco Toss Time) with our snowbird friends! Thanks to **Tiffany** for an inspiring "sermon" while



Reign



Evan

**Kahu** was at a **Pacific School of Religion** meeting. Great pic of **Kaylee** in *Midweek Kauai!* **Kauai Red Raiders** wiped out **Kapaa**. And again, may I applaud and praise **Rosemary's** granddtr, **Reign Palama?** 10 youth across the US were given "**Be Fearless, Be Kind**" Awards and **Reign** was one of the 10!!!! Woo woo!!! **Bonnie** was off-island celebrating her granddtr's 1st birthday! HB to **Hanakaulani!!!** Had a fun

**Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper.** Staying in touch with member, **JoAnne**, in Iowa! Of course, she is volunteering at the local hospital and school and church and is a RSVP member, no surprise at all, huh? **Evan** hit a home run AND celebrated his 13th bday!!! Wonderful 1st Soup Supper (thanks, **Kathy Dahill**) and **Ash Wednesday** service. Great attendance--28!!! During the service we spoke names of those who passed before us and mentioned their gifts to us. Spoke with former members, **Uncle Tommy & Auntie Sue Yamasaki**. They are doing well and send their "aloha." Had a great visit with dear



church friend,  
**Marilyn Onstott.**

We had a nice lunch with **Toyo & Chito. Kahu (and**



**Koloa Union)** celebrated his 4th anniversary with us! And 1 year anniversary of the opening of the **Alan Akana Art Gallery!** Fabulous food catered by **Mark & Tricia Ruiz** (*Roots in Culture*). We will miss friend **Cammie Matsumoto** who is relocating back to HNL. **Dan & Naomi** spent 10 days in the **Bay** area with friends/family. then off to **Spring Training** in Phoenix! **Suzanne's Love In Action** has distributed 87 pillows and blankets...so far. Thanks to **Jean Thompson & Judyth** for helping. Atta girl, **Sydney!!** *Koloa School*



*Student of the month—quality producer!!!* Can you identify what dapper dude belongs to these>>>>>>



**Chinese Year of the Dog:** at the Shops at Kukuila. **Tom Armbruster** finished a 5K run in support of aortic



health! Did you buy your Girl Scout cookies from these cuties—**Rory, Syd-**



**ney?** Former pastor, **David Hansen** was visiting his daughter in France!! **Yone**



**Honjo** won a door prize at the annual *Garden Island Federal Credit Union* annual meeting!! Thanks, **Carol Bowen**, for making ALL the desserts for Aloha Hour one Sunday!! We can seat 30 more in church, thanks to our sanctuary expansion project!!!! Bring a friend (or two) to church this Sunday!!! Had a wonderful membership gathering, giving church friends the opportunity to learn all about Koloa Union and hopefully join our church. Aw shucks, no ukulele praise music from **Evan** for a little while! Spring break coming up....I wonder what "our church kids" will be doing? **Bonnie** flew to HNL to spend *Girl's Day* with granddaughter **Hanakaulani**. **Doug** is off to South Tahoe for a few days of much deserved R&R. Thanks to **Rev. Phyllis Meighen** for filling our pulpit. Always great seeing her. **Kahu** was in "voggy" Kona at a *Hawaii Conference Clergy Retreat*. Thank you, **Bridget Hammerquist**, for being so active in "malama the aina" in Maha`ulepu.



If you were born in the Year of the dog, you have the best traits of human nature: you are honest, friendly, faithful, loyal, smart, straightforward and have a strong sense of responsibility.



Brothers at sunset



Our Kahu, our hula dancer, our "all around guy"





**KOLOA UNION CHURCH**  
**P.O. BOX 536**  
**3289 POIPU ROAD**  
**KOLOA, HAWAII 96756**

## **MARCH/APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER**



**SUNDAY EVENTS**  
**10:30 a.m. Sunday School and**  
**Worship Service**

**STAFF**  
**Rev. Dr. Alan Akana, Pastor**  
**revdocakana@gmail.com**

**Penny Osuga,**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**kucpenny@gmail.com**

**Kathleen Dahill**  
**Director of Music**  
**Kathleen@WildwdStudios.com**

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## **KOLOA UNION CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH/APRIL 2018**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

A Note from Kahu Akana	1
Easter Schedule, One Great Hour of Sharing	2
Aloha Hour, Ushers, Lay Readers, Prayers	2
Announcements	3
Aunty Niele	4
Aunty Niele	5