

# Iao Pepa

Na Makani

*A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ*

2371 W. Vineyard St., Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

November & December 2019

## Blessings from Pastor Tino | *“Focused on the Future”*

What a 2019 journey it has been beloved family. November has quickly come and gone and as I return from my vacation time at the end of November, it will be Advent! November was a time of reflection of our Veterans who have served our Nation. As a Veteran myself, I am remembering those who have accompanied me in foxholes, trainings, and can't forget those 25-mile quarterly road marches. As a Gold Star Brother, I am also remembering our families who have lost loved ones in times of war and peace and the hardship that it creates for them who are left behind.

As a kid in Kindergarten, wondering why we were going home so early from school one morning, only to see my parents, older siblings, relatives and friends – crying from the news that my brother Chris was killed in action (KIA) in Vietnam from friendly fire. I only have some mental images of my older brother, but I remember the explicit images of the sorrow my family experienced from the loss – from the ultimate sacrifice to this Nation. Let us remember all who have served, and those who did not return to their families, those who are still missing in action (MIA). Let us keep in our prayers those who are currently wearing the uniform to protect and defend this Nation and let us also pray for their families who also serve this Nation from a different standpoint. Sweet Land of Liberty – comes at a great cost.



I had the privilege of helping with our Eco-Justice for Youth Camp in October. The enormity of the plastic that is found in our oceans and on mother earth—what have we've done and what are we doing to ourselves and our earth mother? The youth learned the impact of plastics to the ocean creatures and the effects of climate change. As a church, for example, we changed our cups, lids and straws at our Frosty POG booth at last October's Maui Fair, that decompose quickly and are eco-friendlier. We are hoping to change our lighting to LED. Every Youth that attended the camp received a “*spork*” which is a wooden utensil that has a fork on one side and a spoon on the other and is washable. The Youth also participated in beach cleanup and worked at the watershed in Lahaina. As churches, we use so many plates, spoons, forks, napkins, etc. Iao UCC hopes to transition to become eco-friendly and lead by example along with our youth.

As we move toward another Advent Season together, let us reflect on a rebirth of our spirit and our beloved church we call Iao UCC. Let this be a season of quietness, anticipation, reflection and prayer. I am thinking of my words from a few Sundays ago on who Iao UCC has become and is becoming:

*“Then Jesus came to town. A demonstration on how Christ calls his Church to not only reach out to the rejected, but more important is what happens to the rejected, the othered when they experience Christ by our words and our actions when they feel the love of God surround them, when they feel as beloved children. God receives the rejected, the othered, and rejoices over the church that embraces them as beloved.”*

Let us also be thankful for the hard work that continues to reflect the dedication of so many of our Communities, partners, members, non-members, and thankfulness of those who continue to support this church from afar.

Blessings with love and appreciation,  
Pastor Tino

[ Editor: re. the wonderful photo above, please see the text and photos on page 4. :- ) ]

I had started thinking about this issue of *Iao Pepa* way back last summer, and even hinted about its contents for the past several newsletters.

The original kernel of the idea was to put together a list of past and present church members who are U.S. military veterans. You will see that list on page 5. On that list you'll see that 4 of the veterans (with blue highlighted dates), all WW2 vets, passed away this year—Tom Yamada, Ike Ikeda, Barney Itamura, and Herman Hashizume. But as summer turned into fall, our church community experienced the passing, one after another, of more beloved elders and *kupuna*. So I thought it appropriate, especially since we just had All Souls Day, earlier this November, to put together a list of those who died this year; along with reminiscences about several of them, from myself and Jane Tesoro mostly. You will see that on pages 6 through 9.

But along with the milestone of death, comes that of life; and as you can see on this page, some of our church community members have had the excitement of newborn babies. In the case of the Hashiros, as first-time grandparents! And of course along with the milestone of birth, is that of marriage—none other than for our Pastor Tino, and his long-time partner, Rong-Chao Bi. (See photo gallery on page 4.) And last but not least, birthdays are milestones, and you can see the list of celebrants for the last quarter of the year on this page.

There are so many stories to tell, as I've been discovering to my delight, when talking to members of this church community, especially about our 9 dear *kupuna* who have, it appears, all wrote a memo to each other and decided 2019 was the year to leave this vale of tears and smiles. ;-) But if I wrote down every single story, this issue of *Iao Pepa* would be unwieldy and far too long. So, the telling and sharing of these will be stretched out to future issues, through 2020 and beyond.

This will serve also as an invitation to you, dear reader and member of this faith community, to share your stories of your loved ones. You can come visit the office and tell it to me, or write it down yourself. Either way, it will be a welcome and valuable part of the tapestry that is Iao UCC's history.

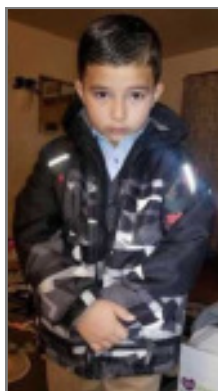
~ **Lloyd Nebres**, *Iao Pepa* editor



Brand-new grandparents Dennis and Katherine Hashiro, holding grandson **Maddox Motonobu Arnold**, born August 25, 2019. The grandparents traveled in early September to Montesano, WA to help daughter Erin and partner Geoff grandbaby-care for about a month and a half. They came back to Maui in mid-October, and will return to the Pacific Northwest in February.



That's baby girl **LaCar Doble Nithan**, born September 30, 2019, to Marla Mongkeya and her husband Doble Nithan. Marla is a devoted member of our Maui Kosrae Etawi congregation, and is the niece of Pastor Shrew Mongkeya.



...and this boy here, Cody Guy Cordova, will have a little sister come January 2020—Pastor Tino's latest grandchild!

## OCTOBER Birthdays

- 10.1 Aileen Kashiwamura
- Evan Akitake-Hill
- 10.2 Robert Ohata
- 10.3 Lynn Araki-Regan
- 10.4 Aimee Yatsushiro
- Alex Awai-Stewart
- 10.7 Nadashia Abraham
- 10.13 Youlida Yoruw
- 10.15 Lucy Wong
- 10.17 Alexander Belsom
- 10.18 Jan Ikeda
- 10.19 Jayven Bathin
- 10.20 James Morrison
- 10.24 Dale Yatsushiro
- Melissa Kunitake
- Dustin Kitagawa
- 10.25 Katherine Hashiro
- 10.28 Jane Tesoro
- Carolyn Kamidoi

## NOVEMBER Birthdays

- 11.02 Joshua Kenyel
- 11.11 Lynette Yamashiro
- 11.12 Robert Kennedy
- 11.16 Rick Hayashi
- Lynette Kaneshina
- 11.19 Ruth Mukai
- Shonia Lomae
- 11.25 Alan Maeda
- 11.28 Jasmine Belsom

## DECEMBER Birthdays

- 12.01 Alice Inouye
- 12.03 Timothy Stewart
- 12.05 Betsy Scheller
- 12.06 Maylani Hadley
- 12.07 Jane Akitake
- 12.08 Lynn Krieg
- 12.10 Vida Falan
- 12.11 Mark Mayeda
- 12.12 Karen Moody
- 12.18 Barbara Wimberley
- 12.20 Robynne Klein
- Jaymina Bathin
- 12.21 Johnalyne Yinmed
- 12.25 Wallace Yanagi
- 12.26 Gloria Nakama

## Tim's Mana'o | Moderator's Notes

*Dear worshippers that find comfort in the guidance and direction of God...*

It's that time of year in late November. We look forward to food, family and festivities. Also, there are bargain shopping days Black Friday (and Cyber Monday in December). This is the beginning of the holiday season!



### *Historical Document:*

"Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together in a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

— Mayflower Compact (November 11, 1620)

### *Historical Connections:*

The majority of members of the *immigrant* Pilgrims' group were Separatists. Separatists were essentially Puritans that had split from the Church of England (which was technically the only legal church in England at that time). However, not all Pilgrims shared this religion (as some had remained part of the Church of England). The United Church of Christ is a historical continuation of the General Council of Congregational Christian churches founded under the influence of New England Pilgrims and Puritans.

### *Scripture Verse:*

"For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you."

— Deuteronomy 8:7-10

In Thanksgiving and Gratitude,  
**Tim Stewart**  
Moderator

[ Editor: photo above is of the moderator's family at a recent hike up at the Waihou Spring Trail in Olinda. One does wonder who took the pic. ;-) ]

## Upcoming Noteworthy Events

**Wednesday, December 11**

**Finance Community**

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

**Sunday, December 15**

**Worshiping Community**

11 a.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

**Wednesday, December 18**

**COUNCIL Meeting**

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

**Friday, December 14**

**lao Preschool Christmas Program**

6 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

**Friday, December 20**

**Ladies' Lunch Bunch**

11 a.m. (Sanctuary)

**Saturday, December 21**

**Blue Christmas Service**

6 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Service**

7 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

**Wednesday, December 25**

**Maui Kosrae Etawi**

**Christmas Day Celebration**

All Day (Church Sanctuary)

## Congregational Meeting

**(Approval of 2020 Budget)**

*Please mark your calendars for  
this Congregational Meeting scheduled on*

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

*(taking place right after that morning's worship service)*



## A Civil Wedding | Friday, October 4, 2019

After 7 years of being together as a committed couple, Florentino Cordova and Rong-Chao Bi officially tied the knot and got married! This happy event took place at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 4th at the office of Judge Richard Bissen of the Second Circuit of Hawaii. It was lovingly witnessed by Lao UCC elders David and Grace Murata (who gifted the wedding celebrants the beautiful maile lei), and documented with photography and video by this newsletter's editor. :-)

You can find the video at the church Facebook Group page, using this link: <https://bit.ly/2KNsefH>

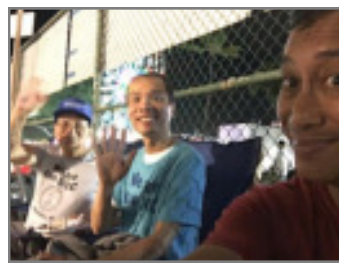
The church wedding will take place right here at Lao UCC on October 9, 2021—enough time for Pastor Tino and Rong-Chao's extended and far-flung family to make vacation plans to come to Maui—and will be officiated by Kahu Danette Kong. Congratulations, Pastor Tino and Rong-chao!



*Judge Bissen officiating the ceremony,  
before the saying of the vows.  
(See video on link above!)*



*The 3 photos below are from the church's Frosty POG booth at the Fair—where the newlyweds had volunteered for an evening shift, the day after their wedding. The editor asked to take a pic of their hands as they paused from cashiering duties, to show their wedding bands. :-)*



# U.S. Military Veterans of Iao UCC

## Past and Present

### WORLD WAR 2

Tom Yamada	U.S. Army (1941-45) d. 04.12.19
Noboru Koito	U.S. Army (1943-45) d. 08.09.07
Wataru Kaneshina	U.S. Army (1943-45) d. 02.10.05
Takeo "Ike" Ikeda	U.S. Army (1943-46) d. 04.20.19
James "Barney" Itamura	U.S. Army (1943-46) d. 06.11.19
Tadashi Fujitomo	U.S. Army (1943-46) d. 11.10.92
Wallace Maeda	U.S. Army (1943-46) d. 11.22.90
Jack Gushiken	U.S. Army (1943-46) d. 04.12.03
Wallace Ueki	U.S. Army (1943-46) d. [no date avail.]
Sadamu Koito	U.S. Army, <u>Killed in Action</u>

### Post-WW2 Period

Herman Hashizume	U.S. Army (1948-50) d. 10.22.19
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### KOREAN WAR

Mikio "Mike" Takamatsu	U.S. Army (1950-53)
Hisashi "Dick" Takamatsu	U.S. Army (1951-54) d. 01.15.18
David Murata	U.S. Army (1954-56)
Richard Komo	U.S. Army (1954-56)
Toshio Seki	U.S. Army (1952-55) d. 04.14.18

### VIETNAM WAR

Ron Tobias	U.S. Air Force (1962-65) d. 08.05.08
Michael Yamashiro	U.S. Army (1969-70)
Daniel Kamidoi	U.S. Navy (1967-71)
Dennis Hashiro	U.S. Army (1969-72)

### PERSIAN GULF

Florentino C. Cordova	U.S. Army (1986-90)
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### KUWAIT/BOSNIA

James Morrison	U.S. Army (1996-2000)
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## OF NOTE

4 members who were WW2 and post-WW2 vets passed away just this year (dates in blue):

**Tom Yamada, Ike Ikeda, Barney Itamura, and Herman Hashizume.**

6 active church members are veterans (names in maroon)

The oldest living Iao UCC vet now is **Mike Takamatsu**, who was in the Army during the Korean War. (See below)

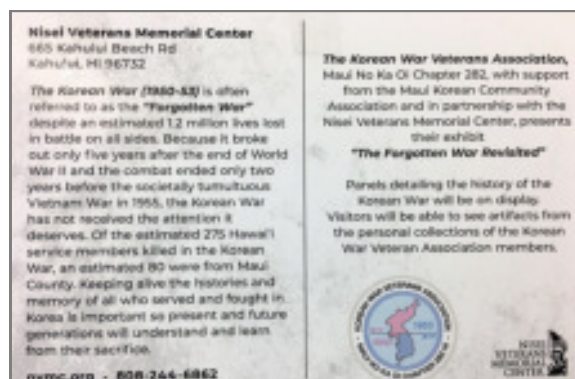
The youngest vet is **James Morrison**, In the Army during Kuwait/Bosnia.

Pastor **Tino Cordova** is a veteran.



**Mike Takamatsu** has been involved in putting together this exhibit currently at the Nisei Vets Memorial Center, "The Forgotten War Revisited."

It will run through the end of the year, and visitors will be able to see artifacts from the personal collections of members of the Korean War Veteran Association, of which Uncle Mike is on the Board.





*Iao UCC Members Who Passed Away in 2019*

**March 9**

**Katsumi Tadakuma, 98**

b. July 15, 1920

Joined Iao Cong'l. on March 24, 1940 (member #210)



*Katsumi*

**March 11**

**Katsuko Arakaki Matsuo, 89**

b. September 20, 1929

Joined Iao Cong'l. on April 3, 1966 (member #627)



*Kats*

**April 12**

**Tsutomo "Tom" Yamada, 104**

b. August 21, 1914

Joined Iao Cong'l. on April 10, 1949 (member #343)



*Tom*

**April 20**

**Takeo "Ike" Ikeda, 97**

b. January 14, 1922

Joined Iao Cong'l. on December 20, 1959 (member #546)



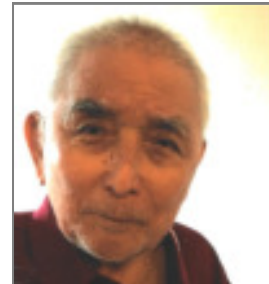
*Ike*

**June 11**

**James "Barney" Itamura, 91**

b. November 6, 1927

Joined Iao Cong'l. on May 18, 1947 (member #316)



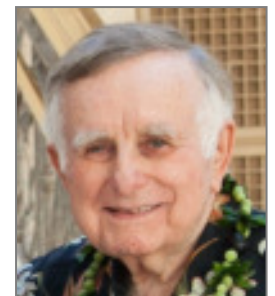
*Barney*

**June 30**

**William Porter Wimberley, 96**

b. January 10, 1923

Joined Iao Cong'l. on March 24, 1996 (member #818)



*Bill*

**September 17**

**Mabel Tokunaga Kobayashi, 92**

b. July 6, 1927

Joined Iao Cong'l. on April 10, 1960 (member #567)



*Mabel*

**October 13**

**Hisako Shishido Ideue Sano, 100**

b. January 7, 1919

Joined Iao Cong'l. on October 25, 1953 (member #398)



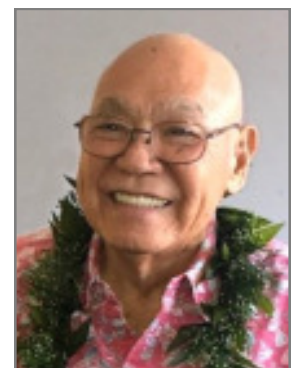
*Hisako*

**October 22**

**Herman Teruo Hashizume, 92**

b. August 28, 1927

Joined Iao Cong'l. on March 26, 1961 (member #592)



*Herman*

## **Katsumi Tadakuma**

Katsumi Tadakuma, 98 of Waipahu, passed away on March 9, 2019 at his residence. He was born on July 15, 1920 in Haiku, Maui. Katsumi was a mill supervisor for Wailuku Sugar Company. (Fr. the [Maui News](#) obituary).

Jane Tesoro said, of Uncle Katsumi: *"He loved music, and played the harmonica (like a lot of men in his generation). He served as Stanta Claus for our church Christmas parties – and even bought special black boots for the pageants! He was a dedicated Boy Scouts leader. Was a tall man (for Japanese), and his wife Kimiko loved to dance hula. He sharpened lawn mowers, as a side business. Their family house was adjacent to the old sugar mill, across from St. Anthony's, in plantation housing. Katsumi was a baritone, in the men's choir. I remember he had a hearty laugh, and was good-natured."*

## **Kats Matsuo**

Katsuko "Kats" Matsuo, 89, of Wailuku passed away peacefully on March 11, 2019 at Hale Makua Wailuku. Kats was born in Olaa, Hawaii on September 20, 1929 to Ushi and Kame Arakaki. She was the 3rd youngest of 11 children. In 1995, Kats retired from Maui Electric Co. where she was an executive secretary. In May of 1982, she won the honor of Secretary of the Year for Hawaii. She was flown to our capitol in Honolulu and was recognized by then Governor George Ariyoshi. In her free time, Kats enjoyed knitting and crocheting, gardening, cooking and baking. Her homemade Lemon Meringue Pie was so ono. But her real specialty was her New Year's Day Ozoni soup. The mizuna was grown in her garden. It brought our family and friends together every year to celebrate. Kats loved to sing in her choir at Lao UCC and always volunteered her time assisting members of her congregation. Kats was known to always be kind, caring and thoughtful and would put the needs of others before her own. She spoiled her 3 grand-daughters when they were young. She would babysit them after school and take them to get treats, sometimes shave ice or hotdogs. (Fr. the [Maui News](#) obituary.)

Jane T., on Kats: *"She had a beautiful voice, and beautiful jewelry! Kats had polio as a child; She sang in the church choir (she was a soprano), like her contemporaries Hisako and Ike, and was good friends with Sue Gushiken. She was a very sweet lady, who loved her dogs. Kats used to love singing old-time Japanese folk songs. She sang with a Japanese dance band—she was the main singer of it!"* And Kat Hashiro added: *"...she had a very Japanese quality to her voice. Nasally, but sounded really good."*

## **James "Barney" Itamura**

James "Barney" Mamoru Itamura, 91, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2019 at Roselani Place. He was born on November 6, 1927 in Hamakuapoko to Seiichi and Kazue Itamura. Barney is survived by his wife, Gladys; son, Dickie; grandchildren, Kelsi, Kristi, Kari and Ryne; 3 great-grandchildren; brother David Itamura; and sister Mae Hirata. (Fr. The [Maui News](#) obituary)

Jane T. reminiscences: *"James was a Pilgrim Fellowship adviser; he and the Kawasakis founded Maui Chemical (now TJs). His wife*

*Gladys is now in Roselani Place. They used to live in Harbor View Homes; after they retired, they bought a home in Kula and Gladys loved growing their plants up there, but when they got older they sold the house. James had beautiful skin and didn't have any wrinkles!"*

## **Bill Wimberley**

William Porter Wimberley died peacefully in his sleep on Maui, June 30, 2019, having lived an enriched life of 96 years. Born on January 10, 1923, in Aberdeen, North Carolina, Bill graduated from Aberdeen High School, attended North Carolina State College, and then honorably served his country in World War II as an Army Sergeant Major, seeing active combat in Burma. Returning to civilian life, he married Connie Carroll, attended Gonzaga School of Law, then remained in Spokane, Washington where he became a renowned civil trial lawyer. Bill and others founded and helped fund the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Spokane, an institution that, to this day, makes great strides to improve the lives of children, youth, and families through culturally responsive programs. Upon retirement, Bill and Connie moved to Maui, where they continued practicing civil responsibility and social charity as an expression of their religious faith. In the early 1990s, Bill and Connie attended Lao Congregational Church, where they were welcomed into its loving community. They continued their social justice service through Lao Congregational's many different missions, serving all people regardless of race, color, nationality, age, political alliance, different abilities and sexual orientation. Bill's legacy is his dedication to serving others with love, respect, and dignity. (From the Spokane Spokesman-Review obituary)

Jane T.: *"Once, I ran into Bill and his wife Connie in a parked Volkswagen Beetle and went up to them and asked, 'Aren't you in Kalama Heights?' Bill said, 'No we ran away from there because it was too boring!' Their daughter Barbara is moving to Connecticut."*

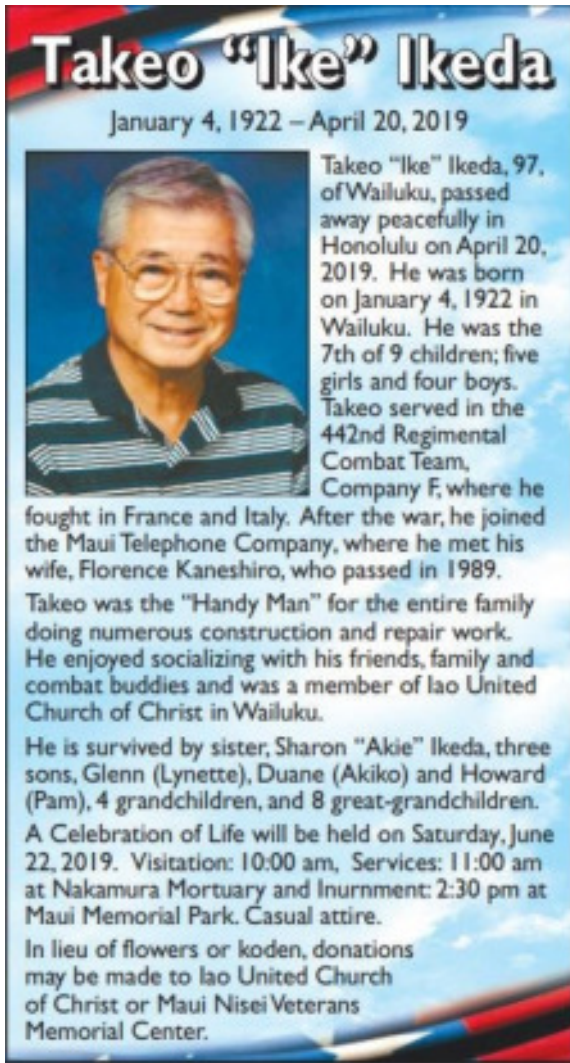
## **Mabel Kobayashi**

Mabel Tokunaga Kobayashi 92, of Wailuku, Maui passed away peacefully September 17, 2019 at home under Islands Hospice Services. McKinley High School Class of 1945. Graduate of University of Hawaii School of Medical Technology. Retired as Chief Medical Technologist at Maui Memorial Hospital State of Hawaii. Survived by brother, John of Aiea; sons, Paul of Aiea, Carl of Redondo Beach California and Kenneth of Wailuku. Simple private service held. Inurnment at the National Cemetery of Pacific at Punchbowl at a later date. (Fr. The Maui News obituary)

Jane T.: *"Mabel was a med tech at Maui Memorial (and became head med tech); she was the one who would give the PKU test (for mental retardation); she'd slice the infants' heels and took drops of blood from there. She and Herman were classmates at McKinley High School in Honolulu. Mabel's sister Helene married Spark Matsunaga. She was an important part of the Support Group. I remember picking her up for her 80-yr. old Keiro No Hi in 2015. Mabel's youngest son Kenny (the only son living on Maui) took care of her until she died, and she lived in their compound in the lower house."*



## Remembering **Takeo Ikeda**

An obituary graphic for Takeo "Ike" Ikeda. It features a portrait of an elderly man with glasses and a striped shirt. The text provides details of his life, including his birth date (January 4, 1922), death date (April 20, 2019), and his service in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. It also mentions his family, his role as a "Handy Man" for his family, and his involvement in the Lao United Church of Christ. The graphic includes information about a Celebration of Life and visitation services.

**Takeo "Ike" Ikeda**  
January 4, 1922 – April 20, 2019

Takeo "Ike" Ikeda, 97, of Wailuku, passed away peacefully in Honolulu on April 20, 2019. He was born on January 4, 1922 in Wailuku. He was the 7th of 9 children; five girls and four boys. Takeo served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company F, where he fought in France and Italy. After the war, he joined the Maui Telephone Company, where he met his wife, Florence Kaneshiro, who passed in 1989. Takeo was the "Handy Man" for the entire family doing numerous construction and repair work. He enjoyed socializing with his friends, family and combat buddies and was a member of Lao United Church of Christ in Wailuku.

He is survived by sister, Sharon "Akie" Ikeda, three sons, Glenn (Lynette), Duane (Akiko) and Howard (Pam), 4 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2019. Visitation: 10:00 am, Services: 11:00 am at Nakamura Mortuary and Inurnment: 2:30 pm at Maui Memorial Park. Casual attire.

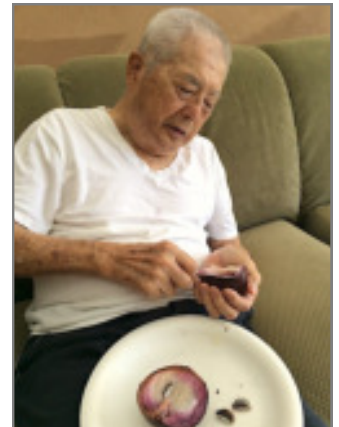
In lieu of flowers or koden, donations may be made to Lao United Church of Christ or Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

(The graphic on the left was the obituary for Ike Ikeda that was published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. What follows is a reminiscence by this newsletter's editor.)

By the time I got to meet him, Uncle Ike was already some years into the haze of dementia and Alzheimer's. I had asked Howard if I could visit with uncle, who was then under 24/7 care in the home of a caregiver, Paz Spellicy, whose pleasant home was in Paukukalo. Paz and her husband took care of several elderly patients, one of whom was Uncle Ike. He did seem to know what Howard was saying, as he perked up when his son introduced me as a visitor from his old church, and who was its current secretary.

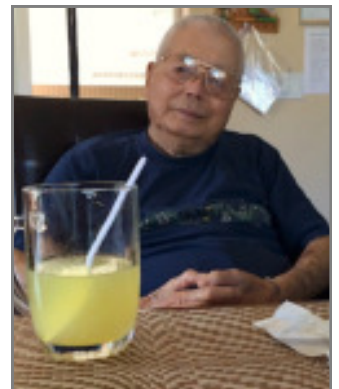


I'll never forget something during that first visit with uncle—his singing of Filipino folk songs! Howard told me that some of uncle's best friends were first-generation Filipino immigrants, who had taught him the songs (some of which were ribald!). It amazed me to hear the familiar strains—in Tagalog!—of "Bahay Kubo" and "Leron Leron Sinta" coming from this old gentleman, who could barely remember things any longer. Music is definitely something that will accompany the mind and memory of anyone in old age, even if they are suffering from Alzheimer's. And it made sense to me when Howard said that uncle was very musically inclined (see Uncle Ike's own note about learning the cello, next page) and was a long-time member of the Lao Men's Choir, and later the church choir in general.



One of the stories uncle shared was that as a child growing up in Happy Valley, he loved to pick guava fruit from the many trees there along the banks of Wailuku River, and along Lao Valley. So, another time that I visited with uncle Ike, I brought him some fruit, to jog his memory of small-kid time: starapple from the tree in the church, and a persimmon from a farm upcountry. He looked at me and smiled and said the Japanese word for persimmon, "kaki" (which for some odd reason amused me ::chuckle::). The photo on the right shows uncle enjoying the starapple fruit; I remember telling him the Tagalog name for it, "kaimito," and describing to him the tree it came from, which is right beside Fujitomo Hall, the church office building.

Another photo shows uncle with a lemonade drink that Howard made for him and I mention this because it struck me how lovingly the son took care of his dad. Before his stay with Paz folks, Howard took the responsibility for the primary care of his father, who was living in his own house in Wailuku, near the Lao Intermediate school, and not far from Howard and Pam's home in Sand Hills. It is truly a labor of love and compassion, taking care of an elderly parent with dementia. Uncle Ike was fortunate to have such a devoted son, as Howard was fortunate to have had a dad like Uncle Ike. •





## Uncle Ike's own words, from a biographical essay he wrote, titled "Life Story," dated April 21, 2002:

I was the 7th child in a family of 9 born on January 4, 1922 in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii. Graduated from Perinne Baldwin High School in 1940 with 87 other classmates. I was very interested in farm animals so I got in the Ag class and the FFA group. I learned a lot about animals and gardening, and working and helping others with their project.

During my senior year, I joined the Baldwin string orchestra and learned to play the cello. I used to carry my cello home on weekends and practice my music. I wish I could have played the cello for another year. There were 5 girls and 4 boys in our family. Our mother passed away when I was 5 years old. She was of small stature but worked very hard in the family garden raising vegetables for our table. The girls helped me with chores and cooking.

My father passed away when I was 12 years old so I remember him quite well. Our parents were very nice to us, but they expected us to follow the Golden Rule and I mean we had to follow it. They would always remind us not to "shame the family." Be honest and help each other.

-----

In 1943 during World War II, a call for volunteers fr the army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. A special outfit composed of all Japanese Americans. I was 21 years old and volunteered and was sworn in at the Army on March 24, 1943, in our Wailuku Armory and was shipped out to Schofield on Oahu. The we were shipped out from Honolulu on April 4, 1943 to Oakland, California. Then on to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where we trained for a year.



The 442nd RCT went into battle in June of 1944, in Italy and stayed in Italy in September, 1944. Hiroichi Tomita and I bunked together in the same hutment in Camp Shelby and heas KIA (killed in action) on July 12, 1944 in Italy. My neighbor on Maui, Tetsuro Kawakami was KIA on July 14, 1944. My heart hurts when I think of them.



Our unit was pulled out of combat from Italy and sent to Marseilles in Southern France, for reorganization for the next battle. From here we were truck convoyed to the North to the hills outside of Bruyeres, France. Here we were ordered to capture the town of Bruyeres. Took us tow days to liberate the town and surrounding hills. Bruyeres was liberated on the 18th of October, 1944. I was wounded in Italy on July 6, 1944 and also in France on October 19, 1944.

I think the toughest battle in France was when the 442nd RCT was ordered to rescue the 141st "Lost Battallion" from Texas. To rescue the 200 Texans trapped by Germans took the 442nd five days of tough combat. Our outfit lost about 1,000 men. Casualty was very heavy.

*The photo on the right shows a number of WW2 veterans gathering for a ceremonial event at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center in Kahului.*

*A number of Iau UCC church members are in the photo, including Ike Ikeda, James Itamura, and Tom Yamada.*



Coming, in the January issue of *Iao Pepa*:

“Remembering **Uncle Herman**—Conversations With Auntie Maybelle” by L. Nebres & J. Tesoro

“Remembering **Tom Yamada**”—historical research & essay by L. Nebres

## Remembering **Hisako Sano**

(Fr. The Nakamura Mortuary obituary:) Hisako Shishido Sano was born on January 7, 1919 in Paia, Maui and passed on October 13, 2019 at Hale Makua Kahului. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to all people she met. Her life was full of activities in her beloved church and community. She is survived by children, Randy (Florence) Ideue, Winford (Gail) Ideue, Keith Ideue, Richard (Mary Ann, deceased) Hixenbaugh; Daniel (Arlene, deceased) Pursell and Amy Miyamoto; 13 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren; sisters, Sandra Choi and Patsy Matsumura; brother, Lawrence Kazue Shishido. (Photo to right shows Hisako with son Winford and devoted daughter-in-law Gail Ideue at the 2018 *Keiro No Hi*.)



*Lloyd reminiscing about Auntie Hisako:*

“Not bad for a 95-year old lady,” was the first time, I think, back in 2014 when I started working at the Iao UCC office. That was what Auntie Hisako always said when I’d ask her how she was doing.

The year after that, it would be “Not bad for a 96-year old lady!” and so on and so forth. This bit of dialogue would always take place when I’d come by Auntie’s plantation-style house at the end of winding Halenani Street in Sand Hills, ostensibly to deliver the latest issue of the Upper Room to her... but in fact it was because I just wanted to hang out a bit and talk story with Auntie, or better yet to beg for some of those fantastic mangoes she had in her backyard, when it was mango season. She was always happy and gracious to walk with me to her backyard and to point out the best mangoes to pick. That grove of mangoes was a phenomenal collection of different varieties, and the scent and tapestry of that shadowed grove always sent me right back to my childhood in the southern Philippines. I would sit on her front stoop and Auntie would sit on her chair on the lanai, and she’d tell me a bit about the old days when she used to work in the sugarcane plantations. I wish I’d made audio transcripts of those conversations and stories, as my memory of the details is failing me... as, eventually, Auntie’s own memory eroded to the indistinct landscapes and general forgetfulness of an elderly human being in the grips of dementia or senescence... a place most of us will eventually arrive to, should we be so fortunate to live a long and eventful life, as Auntie Hisako did.

Hisako Shishido Ideue Sano lived to be exactly one century old. Plus another half of a sun’s cycle around the planet. Few of us will be able to say that for ourselves. If for that reason alone, Auntie had a life fully lived. The last couple of years of her life, Auntie lived in Hale Makua, where she could be cared for 24/7. She had lived by herself, semi-independently but always under the watchful care of Gail and Winford, who lived in Wailuku Heights, not far from her, until she was about 98, but at that point had become physically infirm, uncertain of step and cognition. Once she walked down to Waiale Street and literally tried to hitchhike her way to the elderly day care center at the Nisei Vets place in Kahului! It was an act of care and compassion for her family to have Auntie live in Hale Makua instead, under the watchful care of the staff there. The last time I saw Auntie at Hale Makua, a couple months after her 100th birthday, she was mostly asleep, as I pushed her in her wheelchair up and down the hallways.

The second to last time I saw Auntie Hisako was on Christmas day last year; I’d gone to Hale Makua that morning, bringing a red Hymnal for Youth, which has all sorts of classic hymns in it, many of which I was certain she would recognize, as she had been a longtime choir member at church. By then, a few weeks before her 100th birthday, she could barely remember who I was, I think, but she smiled when she saw me anyway. But the best part was when I leafed through the hymnal and would start to sing an old familiar hymn—and Auntie would join me in singing! Some of the hymns she could sing from memory, all the verses and not just one. That day, Auntie Hisako and I gave each other the best Christmas gift we each had in us. That is how I will remember Auntie... her firm singing voice bringing the ageless words from those hymns back to life, the light of memory in her century-old eyes.

*Auntie Hisako always seemed to be sitting near her dear friend Lillian Maeda, at church events at Kanda Hall, as you can see in these photos below. The middle photo was a Ladies’ Lunch Bunch gathering, with the addition of Uncle Richard Inouye as the token man. ::chuckle::*



## IUCC's Fundraisers

### Elite Discount Cards

Council members have Elite Fundraiser cards for folks to sell. The cards have great discounts and other offers for the 15 diverse local businesses listed to the right. Each card sells for \$20. (It cost us \$10, so profit is an excellent 50%.) Please contact any Council member to get cards, and sell them to your friends and family. *Mahalo!*

### Amazon.com "Smile"

As of Nov. 1, 2019      **\$ 47.50**

If you do online shopping via Amazon.com, for every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a fraction of the amount to the charity of your choice. **Consider making lao UCC your charity.** This is at NO cost to you.

How to do this?

- (1) Simply point your web browser to:  
**smile.amazon.com**
- (1) ...and set "lao Congregational Church" as your charity of choice. (That was the way it was initially set up, not as 'lao UCC' or 'lao United Church'.)

That's it! Again, this costs you nothing in addition to the price of the item/s you are purchasing. *Mahalo!*

### lao UCC T-Shirts (Youth Ministry Fundraiser)

As of Nov. 1, 2019      **\$ 527.00**

We have plenty more lao UCC t-shirts available for purchase at the church office. Come by after church service or any time during the work-week, if you would like to get one.



#### **Bamboo Grille (Wailuku)**

1063 Lower Main Street #226  
10% off meal only



#### **Domino's Pizza (Wailuku)**

52 Maui Lani Pkwy., Ste. D6  
10% off total purchase



#### **Giannotto's Pizza (Wailuku)**

2050 Main Street #1A  
Free cheese slice with pur. of same & soda



#### **Jersey Mike's Subs (Wailuku)**

52 Maui Lani Pkwy. #31000  
Free sm. Combo w/ pur. of reg. or giant



#### **Perfection Bra Fitting (Wailuku)**

39 Central Avenue  
10% off indiv. bras \$50 or more



#### **Ultimutt Grooming (Wailuku)**

1898 Main Street  
10% off total purchase



#### **Bistro Manila (Kahului)**

230 Hana Highway #2  
15% off sit-down meal, on \$50-above pur.



#### **Fernando's Mexican (Kahului)**

275 W. Ka'ahumanu Ave. #1111  
10% off total purchase



#### **Tutti Frutti (Kahului)**

140 Ho'ohana Street #101  
50% off fro.yo. w/ pur. of same



#### **Pizza Fresh (Makawao)**

1043 Makawao Avenue  
\$2 off a large specialty pizza



#### **Stopwatch Bar&Grill (Makawao)**

1127 Makawao Avenue  
Free fries with pur. of burger or sandwich



#### **Hula Cookies (Ma'alaea)**

300 Ma'alaea Rd., Ste. 207  
1 free cookie & 10% off in-store purchase



#### **Seascape Restaurant (Ma'alaea)**

192 Ma'alaea Road  
Free Maui Mud Pie w/ pur. Of 2 entrees



#### **Blue Moon Cafe (Kihei)**

362 Huku Lii Pl. #101  
10% off total purchase



#### **Round Table Pizza**

207 Pi'ikea Avenue (Kihei)  
2580 Keka'a Drive (Lahaina)  
20% off pizzas (not valid w/ other coupons)

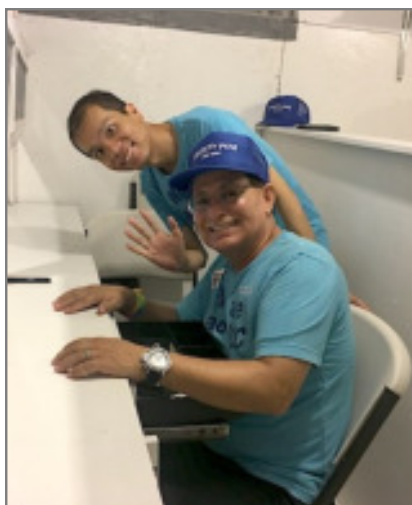


## Maui Fair 2019 | Scenes from Iao UCC's Frosty POG booth...

Photos by Carolyn Kamidoi, Warren Orikasa & Lloyd Nebres



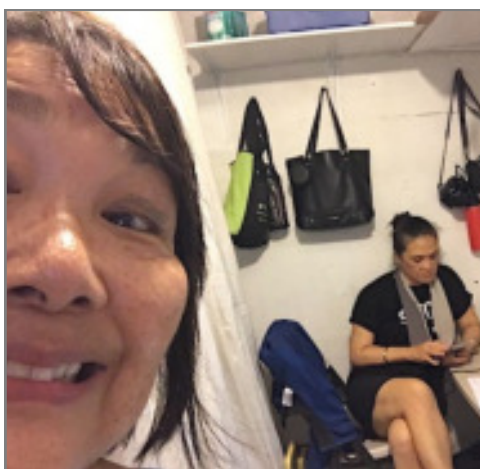
*The Frosty POG supplies are kept in huge mobile refrigerators and are ferried to the booth early every morning of the Fair.*



*A child learning the value of work and community, while also enjoying the Fair.*

*The newlyweds (above) even worked a shift on the evening after their honeymoon at a Lahaina resort. Such dedication! :-)*

*The church's youth were enthusiastic and valued members of our Frosty POG crew.*



*Someone took my iPhone and promptly made selfies willy-nilly. ;-)*







## December Lectionary

### Dec. 1 **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
**Matthew 24:36-44**  
*Called to Gift*

### Dec. 8 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12  
*Vision of Peace*

### Dec. 15 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
**Luke 1:46b-55**  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11  
*Heartbeat of Justice*

### Dec. 22 **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
**Matthew 1:18-25**  
*God With Us*

### Dec. 29 **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 63:7-9  
**Psalm 148**  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23  
*Cosmic Praise*

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. •



*Photos on this page show B&G guys—Dennis Hashiro, Howard Ikeda, Daniel Kamidoi, along with Pastor Tino and Warren Orikasa pouring cement for the Endo Hall garage upgrade, as well as a little bit by the lanai, one day in mid-November.*

## December Worship Responsibilities\*

### Readers

Anela Awai-Stewart & Susan King

### **December 1**

Greeter: Tim Stewart  
Ushers: Carolyn Kamidoi, Lynette Shiroma  
Alex Stewart  
Aloha Hour:  
Jackie Murai & Grace Murata

### **December 8**

Aloha Hour:  
Satsigo Jim & Youlida Yoruw

### **December 15**

Aloha Hour:  
Gail Ideue & Jennifer Saito

### **December 22**

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

### **December 29**

Aloha Hour:  
Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

## The Endo Hall Garage Upgrade Project





# December 2019

## Iao United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> 5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S)	<b>2</b> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM AI Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 6:00 PM Etawi Prayer Fellowship (S)	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Kosrae Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	<b>7</b> 7:30 PM AA (K)																																																																																				
<b>8</b> 5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S)	<b>9</b> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<b>10</b> Support Group Visitations	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM AI Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 5:30 PM FINANCE (F) 6:00 PM Etawi Prayer Fellowship (S)	<b>12</b> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM Iao Preschool Christmas Program Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	<b>14</b> 8:00 AM Kosrae Etawi Yard Cleanup 7:30 PM AA (K)																																																																																				
<b>15</b> 11:00 AM Worshiping 5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S)	<b>16</b> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM AI Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 5:30 PM COUNCIL (F) 6:00 PM Etawi Prayer Fellowship (S)	<b>19</b> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<b>20</b> 11:00 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch (Sanctuary) 6:00 PM Kosrae Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM Blue Christmas Service 7:30 PM AA (K)																																																																																				
<b>22</b> 5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Maui Kosrae Etawi Christmas Day Celebration	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 PM Kosrae Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	<b>28</b> 8:00 AM Micronesian Comm. Cleanup 7:30 PM AA (K)																																																																																				
<b>29</b> 10:45 AM Congrega- tional Meeting 5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	<div> <div>Nov 2019</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Jan 2020</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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**SAVE-THE-DATE!**

**Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2020**

A celebration weekend for Iao UCC's 125th Anniversary

Tentative theme: *“Reflecting Our Past That Leads To The Future”*

**The 125th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee:**

Craig Bode, Tino Cordova, Susan King, Rena Hayashi, Lloyd Nebres, Shannon & Jaime Ribao, Jan Saiki

MOER DETAILS AND INFO. WILL BE IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF IAO PEPA. Stay tuned! :-)



**Iao United Church of Christ**  
**2371 W. Vineyard Street**  
**Wailuku, HI 96793-1626**  
(808) 244-7353  
iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net



*Lloyd and Pastor Tino displaying the beautiful Advent tablecloth that pastor and Rong-Chao made for the altar. The photo doesn't do it justice; come see it in person. :-)*

**Mailed November 26, 2019**  
**Address Services Requested**

☐ If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check this box to mark as: "Return to Sender."

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Website: [iaoucc.org](http://iaoucc.org)  
[facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/](https://facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/)

### 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.***