

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard Street, Wailuku | (808) 244-7353 | iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net

January & February 2020

Blessings from Pastor Tino | “Beyond 125 Years”

Wasn't it just yesterday that our Children & Youth led us through Christmas Eve Worship Services? Here we are headed into March and it seems that our Iao UCC story just keeps getting more chapters added on what God continues to do in our midst. This year we celebrate our 125th Anniversary on April 25th and 26th. How exciting is that, Iao Church? As I was reflecting on this momentous occasion, I remembered that on February 19, 2017, you called me to be your settled Pastor, so we are also celebrating our 3-year anniversary. This Church that I have come to know and love continues to be a beacon of hope for many in our community. We have welcomed so many visitors from many different parts of the world. We have welcomed back many of our long-time members who moved away and have returned to visit. One of many things they see is how different the church is, compared to when they were here. Change is inevitable Iao Church! We may not notice change on our end as much, but those who come back see the excitement in us, the many ministries that we do or collaborate with – we are still moving with the Spirit of God.

Our anniversary in April will be a time of celebration, reflection and a glimpse of what may be in store for us. Our theme for this celebration of “Reflecting Our Past That Leads to Our Future” reminds us to celebrate what once was – while knowing we have a future that needs our undivided attention as well. All three of these are exciting for me, as I marvel at the stories told about Iao Church, both good and bad. I imagine the many changes and transitions that Iao Church has gone through in 125 years of being a faithful Church, though not perfect, yet humble enough to acknowledge that God still calls us to BE the CHURCH despite our imperfections. We have a great opportunity to reshape our future as the Church has done many times before – let us take this moment to move into our future with confidence in each other and our wider communities that support our mission. Let us allow our children and youth to participate in the kind of Church they wish to see now and, in their future – for they will be the future Iao UCC.

As we also move into our season of Lent, with all the events coming up for many of us, let us take some time for silent reflection. A time to quiet our minds and just “be” in the presence of God. Empty all our thoughts, put aside all the lists of worldly things we need to do, (our honey-do-lists, for example) and enjoy a time of peace and quiet with the Holy One. A daily practice of meditation helps us put our lives in perspective and to see the great things that God is doing in our world, and what God is calling us to do for a world in need. I leave with you this to reflect upon from one of my sermons this past month.

“Let us – Iao Church – not be allowed to be trampled on by society – but transform ourselves to heed God’s call for us. Let us instead be the flavor that transforms a world in need, transforms our society – not as perfect people, but as imperfect people of God that moves and shakes like a saltshaker for the sake of our Gospels. For salt that remains in the shaker is useless – until it comes out and makes a difference. Let us be saltshakers that go out into the world to make a difference in people’s lives – not saltshakers that store salt for many years that never gets used.”

Blessings with love and appreciation,
Pastor Tino



Photo above: Pastor Tino putting up the new feather flags by the upper parking lot.

March Lectionary

Mar. 1 **1st Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11
Abundant Grace

Mar. 8 **2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17
Bold Blessing

Mar. 15 **3rd Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Ephesians 5:1-11
John 4:5-42
Thirsty Voices

Mar. 22 **4th Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
Restored

Mar. 29 **5th Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
Breath of Hope

The lesson in **bold** is the focus of both the message of the day and any Sunday School lesson; the italicized title is the theme for the Sunday service. •



Pastor Tino taking a selfie with his grandbabies in California, when he visited them on the 3rd week of February (a much-needed respite before the looming busy-ness of Lent!)

March Worship Responsibilities*

Readers

Dawna Krueger & Jolyn Yinmed

March 1

Greeter: *Craig Bode*
Ushers: *Dom Defang,*
Tim Greathouse & Jim Morrison
Aloha Hour:
Jackie Murai & Grace Murata

March 8

Aloha Hour:
Satsigo Jim & Yulida Yoru

March 15

Aloha Hour:
Lee Murakami & Lynette Shiroma

March 22

Aloha Hour:
S. Awai, S. King, D. Krueger

March 29

Aloha Hour:
Maui Kosrae Etawi

* (same greeter, ushers and hosts for the whole month)

JANUARY Birthdays

01.01 Regina Hadley
01.02 Myriam Takamatsu
01.03 Joseph Fugow
01.04 Florentino Cordova
01.06 Caetlyn Johannes
01.07 Gabriella Withrow
01.11 Lei Tobias
Janice Saiki
01.17 Jack Belsom
01.19 Doris Saiki
01.23 H. Kalani Wong
Samantha Hill
01.24 Grace Saito
01.27 Gurray Mathin

FEBRUARY Birthdays

02.06 Ruby Sakurada
Lewis Hadley
02.07 Brett Yamane
02.11 Rena Hayashi
Cheryl Hadley
02.13 Annette Matsushima
Suzette Robinson
02.14 Bradley Akitake
02.15 Goliad Johannes
Richard Carr
02.18 John Yoruw
02.20 Jim Robinson
02.22 Deann Sonoda
Betsy Hadley
02.23 Carole Toy
Lynette Shiroma
02.25 Barbara Kusuda
02.27 Nahulu Nunokawa

MARCH Birthdays

03.04 Robyn Webb
03.06 Lloyd Nebres
03.10 Judith Kitagawa
Richard Komo
03.12 Grace Murata
03.13 Gail Ideue
03.14 Robert Hill
03.17 Yaeko Furukawa
03.18 Gladys Itamura
03.20 Larry Whitford
03.21 Sonny Yoruw
03.24 Danann Mitchell
03.25 David Murata
Domisiano Defang
03.30 Leora Murakami
03.31 Molly Murai

Aloha Hour Supplies | For Aloha Hour, the B&G team will have a plastic tub set up with supplies used, including paper plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. This plastic tub will be located in Fujitomo Hall. On Sundays, Aloha Hour hosts are asked to bring the tub down from Fujitomo Hall and returned to the same location after. Please list on the tub any items needing re-stocking and the Team will make every effort to keep up with the inventory.

January 2020

*May the new year be filled with all the things
that make you happy!*

I can't believe how fast
time flies in the new year.
We're off to a great start,
and hopefully we'll make
more of a Christian im-
pact. Don't forget, it's
time to start thinking
about the Annual Lao Pre-
school Ohana Fun Fair on Saturday, Feb. 29th!



After Advent and Christmas is Epiphany. Epiphany is a good
theme for the months of January and February. Here are
some thoughts on the Presentation of the Lord.

Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple, where they
met Simeon and Anna. Both of them received a revelation
from God that Jesus was the Messiah. This was essentially
how Jesus was welcomed by the world.

The responsibility of raising Jesus according to the norms
and values of God was placed on Joseph and Mary. God
expected Mary and Joseph to do their part in molding the
character of Jesus as well as preparing him for ministry.

I believe that God has given us that same responsibility
over our children. God expects us to follow the model of
Joseph and Mary in parenting our children. God speaks to
our hearts and hopes that we do all that we can to mold
our children. My hope is that the children become spiritu-
ally equipped to walk the path of Christian life.

In Christ's Service,
Tim Stewart, Lao UCC Moderator

[Editor: photo above is of the moderator's family with a spontaneous
picture-taking after church service last February 9th.]

Saturday, Feb. 29
Lao Preschool Fun Fair 2020
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (see page 7)

Tuesday, Mar. 10
Support Group Visitations
1 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11
Finance Community
5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Sunday, March 15
Worshipping Community
11 a.m. (Kanda Hall)

Friday, March 20
Ladies' Lunch Bunch
11 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, March 4 & 25
COUNCIL
5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Saturday, March 28
All-Church Cleanup (8 a.m.)

Sunday, April 5
Palm Sunday Service
9:30 a.m., Lao UCC Sanctuary

Thursday, April 9
Maundy Thursday Service
(with Ka'ahumanu and WUC)
7 p.m., at Lao UCC

Friday, April 10
Good Friday Interfaith Service
7 p.m., Lao UCC Sanctuary

Sunday, April 12
Easter Sunday
6 a.m., Joint Sunrise Service at Ka'ahumanu Church
8 a.m., Youth Breakfast (Kanda Hall)
9:30 a.m., Easter Worship Service

Taizé Thursdays
Various dates (see page 10)

Lao UCC's 125th Anniversary
Sat. & Sun., April 25-26 (see page 6)

Our Music Man: a Few Verses from Herman Hashizume's Lifesong

A brief biography stemming from our talk story sessions with Aunt Maybelle

by Lloyd Nebres and Jane Tesoro



Photo above is from the March 2006 issue of Honolulu magazine's *Calabash* section. It was captioned: "Mo'ili'i children behind Hashizume Store on Kahuna Lane, in the late 1930s. Bottom row: Kenneth Hashizume, Kenji Yoshii, Herman Hashizume (with cat). Top: 'Crooked' Ige and Henry Yoshii.

Herman was born on August 28, 1927, the third child of 4, and grew up in the Mo'ili'i District in Honolulu. Herman's dad, Kenichi Hashizume, died when he was in his 30s, from complications due to asthma. Kenichi was a World War I veteran and is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl Crater). Herman and his siblings—Louis, Doris, and Kenneth (all deceased now; Herman lived the longest of his siblings)—were raised by a single mother, Tomo Nakashima Hashizume. She took care of all of the children and the Hashizume Store, the family grocery store on Kahuna Lane in Mo'ili'i. Aunt Maybelle says that the Hashizume Store had "the best shave ice in town!" Tomo died in her 80s after working so hard at the store to keep the family going.

Herman graduated from McKinley High School in 1945. At age 18, he was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army as a radioman. In 1947, he enrolled at the University of Hawaii. Business was not his thing, so he went into Music. As part of his coursework in that major, Herman was assigned to teach music theory and appreciation classes at Farrington High School once a week for a semester. A talented vocalist, the young college student would sing passages from *The Marriage of Figaro* to the high school kids, but in English instead of Italian. Herman graduated from U.H. Manoa in 1951 as a Music Major, and his undergraduate thesis was on recreational folk dancing and games.

As there were not many job opportunities for Music graduates, soon after graduation Herman applied for a job as a service technician with NCR (National Cash Register) in Honolulu. His starting pay was \$1.00 an hour for the first 2 years. He accepted the job because of the opportunity of traveling to the mainland, for the required training sessions. It was also because of his job that he would meet the woman he would eventually marry. Maybelle Takayama of Maui was working at a branch of the Honfed Bank in Honolulu, and young Herman came regularly to service the NCR equipment. Herman and Maybelle were married on August 6, 1955, at Central Union Church on O'ahu. Aunt Maybelle says that Herman was very sick on their wedding day ("he had fairly serious thyroid problems at the time"), but soldiered through it well enough, to judge by the radiant young couple's wedding photo. After the wedding, Aunt says that they flew to the Big Island and spent their honeymoon there, at the legendary Volcano House hotel at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. After their honeymoon, they returned to Honolulu and lived at the University Extension for a while. Aunt Maybelle says that the Mormons who lived there would ask Herman if he was really Japanese, because he looked more like hapa-haole or hapa-Filipino.

In 1956 or 1957 (Aunt can't quite recall which year) Herman was assigned to open an NCR office in Wailuku, Maui. It was to be situated near the Hongwanji Mission, and the Nakama's poi shop. Aunt Maybelle was



six months pregnant with their first child, when the young married couple moved to Maui. Because of Herman's regular training trips to the mainland at the time, he was away when Eric was born. Of their 4 children, he was away when 2 were born: he returned when eldest child Eric was 3 months old, and 3rd child Lea was 3 weeks old. Herman and Maybelle had 2 other children: Wendy (between Eric and Lea) and Ryan, the youngest.

Aunty Maybelle recounts a story of this period in Herman's life, when Herman was sent to Dayton, Ohio, for schooling. During this schooling stint, Herman took a 2-week vacation and flew to Detroit and bought a hardtop demo for \$1,300, so he could do some road traveling. He drove to Niagara Falls, then to New York City for the World's Fair. He stayed at a YMCA in Manhattan for 2 days. When he left New York to return to Dayton, he had only \$21 left in cash (and it would take him 2 days to get from NYC to Dayton). He needed the cash for gas, so he ate only bananas for his meals. He even traded postage stamps for gas and slept in his car alongside the road. He was so eager to get quickly back to Ohio that he got stopped one time by a State Trooper for speeding! Luckily, he was not cited. He ran out of gas and money before getting to Dayton, but was able to borrow some cash for gas from someone he had befriended from the church he was attending there. Aunty says, "Surely, God was looking after Herman while he was on his wild and exciting road trip vacation."

Throughout his life, Herman was involved with music and singing. Aunty Maybelle shared a news article (photo on the right) from a Honolulu newspaper dated February 6, 1955, just before their marriage. Herman was a featured singer in Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*, where he sang the role of Adam. As longtime church members know, Herman was a stalwart in the Lao Congregational Church choir for decades, with his many hats as singer, soloist, conductor, organizer. Under his leadership, there were so many singers wanting to be involved with the choir that in addition to a regular (mixed) choir, there was a Men's Choir when Wally Maeda was Director, with Lillian Maeda accompanying them. Herman was instrumental in getting the Lao Congregational choir—which gained musical renown in the years he was involved in it—to perform concerts on O'ahu and even abroad, touring Japan in 1983.



In the weeks after Uncle Herman's memorial service, Aunty Maybelle often came by the church office to bring checks given by family friends, in honor of Herman. Shortly after New Year's day 2020, Aunty also brought mochi for the pastor and church secretary.



Over the decades, Advent at Lao Church was never complete without Herman singing a solo, *O Holy Night*, his powerful and heartfelt rendition always admired and beloved by all who came to worship on those Christmas Eve candlelight services. He sang it last on Christmas Eve on 2017; a link to the video is located on the church website. There are other links there to videos of Herman singing at church, including his very last one on September 1, 2019, when he sang "I Believe," on *Keiro No Hi* Sunday. Although he was already ailing by then—he would pass away a little under two months later, on October 22nd, at the venerable age of 92—Herman's voice was still clear and strong, evoking the musical glories in his life as a man of song. The beautiful sound of Uncle Herman's voice will forever echo in our memories. •

This photo of Uncle Herman was taken on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018—the year of Aunty Maybelle's *Keiro No Hi* (88) celebration. It was the photo we used for Herman's memorial service bulletin.

Iao United Church of Christ at 125 Years — 1895-2020

IT IS GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION!

“Reflecting Our Past That Leads to Our Future”

Aloha, Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!
It is with great excitement that we invite you to come celebrate with us our 125th Anniversary and ask you to mark your calendars for:

Saturday, April 25th & Sunday, April 26th

According to The Hawaii Herald article, dated September 5, 1980 displayed in the sanctuary, “In 1895, the Hawaiian Board of Missions in Honolulu sent the first Japanese Christian evangelist to Wailuku, Maui, to organize and build a church. He was the Rev. Genzo Egami.” The Wailuku Japanese Christian Church was founded as a ministry to Japanese immigrants working in the sugar fields. A year later, a plantation house was acquired that served as the first sanctuary for the church. In 1936, the church moved to its current location on West Vineyard Street which was its third location. Wailuku Japanese Christian Church was later renamed to Iao Congregational Church and then to Iao United Church of Christ in 2010.



Saturday, April 25th will focus on the history of the church and will begin at **10 a.m.** We will have many pictures on display that reflect the rich history of this church. We have invited two of our former pastors, Rev. Jack Belsom and Rev. Dean Fujii, to kick off our celebration. Unfortunately, Rev. Terry Kawata will not be able to join us, but we honor his service to our church and community. There will be plenty of food, sodas, and water provided by the church so no need to bring anything. We will also have games for the youth to enjoy.

Sunday, April 26th will focus on the future of the church and will begin with our **9:30 a.m.** worship service with Rev. David Popham, our new Conference Minister for the UCC Hawaii Conference. There will be a pot-luck meal following the worship service which will be provided by the members of the church.

We are asking that you **RSVP by March 31st** so that we can get a head count, and plan on how much food to purchase. To RSVP or for any questions, contact the church office at (808) 244-7353 or iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net

Blessings with love and excitement!
The Rev. Floren“Tino” C. Cordova, Pastor



It's that time of year...
for the 16th Annual Lao Preschool
Ohana Fun Fair!

Come One, Come All, On: **Sat., February 29** — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at the Lao UCC and Preschool Campus
2371 West Vineyard Street in Wailuku



**Join us for our biggest
fundraising event
of the year!**

*Bring your 'ohana
and enjoy:*

Bouncing Castle
Games/Prizes

Chow Fun

Food Booths

Baked Goods

Live & Silent Auction

Rummage Sale

Plants

Entertainment

Uncle Wayne Watkins



All proceeds will benefit the students of Lao Preschool...
...including — tuition assistance, meals & snacks,
books & supplies, and play-based educational toys.

Tri Isle Association *Mokupuni* | ...at Iao UCC—Sat., February 8, 2020

The first Tri-Isle Association *Aha Mokupuni* of the year was hosted by Iao UCC and held on Saturday, February 8th. The *Mokupuni* was led by the Tri-Isle Association President, our own **Warren Orikasa**. Many of our youth from Maui and Lanai participated in an Eco Youth Camp which was held last fall at Waiola Church in Lahaina. This was part of a Hawaii-Conference UCC-wide series of Eco Youth Camps, also held in various other islands.

At our Youth Camp here on Maui, our youth delegates heard presenters from various environmentally-related organizations (such as Pacific Whale Foundation), went on field trips (such as to a watershed in the West Maui Mountains), engaged in discussions with experts on the local environment, and got involved in projects, including a beach clean-up.

Participation in this Youth Camp required our youth to do a presentation explaining their experiences and learning, at the next *Aha Mokupuni* to be scheduled—at our Saturday, February 8th *Aha Mokupuni* hosted here at Iao UCC. The previous evening, youth from the Lanai Union Church arrived via ferry in Lahaina, and were picked up by Youlda Yoruw, in our Habitat for Humanity van. The Lanai youth and their chaperones stayed for the night at Kanda Hall, and had a fun time playing games and socializing with their Iao youth hosts.

The next morning, registration for the *Mokupuni* began at 8:00, with a continental breakfast provided by the Association. The day's program began with worship at 9 a.m., followed by presentations by both the adults in organizations who had been involved in the Eco Youth Camp last fall, and by the youth themselves. Our new Conference Minister, David Popham, was in attendance.

In addition, short presentations were given by three local UCC churches in Wailuku, explaining the history, culture, and uniqueness of each. All found these presentations enlightening and enjoyable, but the highlight of the day was our youths' presentations and sharing!



Church Leaders Event 2020 | Iao UCC and Etawi Leaders... Sat., Feb. 22, 2020

Reflections by Tim Stewart

Youlida Yoruw, Carley Defang, Jeromy Palik and I were honored to attend the Church Leaders Event at Nuuanu Congregational Church in Honolulu on behalf of Iao United Church of Christ and Maui Kosrae Etawi. We are thankful for the Hawaii Conference UCC via Our Church's Wider Mission and Iao UCC for supporting our Christian leadership development. We participated in an Open and Affirming worship service, learned principles of effective Christian leadership, enjoyed Christian fellowship and engaged in religious networking.

From the first session we learned that church records are anything that contains information about 1) the church, 2) the members of the church and 3) the church's assets/debts. The types of church records include A) Government Regulated (ie EIN/WH/GET numbers), B) Church Governing Documents (ie Articles, Bylaws, Policies), and C) Assets and Liabilities (ie accounting statements, loans). The session provided a nice overview of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 414D (Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act). One key takeaway from this was that members of the church have the right to look at the church records. In addition to this, there was a nice Introduction to the Parliamentary Procedure session from the Hawaii State Association of Parliamentarians. This featured an educational program for Officers and Organizations using *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Most of the focus of the first session was on the Joining Model in terms of Transactional Analysis and Conversation. Essentially, the type of relationship we join with others is crucial to whether we leave the other person in a state of resourcefulness or in a state of helplessness. Being resourced translates to being blessed and being left helpless translates to being cursed.. One key takeaway was being able to distinguish between a "boss" shepherd and a "leader" shepherd. This involves applying appreciative inquiry to the foundational domain of the congregation.

The main focus of the second session was on Disaster Preparedness. One key tenet of the session was to prepare to be more resilient in the face of natural and man-made emergencies. A kit should include: important documents, non-perishable food, cooking and eating tools, water (1 gallon/person/day), medications, first aid kit, manual can opener, flashlight, radio, extra batteries, extra cash (small bills), child supplies, blanket/sleeping bag, whistle, sanitation and hygiene items, cell phone w/charger, and dust mask. Disaster preparedness training is valuable for the church.

In conclusion we would like to thank Caroline Belsom, William Puette, Kimi Ide-Foster, David Popham, Julianne Odo, Janice Ogoshi, Rick Ogoshi, Danny Tengan, Wayne Fujikane, David Takagi and Karen Vance for presenting at the Church Leaders Event. These sessions directly contributed to our Christian leadership development.

In Christ's Service,

Tim Stewart, Iao UCC Moderator



Mahalo and kulo for these photos from CLE, Youlida Yoruw!



Iao UCC is holding a series of
**Interfaith Candlelight Prayer
& Worship/Taizé style**

services on three Thursday evenings,
March 5 & 19, and April 2.

THURSDAYS

March 5

March 19

April 2

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

*We invite you
to join us
in this
special
worship
service series
as part of
our Lenten
journey .*

Iao UCC
2371 W. Vineyard St.
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The services will start at 6:30 p.m. and take place at our church sanctuary. Our ecumenical leaders will include **Pastor Tino** and **Rev. John Tomoso** of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, and perhaps other local clergy as well.

A *Taizé* worship service involves sung and chanted prayers, periods of silent meditation, and liturgical or other readings.

Iao UCC's variation of the service will include a station for the sacrament of Communion, prayer offering, and candle lighting.

This meditative service is based on the tradition of an ecumenical community of monks in Taizé, France—with a strong devotion to peace and justice as achieved through prayer and meditation. The 100-strong community of monks is drawn from individuals from some 30 countries around the world.



From Dawna Krueger and the Worshiping Community:
Easter Egg Hunt Items Needed!

The Lord has risen—He is risen indeed! Once again as Easter approaches, Rev. Tino has begun leading us on a journey through Lent which will lead us to a joyous Easter. This year again we will want to make it a time of learning and fun for our *keiki*. If you can help with providing goodies for the Easter egg hunt that will follow our Easter Sunday worship service, donations will be gladly accepted!

Children are encouraged to bring their empty Easter Basket/bag or any container for putting their gathered plastic eggs in. They will then redeem their eggs for surprises in Kanda Hall. The older youth will be the #1 Bunnies for this event. A few ideas for these gift surprises (but not limited to these): **individually wrapped/packaged crackers, cookies, cheese, individual bags of chips, small toys, bookmarks, blowing bubbles.** I will be ordering and shopping for some of these items, so cash donations will also help. We have an exciting hurdle here—we are serving a larger community of young people, and the budget doesn't quite cover the amounts we need. If you write a check, please make it out to the church and note that it is to be used for Easter baskets. *Mahalo* and God's blessings to you!

For any questions, see me after church, or phone me at 242-5076 or email dkrueger1@hawaii.rr.com

2020 Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Services and Soup & Salad



Every Wednesday During Lent
6:00 p.m. Soup & Salad ... 7:00 p.m. Prayer in the Church

**Hosting Parish provides Soup, Bread, Drinks,
Paper Products, Napkins & Utensils. Other participating
parishes provide the Salad and Dressings.**

***Hosting Parish Pastor provides the Order of Worship and
Leads the Celebration of the Lenten Prayer Service.***

DATE	HOSTING PARISH	HOMILIST
March 4	Kihei Lutheran	Rev. Terry Watanabe
March 11	St. Theresa	Rev. Janet Morel
March 18	St. Theresa	Rev. Roxanne Whitelight
March 25	Kihei Lutheran	Rev. John Tomoso
April 1	St. Theresa	Rev. Tino Cordova

Mana‘o of a Kupuna

by David Murata

Subject: “JAPS”

Those of us *kupuna* of Japanese-American descent will remember well being called “Japs” during World War 2 and even sometime after this war. You can imagine how we felt when called such a name by others in the community.

Award-winning author Frances Kakugawa, who lived through this era, tells it the best in her book *Kapoho*. Like many of us, we were surprised when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and entered the war. Kakugawa tells us “...the enemy had my face.” Wartime propaganda followed with cartoons that depicted the worst caricature of the enemy. And you can imagine how we Japanese-Americans were treated as related to the enemies.

After becoming a believing Christian, this experience of injustice against “others” led to my call to aid persons of cultural differences. I met a pastor from Micronesia while enrolled in a course at the University of Hawaii and he shared the needs of students who were in Hawaii and facing many challenges of having to live in a different environment with cultural differences. Together with this Pastor, we started a housing project near the University campus where students could meet and share challenges with others. We came to settle on Maui schooling at the UH and continued assisting Micronesian students going to school here. Then a nephew of my Pastor friend who was going to school at Maunaolu College died by suicide. It was then I felt a need to better understand the Micronesians so I applied for and was awarded a UCC grant to visit the Islands that comprised Micronesia at the time (7 Island States). This trip and subsequent visits to the Islands has helped some and I am still engaged in assisting Micronesians as a calling.

The experience of being labelled “Japs,” and discriminated upon because of race and culture led me to better know and understand Christ’s teaching for the need of all of us to care for all of God’s children, wherever they come from, to settle in our community.



(Above: the internment camp at Manzanar, CA)

TEXT BELOW EXCERPTED FROM:

California to apologize officially for historical mistreatment of Japanese Americans

By Gustavo Arellano
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer, Feb. 16, 2020

For decades, Japanese American activists have marked Feb. 19 as a day to reflect on one of the darkest chapters in this nation’s history. On that date in 1942, during World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt authorized the forced removal of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent from their homes and businesses. On Thursday, the California Assembly will do more than just remember. It’s expected to approve, with Gov. Gavin Newsom’s endorsement, a formal apology to all Americans of Japanese descent for the state’s role in policies that culminated with their mass incarceration.

HR 77, introduced by Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and co-authored with six others, spells out in excruciating detail California’s anti-Japanese heritage. It mentions the California Alien Land Law of 1913 (which made land ownership for Japanese immigrants illegal) and a 1943 joint resolution by the Assembly and state Senate that called for the forfeiture of U.S. citizenship by residents who also were citizens of Japan. It calls out U.S. Army Gen. John L. DeWitt for telling California politicians shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack that “the Japanese in this country have more [arms and ammunition] in their possession than our own armed forces,” in convincing them to round up Japanese Americans.

Read the full article here:
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-02-16/california-japanese-americans-apology>

Welcome! | New groups hosted at our church campus...

From the start of the new year, Iao UCC has become host to several new groups at our church campus:

On Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m., the congregation of the **Free Church of Tonga** holds worship service in the sanctuary.

Starting in mid-March (after our 2 Habitat for Humanity groups-in-residence will have left), Kumu Sissy Lake-Farm's hula halau, **Hālau Makana Aloha O Ka Laua'e**, will have practices at Kanda Hall on Monday evenings from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

And on Thursday evenings, also from 4:30 to 8:30, the **Mahjong Social** hosted by Lee Murakami will have game sessions (and potluck dinners!) at Kanda Hall. We warmly welcome all these community groups to our church campus with open arms and much aloha.



The **Free Church of Tonga** (*Siasi Tonga Tau'ataaina*) on Maui was started in 1982 by a group of Tongan immigrants who had settled here: Fanueli Fifita, Siale Sa'ili, Tu'a Masi, and The Rev. Sione Filikitonga. The first 3 men have already passed away, and Rev. Filikitonga is serving as Head Minister of a Tongan church in Hilo. They and their small Tongan community of Christians started meeting on Sundays at a beach in Kihei, under a kiawe tree. When it rained, they would decamp to a nearby member's house (Tevita Malafu, who passed away a couple of years ago). Before coming to Iao UCC, the Free Church of Tonga had been meeting at Wailuku Union Church, then at Ka'ahumanu Church, but late last year inquired about worshiping in our sanctuary. They have about 180 members registered in their congregation; not all come every Sunday, but enough such that they needed a larger sanctuary to hold worship services.



Naomi "Sissy" Lake-Farm is the daughter of Barbara and John Keola Lake. Although born and raised on O'ahu, her family roots trace back to the museum grounds through ke ali'i Kahekili. She is the granddaughter of Kealoha and John M. Lake and the niece of Maiki Aiu Lake, her first kumu hula, and Kahauanu Lake of the Kahauanu Lake Trio. Hula has allowed her to travel the world and she continues the family hula tradition through her hālau, **Hālau Makana Aloha O Ka Laua'e**. She and her husband, Kyle Ēlama Farm, have educated their three children through the Hawaiian language immersion schools, where they continue to be avid and enthusiastic supporters.



Kumu Sissy is also the Executive Director of the Maui Historical Society or *Hale Ho'ike'ike*, which is housed in the Bailey House Museum, our neighbor directly across Main Street from Fujitomo Hall and the upper parking lot. As executive director of *Hale Ho'ike'ike*, Sissy Lake-Farm helps keep Maui's past alive. Once known as the Bailey House Museum, the facility was recently renamed to incorporate its original name dating back to the 1950s while continuing to honor missionary teachers Edward and Caroline Bailey. *Hale Ho'ike'ike* means "house of display."

(Text above taken, with slight adaptations, from the Maui Historical Society's website; and an article in the Maui News.)



Special mention in above photo: in the far left, in the black t-shirt, is longtime church member **Lei Tobias**, who is in Maui for a few months. Lei has been living in Michigan since she and husband Ron left Maui a couple decades ago.



The group doesn't have a name, but I like calling it **Auntie Lee's Mahjong Social** (ed. ::chuckle::). For years they had been meeting weekly at *Hale Mahaolu Elua*, but space there recently became unavailable. So Lee asked if there was an evening slot at Kanda Hall where the group could meet and socialize, via the playing of a beloved board game. As it happens, Thursday evenings work out just fine. Also, this was Auntie Lee's way of getting more social exposure and English-language learning for the pastor's mother-in-law, Zhen. :-) In the photo above, new players Jackie Murai and Dan Kamidoi are being tutored by longtime mahjong enthusiast Bert Akitake (Jane Akitake is also a member of this group). Last but not least, the Social has potluck dinners during their sessions, which the church secretary plans to invite himself to, now and then. ;-)

Recent News and Photos | ...from B&G, Shelter Dinner, Support Group, et al.



Howard Ikeda of the B&G team getting the main entranceway ready for the project of replacing the door, which has shown its age for many years now.



In the photos above and left, Dennis, Dan and Howard are giving the sanctuary lanai floor, walls and ceiling a powerwash.



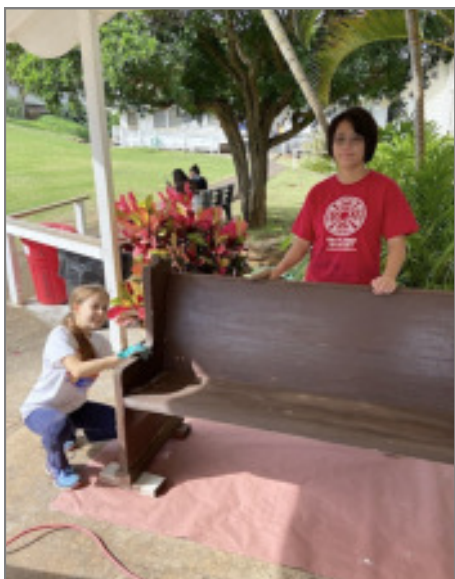
Every month, volunteers faithfully get together to prepare the meal for the Homeless Shelter. They include Joy Yamane, Lynette Shiroma, Jan Saiki, and Myriam Takamatsu. Not pictured above: Gail Ideue, Maybelle Hashizume and Kahu Kalani Wong.



Also every month, on the second Tuesday, faithful members of the Support Group Visitation Team spend the afternoon visiting church members at Hale Makua and Roselani Place. They also give Communion, with elements pre-blessed by Pastor Tino.



In late February, the B&G team did the project of rewiring Kanda Hall and adding a more robust electrical breaker panel for future expansion of circuit breakers and electrical loads—specifically, in anticipation of installing the new 220V AC unit that was donated to the church by an anonymous donor last Christmas. Although they had to hire an electrician contractor—Jeff Takemoto—B&G was able to do this project inexpensively by doing some of the rewiring work themselves (Dennis and Daniel spent hours crawling and working in the cramped space underneath Kanda Hall—see photo on the right.)



The second week of February was the “Winterim” period for high school students at Seabury Hall in Makawao. A group of them decided to spend this period volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Maui, which placed them for several days working on painting and carpentry projects on our church campus.

Under the tutelage and guidance of our B&G stalwarts, the students and their faculty mentors sanded the outside pews and painted the railings on the sanctuary lanai, and repaired several of the broken window screens at Kanda Hall. Mahalo to these helpful young volunteers!

A Programming Note... | *A mea culpa, and one huge mahalo*

Conscientious readers and close followers of this church newsletter will note the tardiness (once again!) of this monthly periodical—which appears to be evolving into a bimonthly one. (The last issue was the thick and newsy 16-page Nov./Dec. issue, and this one, another 2-monther, is following suit.) The lateness this time around is due to a catastrophic failure of the church office PC sometime in late December—the power supply unit in it exploded and the PC literally started smoking, but fortunately didn’t start a fire. We had a local PC repair shop attempt to retrieve data from the hard drive, but there was attendant data loss, which I’m still struggling with at the church office—I’ve had to recreate documents from scratch and printed copies. And the reason for this is I didn’t have a robust backup system in place, and didn’t have backups of data for over a year. Which is a *mea culpa* on my part— I have a fairly decent background in PC and computer tech, and should have known to be mindful about backing up!

But a kind of Christmas miracle came to pass, which mitigated the sting of losing our office PC. One morning in early January, Howard Ikeda walked in and I started to tell him what was happening with the office PC system; he had this subtle smile on his face, making me wonder what was up, or maybe my hair looked funny that day. ::chuckle:: After I told him what happened, he told me why he was there: our old church architect, Robert Hartman, was retiring and closing up his office... and was wanting to donate his office PCs to some local office who might be in need of one, so he had asked Howard if he knew anyone who did. Robert had just made this known to Howard quite literally that morning, when Howard had planned to come to the church office for something else. Bob’s office PCs are quite powerful (being used for architecture designwork), and fairly new, just a couple of years old.

You can imagine my shock, surprise, and delight, when Howard told me Robert would be happy to donate his PC to Iao UCC. So, a huge *mahalo* goes out to **ROBERT HARTMAN** for this wonderful gift, from the Iao UCC congregation in general, and from this church secretary in particular. Having retired, Bob is leaving Maui sometime this year, and moving to the East Coast, where he can live closer to his children and other family there. My work to recreate a couple years’ worth of church documents and data on our new office PC is still a mountain I must climb, so wish me luck with that, and prayers besides. Thank you very much, Bob!

~ Your faithful Church Administrator, **Lloyd Nebres**.



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One early morning in January, Pastor Tino and several church members—including Jan Saiki, Rena Hayashi and Dawna Krueger, joined community members in a rally along Ka'ahumanu Avenue, in support of Maui HS LGBTQ youth who were being targetted by members of the infamous Westboro Baptist Church religious bigots.

Mailed February 28, 2020
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What's inside . . .

Blessings from Pastor Tino	1
March 2020 Lectionary	2
March 2020 Worship Responsibilities	2
Jan.-Feb.-Mar. 2020 Birthdays	2
Tim's <i>Mana'o</i> Moderator's Notes	3
Upcoming Events	3
Our Music Man: Herman Hashizume	4-5
Iao UCC at 125 Years—1895-2020	6
16 th Annual Iao Preschool Ohana Fun Fair	7
Tri-Isle Association <i>Mokupuni</i> at Iao UCC	8
Church Leaders Event 2020 by Tim Stewart	9
<i>Taizé</i> Interfaith Prayer Series for Lent	10
Easter Egg Hunt Items Needed	11
Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Services	11
<i>Mana'o</i> of a Kupuna by David Murata	12
New Groups at the Iao UCC Campus	13
Recent News and Photos fr. B&G et al.	14-15
Back Cover Material (this page)	16

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 A.M.

Pastor	Florentino Cordova
Moderator	Tim Stewart
Church Admin./Pepa Editor	Lloyd Nebres
Choir Director & Pianist	Karyn Sarring
Iao Preschool Director	Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.