



Ninth 1000 Tree Giveaway a Blooming Success

by Gordon Aoyagi

“This is my very own plant!”, exclaimed a young boy proudly carrying his potted plant following his parents down the College Hill Driveway. He was part of the 700-plus attendees who visited the event at College Hill on November 12, 2022. The cloudy skies and occasional rain did not deter the happy spirit of the day, nor the crowds. It seemed everyone considered the rain a blessing. A woman beamed, “This plant giveaway is the best thing Mānoa does!” “We hold this event approximately every two years,” explained Dr. Jeremy Lam, President of the Mānoa Outdoor Circle. “This year was the ninth time over the past couple of decades.” His fellow Outdoor Circle members join him on several propagation and potting days during the year in preparation.



20-month-old Sierra Hu is ready to take home her find!

This exciting collaboration between Mālama Mānoa, the Mānoa Outdoor Circle, and Lyon Arboretum was years in the planning. Members donate plants and trees they have nurtured in their gardens. About 1200 plants were distributed, not including the 100 plants and trees offered by Mānoa Outdoor Circle to the North Shore Outdoor Circle after their grant to purchase plants for their Arbor Day giveaway did not materialize.

Numerous tree varieties, including native species, were available, including avocado, hau, kalo (taro), koa, kukui, false wiliwili, monkeypod, mountain apple, palms, papaya, plumeria, ti leaf (kī), ‘ulu and many others. Most fruit-bearing trees flew out the gates, with folks lining up around the block an hour before the 8:00 AM opening.

Thirty volunteers from the sponsoring organizations and three arborists, Heidi Bornhorst, Dudley Hulbert and Steve Nimz were busy throughout the morning, answering questions about plant care and appropriate planting. Linda Legrande, President of Mālama Mānoa,



Three “strawberry blondes” surrounded by some of the lush foliage distributed at the 1000 Tree Giveaway on November 12, 2022. (Visit malamamanoa.org to enjoy this image in vivid color.)

commented, “This was a great benefit to both the Mānoa branch of the Outdoor Circle and Mālama Mānoa. It was so much fun! And who knew there were so many different varieties of plumeria?”

Lyon Arboretum Horticulture Manager, Tim Kroessig, said, “Lyon is Mānoa’s very own Arboretum and Botanical Garden. This was a great opportunity to collaborate with Mānoa environmental groups to host a tree-centric event and promote the importance of green spaces and benefits of trees.” <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/lyon/>

An older gentleman looking through the wide variety of smaller plants asked a volunteer, “Why do you do this?” To make our communities green, clean and beautiful was the answer, and the gentleman replied, “Look around - all the volunteers are smiling and enjoying helping people find the plant they want. Everyone is happy; this is a gift from the heart.”

Jeremy Lam proudly said, “This is the first 1000 Tree Giveaway held over the many years we’ve done this that we didn’t have a single plant remaining at the end of the event. Mahalo to everyone who made this a very, very successful giveaway!”

When asked to sum up her experience that morning, Heidi Bornhorst said, “There was a super-cute lady near the end who was gently holding two little kukui seedlings. She smiled as she told me, ‘I’m pregnant and I’m going to plant these for my baby.’”

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to promote community; celebrate our cultural diversity and heritage; and preserve, protect and enhance the special qualities of historic Mānoa Valley.

The President's Corner



Linda Legrande

It's the Lunar New Year of the Water Rabbit and a different cute furry animal, Punxsutawney Phil, has predicted six more weeks of winter. The Mainland has Groundhog Day to predict winter weather and in Mānoa we have the Punahou Carnival every February. The perennial question is, "Will it rain?" As in many previous

years, it did indeed! These cyclical markers remind our communities that the annual rhythms we all experience bring a sense of stability we all need, especially now.

I believe, despite the uncertainty of the past few years, that we in Mālama Mānoa, and all of you who care about our cherished Valley, remain constant. We envision and continue to help create a community that supports connections and cares for one another, always hoping for the best outcome, or should that be "hopping"?

The challenges and changes that are occurring in the Valley recently are happening rather rapidly. We want to keep our friends, neighbors and readers informed and aware so we can make educated decisions and promote our shared goals. When we can do this with civility and respect for one another, everybody wins.

Watershed management is an enormous part of maintaining our natural environment, particularly in rainy Mānoa. We have an exciting program planned for our annual Spring Membership Meeting at Mānoa Valley Theatre, April 13, 6-8PM. JC Watson of the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership will share the latest methods for the control of invasive Albizia and demonstrate how you can contribute to this effort in a hands-on workshop.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Long Range Plan for the future of the flagship campus in Mānoa is another

endeavor with which we have been closely involved. We want to hear from you, our neighbors, how best to support the University's many worthy goals in this regard.

We all know that affordable housing is crucial to the future of our Valley and our island state. Ongoing dialogue on this issue is essential. Get informed, stay connected, and let's all make sure everybody's voices are heard.

We are a community that embraces people, schools, organizations and institutions ... we do our part to embrace positive change. We look forward to helping you do the same. Let's hop to it, Rabbits!

With gratitude and my warmest aloha,

Linda Legrande

JOIN US.....

Mālama Mānoa Spring General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 6:00-8:00 pm
Mānoa Valley Theatre

"Imua! Rapid Albizia Death Hui"
Public invited * Refreshments will be served

We will be hosting and honoring a small group of volunteers who destroyed 1800 invasive albizia saplings along nearly a mile length of the Mānoa Stream in March, 2022. Albizia is one of the fastest-growing trees in the world and impacts the urban, agricultural, infrastructure, tourism and priority watershed sectors on Oahu. JC Watson, Mālama Mānoa Board member and head of Ko'olau Mountain Watershed Partnership, along with Scott Snider, owner of property along the Mānoa Stream, initiated a pilot program to focus on the albizia problem in Mānoa and as such Mānoa serves as a foundational location and leader in pushing the line back in the face of the albizia invasion. The public is invited to applaud these environmental heroes!



Please consider donating to assist us in our efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the special qualities of historic Mānoa Valley. Mālama Mānoa is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Our newsletter is published two times per year.

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Celebrating Mālama Mānoa's 30th Anniversary and Nā Kūpuna Luncheon

Spirits were high at our first major indoor gathering – Nā Kūpuna Luncheon - since the height of the pandemic! The Luncheon is one way we honor and celebrate our Valley's kūpuna, those sixty-five years of age and older who have resided in Mānoa for forty years or more.

This year's theme was "Artists of Mānoa", with a motif featuring kukui trees. Ninety kūpuna, accompanied by friends and family members, and twenty-five invited Mānoa artists enjoyed the festivities and a buffet from Laverne's Lunch Wagon and Catering at St. Pius X Church on Lowrey Avenue.

Pat Chung said Masters of Ceremony, Marion Lyman-Mersereau and Robin Otagaki, could "go on the road" as an entertainment duo, adding, "Mānoa's got talent!" Marion's pule was beautiful and moving, especially as she translated from the Hawaiian. Guessing the correct number of kukui nuts in a jar won an air fryer for one lucky attendee! Lucky Number giveaways were a real hit, even as Robin joked about it being "juiced"!

Kumu Hula Kilohana Silve and her Hālau Hula o Mānoa entertained us with a beautiful oli and dance, kahiko style, followed by an 'auana number, "Yellow Ginger Lei." The dancers then gifted the lei that they were wearing to the kūpuna in the audience.

Incoming 2023 MM board member, Cathy Cooke, was a very welcome part of the "artists' contingent". She helped create the beautiful and informative booklet, "The Art and Artists of Mānoa", which was distributed to all guests. Cathy also engaged artist and illustrator, Jim Rumford, author of "Kahalaopuna, the Beauty of Mānoa," to regale us with the story of the Rainbow Princess.

Students from Noelani and Mānoa Elementary Schools delighted us by providing 150 drawings of the kukui tree to decorate the venue. We invited our guests to take them home, and some even found drawings created by their own grandchildren!

The Boy Scouts of Troop 33 really stepped up. Thanks to Scoutmasters Grant Tokumi and Chuck Tindle of Troop 33, George Arizumi's former troop. The Scouts were everywhere they needed to be, serving lemonade, water, cake, clearing tables and even stayed to help clean up.

Smiles and hugs were exchanged, tummies were filled, and spirits were nourished on this special day. Each kūpuna departed with their photograph, "Artists of Mānoa" booklet, and a Mālama Mānoa 30th anniversary commemorative mug. Our kūpuna are the heart and soul of Mānoa. We are honored and delighted to have once again enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate them, the true treasures of our Valley.



Boy Scout Troop 33



(left) Joyce and George Arizumi, a Mālama Mānoa "Power Couple"! A few of their innumerable contributions over the years include Joyce being President and Chair of the Luncheon numerous times and George managing the Mānoa Stream Cleaning. (middle) Kumu Kilohana Silve shares a lei with our guests. (right) Marion Lyman-Mersereau, Maylani Chang, JoLinda Susilo, Robin Otagaki, Mary Robinson, Linda Legrande, Beth McLachlin

Getting to Know Your Board Members...

Thom Benedict

I've lived in Mānoa since 1989, except for a four-year stint in Makiki Heights. I currently live in Upper Mānoa /Woodlawn, but have also lived in the College Hill and Paradise Park areas of the Valley. In my regular walks in Mānoa for exercise, I "see" our community in a way that some may not. I've been pleased to have gotten to know neighbors from all parts of the Valley, not just Upper Mānoa/Woodlawn.



My mother was the Neighborhood Board President in a small resort town in Michigan where I was raised. She

succeeded in having our entire neighborhood of well-maintained Victorian homes placed on the National Register of Historic Places. She taught me the importance of actively working to support our neighborhoods. I'm a member of Historic Hawai'i Foundation and truly understand the need to take action to preserve cherished places like Mānoa.

My work as a lawyer handling civil lawsuits involves solving problems resolving disputes. I have participated in hundreds of arbitrations and mediations during my 32-year legal career. I'm happy to contribute my public speaking and presentation skills when needed to Mālama Mānoa.

Bill Dendle

Bill first moved to Hawai'i in 1963 and lived in Wahiawā for three years, attending Leilehua High School. After a short stint in Texas, he returned to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 1968, graduating in Political Science in 1971. During his undergraduate studies, he lived on Lowrey and Dole Streets in Mānoa.



Bill spent the next four years in the Air Force, the last year of which he was

happy to be able to serve as a Hawai'i resident.

After concluding his military service in 1975, Bill lived in Alaska and on the Oregon coast before returning to Hawai'i in 1977 to complete joint master's degrees in Public Health and Urban/Regional Planning at UH Mānoa.

Bill worked at the State Legislature for 12 years and the State Department of Health for 10 years, followed by employment in a variety of other public health-related organizations. He was the Home Office Administrator for Freedom Medicine in 1985-1986, supporting an emergency medicine teaching program on the Pakistan/Afghan border during the Russian invasion.

He has also worked as Associate Director for the Pesticide Hazard Assessment Program at UH, focusing on breast milk and agriculture contamination of ground water. Bill's last full-time employment was as an administrator and compliance officer for the Committee on Human Studies for the UH system for 10 years.

Among the many special blessings Bill is grateful for was the opportunity to share a duplex house on Lanihuli drive with the Concert Mistress and Principal Cellist of the Honolulu Symphony for seven years. The greatest joy of his life has been meeting and marrying his wife, Phyllis. He has also been delighted in working and playing guitar with a now-departed friend for 20 years, performing at horse shows and rodeos across Hawai'i. Bill has taken special pleasure in participating in the many Historic Mānoa Walking Tours and very much looks forward to many more!

Brenda Lam

Brenda Lam has an impressive background in design, construction and landscape architecture. She attended Punahou School, and received BAs in Art History and Pre-Landscape Architecture from UH Mānoa and a Master of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from Utah State University.



Her parents, a Navy nurse and an Army doctor, met during WW II. Marie Link Lam and Dr. Fredrick M. K. Lam married in 1946. They raised Brenda and her three siblings in Mānoa in a modest house her father bought from Hart Wood, a well-known Honolulu Architect, in 1956.

Brenda's grandparents lived a block away from 1936 until 1984, when her grandmother passed. Her paternal great-grandparents had immigrated to Hawai'i from Guangdong Province, China in 1886 and had 13 children here.

She moved to Kona in 1979 and founded Pacific Kona Landscaping, Inc., the first woman-owned design/build landscape company in Hawai'i. In her 38 years on Hawai'i Island, she also oversaw low-income housing construction and served on the boards of The Kona Outdoor Circle and Habitat for Humanity, West Hawai'i.

Brenda has three sons — all in the construction industry — and six grandchildren. She returned to Mānoa to take care of her father. One day in 2013 she saw a sign in front of her family house and realized Mālama Mānoa was conducting a Historic Mānoa Walking Tour, which included her family's home! The residence, 2512 Mānoa Road, was placed on the Historic Homes Register in January, 2017.

Welcome to our Mālama Mānoa's Board of Directors Brenda! You bring a lot to the table and we look forward to working with you.

Pi'ikea Miller

Pi'ikea lives in Mānoa with her husband and two teenage sons. Having lived here for almost 20 years she says, "I love that Mānoa retains its close-knit, neighborhood feel, even though it's in urban Honolulu."



Pi'ikea grew up on Oahu's Windward side. After high school she spent six years on the East Coast, graduating from Georgetown University and working with The Nature Conservancy's Latin America Program before returning home to work for their Hawai'i Program.

After returning home she began volunteering with the Polynesian Voyaging Society and was a crew member on their 1995 and 1999 voyages between Hawai'i and the South Pacific.

For nearly 24 years she worked as a Program Officer and Director for the Hawai'i Community Foundation addressing multiple issues including natural resource conservation, organizational capacity-building, and food security.

Pi'ikea's impressive set of work experiences has emphasized social and environmental justice. She believes that the work of organizations like Mālama Mānoa helps contribute to our natural, built and social environments. "Our Valley is facing important issues, including land use planning and the critical need to adapt to climate change." She is excited to join the board, "I hope I can work with Mālama Mānoa and continue to advocate for a bright future, one that allows Mānoa to retain its unique character and sense of community for years to come."

Jan Mitchell

Janyce Mitchell was born and raised in Mānoa, attending Noelani, Stevenson, and Punahou School. Jan left Hawai'i for college, receiving a B.S. in Physics (Stanford University), an M.S. in Physics (U.C. San Diego), and a J.D. (U.C. Berkeley).



After law school, Jan married a "California boy". She and her husband returned to Mānoa and had a son. Her husband teaches math at

Kamehameha Schools. Her son graduated from Punahou and is studying Computer Science at Georgia Tech. She's a patent attorney with Van Pelt, Yi & James, in California.

"I grew up in Mānoa before the Mānoa Marketplace, when people rode horses at Noelani," says Jan, continuing, "I remember being a kid on the playground at Noelani, looking up at the Ko'olau, and being struck by their beauty and how lucky I was to see that every day."

"You can still see that view from Noelani," Jan continues, "My dog 'Taffy' (pictured) and I walk every morning, passing homes that are historic, not just because of their architecture, but because of their place in Mānoa's history. We trade stories, news, and treats with neighbors. There is history here, beauty here, and the old Hawai'i I remember from when I was little."

After her son left for college, Jan wanted to volunteer with something Mānoa-focused. She was re-introduced to Mālama Mānoa and has helped with various projects. She says, "Mānoa is worth working for and preserving. That's why Mālama Mānoa's mission speaks to me and why I'm grateful to serve on its Board."

Morgan Nixon

Morgan was born and raised in the rural seaside community of Amagansett on the eastern tip of Long Island, NY. He first moved to Hawai'i to study Hawaiian Music 13 years ago. He fell in love and now enjoys living in Mānoa with his wife, Koalani, and two stepchildren, Kanoa and Hoku.



Morgan has worked as an independent contractor for numerous companies and agencies in the Bay Area of San Francisco as a designer, web developer and consultant over the past 20 years. His experience with the Bay Area Video Coalition activated his desire to spread his

knowledge of web design to others, particularly community-based non-profit organizations.

He continues to do freelance work locally, working with clients in the Honolulu area. Morgan also runs a small vinyl record shop, specializing in rare and import records.

Morgan brings to Mālama Mānoa extensive experience in all facets of web design and development, and a strong desire to serve Mānoa's environment, people and organizations. This year he's volunteering his time to create a new website for Mālama Mānoa. This will allow the community to stay even more informed about community events and raise awareness about Mālama Mānoa's numerous ongoing plans and projects. Morgan enjoys looking for new music, fishing, cooking, making art and working in his backyard garden.

Rain Garden and Rainwater Harvesting at Noelani Elementary School

by Veneeta Acson

The “heavenly mist” at Noelani Elementary School waters the native plant garden; however, when there is too much rain or perhaps even a drought, the four rain cisterns kick in.

Not your typical rain garden, Noelani’s Rain Garden is arranged to not only collect and store rain to water the native plants that grow in both wet and dry soil, but also to restrain the rainwater from going directly into Mānoa Stream, thereby helping to keep our stream from overflowing. The overflow water goes directly into the rock bed under the Rain Garden, and ultimately to the aquifer.

The Rain Garden is part of the newly created IDEA (Innovative – Discover – Explore – Achieve) Center at Noelani, which was built during covid times and opened in the fall of 2021. The IDEA Center includes a new library, teachers’ work/meeting space, and a STEM classroom.

My mo’opuna, who walk past the Rain Garden every day, would like to thank the intrepid Mālama Mānoa members - our leader Kyle Tokuda, Pi’ikea Miller, Brenda Lam, Kimie Hirabayashi, Colin Sato, Bill Dendle, Linda Legrande, and yours truly – for having lovingly weeded around the native plants.



On a sunny December afternoon, several Mālama Mānoa members tended the Rain Garden at Noelani School.

The care undertaken by Mālama Mānoa participants was our way of thanking the upper grades and the staff for providing decorations for our 2022 Nā Kūpuna Luncheon. The third, fourth, and fifth graders drew delightful color illustrations of kukui – trees, nuts, leaves, branches – and staff laminated the over 100 drawings! Those attending the Luncheon were invited to take home the charming pictures.



On November 5, 2022 at Kamānele Park, twenty-six volunteers from Mālama Mānoa, the Mānoa Outdoor Circle and the Beer Lab Hawai’i Project filled 50 bags with invasive vegetation and one bag of trash, an estimated 1,000 pounds total!



L to R: Mālama Mānoa scholarship recipient Genesis Leong, Master of Ceremonies Gregg Nakano, recipient Dingyi Liu, Confabulous Chair Helen Nakano and recipient Kinzang Dorji. These three graduate students from the UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning presented their analysis of the Confabulous Community Needs Survey at Confabulous II.

CONFABULOUS II - Long-time Board member and former Mālama Mānoa President, Helen Nakano, and her tireless team produced a terrific Annual General Membership meeting, “Confabulous II”, at the wonderful community gathering place, the WaiWai Collective, next door to the old Varsity Theater on November 17, 2022. A gathering of five educational institutions, four faith-based organizations, nine community organizations and seven government offices, all Mānoa stakeholders, were represented at this event as our Mission Statement of promoting community was fostered.



A community directory of almost 200 entries of businesses, schools, churches and other stakeholders was prepared by the scholarship recipients.

Proposed Change to Mālama Mānoa Nonprofit Status

When Mālama Mānoa was set up as a non-profit organization in 1992, member-based organizations were the only option available in the Hawai’i Revised Statutes. Some years later, board-based organizational structures became available in Hawai’i. A change of our status from a membership-oriented nonprofit to a more traditional public charity nonprofit is viewed favorably by our board and does not change our mission to serve our community.

Mālama Mānoa’s next annual General Membership Meeting is planned for October or November 2023, when this change will be on the agenda for discussion and voting. Please look for the announcement in our Fall Newsletter issue. Mahalo!

CALL TO APPLICANTS!

Mālama Mānoa encourages educational entities in our community to apply for one of our Educational Endowment Grants. Entrants need to align with our mission: increasing the knowledge of Mānoa, enhance its beauty/natural environment, and/or celebrate the diversity of its residents. Annual deadline for applications is October 1. Grants are awarded at the end of the calendar year. Request an application from audrey.tanaka@gmail.com.

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Founding President: Mary M. Cooke, 1936 - 2022

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

General Membership Meeting

- Thursday, April 13 , 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Mānoa Valley Theatre, 2833 E. Mānoa Road

Kamānele Park Cleaning

- TBD

Noelani Rain Garden Cleaning

- TBD – Summer 2023

Community Calendar

The Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 is not holding in-person meetings until further notice.



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