



RSVP Newsletter

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

“Someone Who Will Listen”

Scott Nishimoto, Honolulu City Council

City Council Member Scott Nishimoto credits his family with inculcating in him the call to public service and giving back. After completing his undergraduate degree at UH Manoa and serving a year as student body president, Scott spent two years working with Senator Daniel Inouye at his Washington, DC, office. On his return to Oahu, Scott entered the Richardson School of Law at UH Manoa. At the end of law school, he ran his first door-to-door campaign, beginning his life in public service with his election to the Hawaii House of Representatives in 2002. This campaign was the first implementation of his philosophy – to be a person in government who will listen.

Scott prides himself on reaching out to his constituents as often as possible. He loves to perform what he calls “little representational acts”, the small gestures that help others, because to him, no problem is too small. During his years in the House, he represented about 30,000 individuals. Through his work on the State budget, he came to see that many of the problems his constituents faced proved to be city issues. In order to be an even more effective voice for the people of Honolulu, he turned to City Council in 2024, where his district runs from Palolo to Ward Avenue, nearly 120,000 residents. With that many constituents to hear from, Scott relies on his office staff to serve as the kind of listener that he is. No matter who answers the call or email, they follow the same philosophy- to be accessible and accountable. His office will always follow up, ensuring support even when they can't help directly.

When describing his background, Scott was proud to mention that his father was one of the delegates elected to serve at the Constitutional Convention

of 1979 and signed the State Constitution that was drafted at that time. Both his parents and grandparents served as examples of where hard work and dedication can carry you and the importance of giving back. With his father's side from Kapahulu and his mother's family in Waialua, Scott has a blend of town and country in his background and credits his family with the support and encouragement to be whomever he wanted to be. The family has dinner together every Sunday and provides unwavering support in his campaign and public service.

When asked what he is most passionate about, he called the budget a reflection of values, whether of the state or the city. He stated that budget priorities change with the times, going from a focus on the issue of meth in the islands in the past to homelessness, city sidewalks and roads in today's budget. He calls every budget a road map for the county.

Scott Nishimoto is a man who has dedicated his life to the City and County of Honolulu and always wants his constituents to know that they have a friend in government, someone who will listen. His number one goal is to make government accessible to the people it serves.



Interviewed by Susan Waldman

Claude Monet: A Rebel with a Vision

With a neatly trimmed but bushy goatee covering a defined chin, his portrait reveals an intense look highlighted by dark chestnut brown eyes and hair and an unsmiling expression. In dapperly attire he looks like a gallant, a gentleman of leisure during the 19th century in Europe. Nicknamed *"The Dandy"*, he was not well-liked by his critics or rural neighbors, but he always kept a circle of his talented friends close to him and his ideals.

Claude had many sides to him besides being an artist—he designed and built his own garden at Giverny, France, was a cook who loved to eat good food and kept a journal of original recipes, enjoyed traveling and adventure, and was a family man. He was heard to say, *"Aside from gardening and painting, I'm good for nothing!"*

Regarded as ill-tempered, rebellious, and defiant, his paintings were rejected harshly by his critics as crude, incomplete, unconventional, and frivolous. He stuck steadfast to his belief that painting should highlight nature in *"plein air"* or in open spaces and feature ordinary things and everyday leisure activities at the beach, park, and open fields to capture the feeling of being *"in the moment."*

During his lifetime of longevity with progressively failing eyesight, he once explained, *"I'm working very hard and wish to paint everything before I cannot see anymore."* Being a perfectionist, he was never satisfied with his work and would destroy some of his canvases. Unrelentingly he kept to his ideals to paint *"in the moment"* using quick visible brush strokes capturing the fleeting effects of light and air, and bold colors like blue, purple, and orange to produce natural lighting on the canvas.

Monet's style born out of rebellion and rejection was mockingly labeled *Impressionism*—meant to be an insult by one of his severest critics, who viewed his style as lazy, childish, and unserious. His revolutionary style and talents that went unrecognized during most of his lifetime were nevertheless shared with his fellow artists and cultures like Japan where he was influenced by Hokusai and Hiroshige and their Ukiyo-e art.

Today his paintings and those of his contemporaries—Van Gogh, Renoir, Manet, and Degas—are exhibited in galleries like the Musee d'Orsay, the Legion of Honor, and our Honolulu Museum of Art as well as all over the world featuring his popular *Water Lilies* and *Bridge at Giverny*. My watercolor instructor Mr. Charles Higa was a master in teaching the techniques of Monet when he could no longer create his ceramic art due to contracting ALS. This article is dedicated to world recognized artist Charles Higa whose painting of *"Banyan Tree"* was hung at the Hawaii State Art Museum in downtown Honolulu.



WHY WE MUST TRAVEL

Mark Twain said: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

I read that as a student at University High School eons ago. Until then I had never traveled outside of Hawaii. I took my first plane ride outside of Hawaii to Chicago for college. I met people I didn't know existed and ideas that were diametrically opposed to what I was taught growing up in Kalihi. My world expanded exponentially and I promised myself to travel as much as possible when I had the means to do it.

It was fortunate that I was a teacher and could chaperone student trips to foreign lands. Exploring diverse lands, cultures and peoples broadened the scope of my thinking, creativity and personal growth. Travel also gave me indelible memories and I maintain mental images from over five decades ago. The prejudices of my family, of growing up in Hawaii, of Americans as a whole slowly dissolved as I experienced others who were very different from me and yet, in the most basic ways, the same as me.

You learn when you travel and you learn incredibly interesting things about the world and yourself. Here are four absolutely random things I learned traveling from university professors who traveled with our tour groups.

1. Bonfire. On a visit to the Globe Theatre in London, the etymology of the word bonfire was explained to us. The word bonfire comes from the original bone fire. In England, the most important and wealthiest people were buried next to the local church. William Shakespeare wanted to be buried with his family next to the Holy Trinity Church of Stratford-upon-Avon. He paid the church to dig up the graves nearest the church and to burn the bones to make space for his family. Therefore, bone fire. Shakespeare and his family are now buried next to the church.

2. Crete, insular dwarfism, cyclops. Millenia ago, all the Greek islands were attached to the mainland. With

seismic events and ocean rising, islands formed. Elephants abounded in the Greek region. When the island of Crete was formed, some elephants were trapped on the island. As there was less area and less food for these elephants on the isolated island, they became smaller and smaller until they died out. Therefore, insular dwarfism. Years later, Greeks found the smaller elephant skeletal remains and thought they were giants with one eye. The elephant has almost insignificant eye sockets but has a huge nasal cavity that could be misconstrued as an eye hole. The Greeks explained these small elephant skeletons as giants with one eye and called them cyclops.

3. Birth & death in the South Africa Kapama Game Preserve. In one of our morning game drives, our driver and tracker became quite excited about a purplish-blue blob on the side of the road about a meter in diameter. We were told it was an elephant's placenta and it was no more than two hours old. We then drove very slowly making as little noise as possible and found a very young baby elephant learning how to walk with a phalanx of female adults surrounding it. On an afternoon drive, we found a mother leopard in a tree and her cub about three feet above her. Above the cub was a dead impala in their arboreal pantry waiting to be eaten later. At the foot of the tree were six adult hyenas waiting for tidbits to fall when the leopards had dinner.

4. Trivia. What word is misspelled on the Liberty Bell? We were just in Annapolis, MD and visited the campus of St. John's College. There was an exact replica of the Liberty Bell on the front lawn and the word misspelled was Pennsylvania, missing an "n."

Travel on your own, join local Non-Stop Travel, or Smithsonian Journeys and in the words of the old Yew Char Travel Service on Maunakea Street, "see the world before you leave it."



The Wandering Gourmet says, "It's So Good!"

Hi everyone, it's been so hot lately that I thought checking out some ice cream shops around town would be appropriate.

There's an ice cream shop downtown called Wing Ice Cream Parlor on Pauahi and Maunakea. They've been there for years and years, but opens at 3pm. I finally got there, and it was worth the wait. I love their unusual flavors that are homemade. I had the Rosewater and Cardamon Yuzu. You never see rosewater ice cream except at this place. It was creamy with that delicate rose aroma and taste, just yummy. The Yuzu was light without that harsh lemony taste. In the past, I've had Hurricane Popcorn, Mexican Chocolate, Ginger, Calamansi, Coco-Monkey to name a few. They are also the only place that makes Violet candy ice cream, which I refuse to eat. The owner has excellent taste in music so I sat, listened to some wonderful bass players and enjoyed my ice cream.

I wanted to be diverse so I went to a vegan ice creamery called Niu Soft Serve Parlour. What you do is select a flavor such as coconut, ube, and you can embellish it with all kinds of sauces and add-ons. I had the Sunrise, which is coconut soft serve with a strawberry li-hing sauce bits of lemon peel, condensed milk like sauce and small bits of mochi. It was very flavorful, refreshing and substantial. They're located in the parking lot of Kozo sushi across from Old Stadium Park.

I next went for gelato at Gelato & Chill. They are located on Ala Moana Boulevard, in the Canterbury Place Condominium, near the old Wailana Coffee Shop. They are located downstairs, so it's not quite visible. There is parking in the back on Ena Road. They have a huge selection to choose from. I got the Banana Chocolate which tasted just like a frozen banana dipped in chocolate. It was creamy, rich with lots of chocolate layers, just yummy. They also have

other flavors such as Ricotta with figs, Pistachio, Tiramisu, Satsuma Mandarin Orange. I will be going back here again.

I learned of a Japanese ice creamery called Cha to Gelato Zen. They are located on Kapahulu Avenue near the UPS store. This place is very Japanese with lots of wood, simple and a very calming atmosphere. I had the Gelato Flights which are three flavor set. I chose the Hojicha Chocolate, Miso and Yuzu Ginger. The Hojicha Chocolate had an excellent balance of really good matcha and chocolate with little bits of chocolate. The Yuzu Ginger was just lovely with the light lemony flavor and a whisper of ginger. I've never had miso gelato before, and I was pleasantly surprised. The gelato was creamy and rich with the sweetness of miso which comes through. A very nice interpretation. This place also does a tea and gelato pairing course. They even have snacks that you can pair with your tea. Their matcha is very good which is hard to find in Hawaii. And, they also have sencha. I will be back for the pairing course and to see if the sencha is superior.

I didn't want to go to the usual ice cream parlors. But one day, I stopped by Baskin and Robbins just to see what flavors they had. I was surprised to see Brie My Guest which is Brie and Burrata flavored ice cream with Almonds & Pistachio Pieces and Apricot Swirls. This was absolutely delicious. The brie cheese is creamy so it went well with the vanilla burrata cheese. The bits of almond and pistachio pieces added texture and every now and then you bite into a small bit of citrusy apricot. The layers of flavors in this ice cream were just perfect, yummy.

So, these are my recent wanderings. If you're hot, hungry, need a break, have some good refreshing ice cream. Till next time, have some ice cream because "it's so good".



Winterlude

I miss the stark beauty of winter especially during the holidays. Winter sunshine, for example, is more glorious because it is rare. When it teases its way through latticed curtains in a farmhouse, your heart will sing. You take a walk outside. A scarlet cardinal catches your eye and steals your breath momentarily as you savor the harmony: bird, sunshine, snow.

I do not miss scraping ice off the windshield at 4:30 A.M. and offering prayers that my loved ones and I would miraculously arrive safely at our destinations. You need the resolve of a Formula 1 pro to navigate at night on a backroad in the Berkshires. As alluring as snow appears in holiday films it is not light and fluffy. "Dear Santa, please bring us a snow machine and a generator this year." Those beautiful pictures of bedazzled "winter wonderlands" always omit the downed power lines. New Englanders are very casual about such conditions.

Please enjoy these haiku illustrative of my conflicting emotions about the snowy season.

I don't like winter
Winter is a carnivore,
claws out, its bite sharp
--Malorie Blockman

Dead my old fine hopes
And dry my dreaming but still...
Iris, blue each spring

Winter Solstice 2025
Chaos -deliberate-abounds
yet, the earth still makes her rounds.
In colder climes
solstice bells chime.
Neighbors offer cheer and comfort from hunger and fear.
Loyal, steadfast sun
Bids darkness undone.
--Judy Dente



Book Review: **The Christmas Box** by Richard Paul Evans

About the Author...

This work of fiction is author Richard Paul Evans' debut novel. While working as an advertising executive, Mr. Evans wrote "The Christmas Box" as an expression of love for his two young daughters, Jenna and Allyson. He produced twenty copies to give to family and friends. In the following weeks, these twenty books went from family to family and friend to friend. What began as a simple tale for his two girls, would eventually spread to millions throughout the world. A story that was never intended for publication launched Richard Paul Evans' career as an internationally known author.

About this book...

"The Christmas Box" is a very heartwarming story, written in the form of a narrative in the protagonist, Richard's perspective. This story is about a widow, MaryAnne Parkin, and the young family that moves in with her. Mary is in her winter years of life, lonely and in need of companionship and help around the house. She believes that if she finds the right family to move into her huge home, they will fill this void. She chooses the Evans, a young couple with a child. As time goes by, Mary receives far more than she originally hoped for. The Evans become her loving "adopted" family, and she, in turn becomes a loved and cherished friend to the young couple. Mary's warm and caring nature earns her a place in Jenna's heart as an adored grandma. A Christmas box, found in the attic of Mary's home plays an integral part in the young father's life journey. Through the contents of this box and the sage, mentoring influence of Mary, this young father learns the true meaning of Christmas and the healing power of family and faith. And together, the family discovers the first gift of Christmas and what Christmas is really about.

Life lesson learned from this book...

This story is well underway to becoming a Christmas classic. The life lessons revealed in "The Christmas Box" have had a profound effect on the many individuals that read this story. Through the character's experiences in faith, hope and healing from tragedy, readers found comfort and peace in their own personal journeys.



From the Eyes of Shaka Santa

There are three stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus, He does not believe in Santa Claus, He is Santa Claus. Ho Ho Ho! Happy Holidays!

Every year's Christmas Cheer finds me decked out in a Shaka Santa outfit, enjoying a few holiday parties with my good friend, TuTu Mele, Linda Coble! We start with Responsive Caregivers Hawaii. Next, we join a lively group of 1500 keiki (children) at Palama Settlement, where Keiki receive a gift from The Marines Toys for Tots donations. I also join in the fun at a Club 100 Holiday Party.

Legend has it, the story of Santa Claus started with, Saint Nicholas of Myra. Saint Nick was born on March 15, 270. He lived until December 6, 343. He was known as Nicholas of Bari. St. Nick was from the maritime city of Parata, in Anatolia, during modern-day Antalya Province, Turkey. This would place our Jolly gift giving Saint in the Roman Empire days. He was also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker, because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession. Saint Nicholas was a patron Saint of the under privileged. Saint Nick's legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to today's folklore by way of story-tellers sharing Saint Nick's stories, worldwide. Today, we know his legend in songs, like; you better watch out, you better not pout, I'm telling you why, Santa Claus is coming to town.

In The 'Spirit of Santa,' as Shaka Santa the typical question is, 'How on Earth does Santa cover the entire world during Christmastime?' I smile and reply, 'That's 'the spirit of Christmas' working it's Holiday magic. Belief in the spirit of our winter holidays brings Peace on Earth's smiles, laughter and love.' To which some look puzzled, 'What?' Santa leans in and says, 'in truth, the winter holidays are a time of the year that remind us we're here for something besides ourselves.' Like Dr. Seuss's Grinch shouted, "Maybe Christmas Doesn't Come from a Store, Maybe Christmas, Perhaps Means a Little Bit

More!" That's your cue to reach out and hug someone near... stand back and ask, Eggnog anyone? As for believing in Santa, he'll usually give doubters underwear, knowing, what they really need is Aloha, Peace, Love and Harmony...

Kama'aina Holiday Tip; Don't miss the Honolulu City Lights Display; featuring Shaka Santa & Tutu Mele. Shaka Santa has been a part of the holiday season in Honolulu since 1989.

In the spirit of the holidays, let's remember, a good life is when we assume nothing, need less, dream big, let go of expectations, forgive, love with an aloha spirit, laugh a lot, and appreciate how fortunate we are to be able to, decorate our tree, go caroling with friends, drink eggnog, while watching our favorite holiday movies.

Careful you don't shoot your eye out, Ralphie.

To contact Santa, write to;
SANTA CLAUS
123 ELF ROAD
NORTH POLE 88888

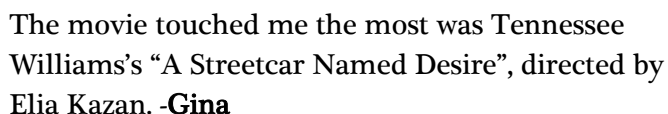
Or call Santa's North Pole Phone; 951.262.3062

Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou Ho Ho!



"Your Favorite Holiday Song, Movie, or Story that Touches Your Heart"

If you've seen A Christmas Story, I'm sure you'll agree, it's a classic. If you haven't seen it, no worries, TNT runs 24-hour A Christmas Story marathon from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day. So, Merry Christmas! -Rick



I like the tenderness of the song. 🎸💙 “By what we do, some kids and folks are going to have good Christmas GIFTS. 🎁 Not just necessities, but toys, 🏠🚗🚚🚛🚝🚞🚂🚃🚄🚅🚆🚇🚈🚉🚊🚋🚌🚍🚎🚏🚐🚑🚒🚓🚔🚕🚖🚗🚘🚙🚚🚛🚜🚝🚞🚟🚠🚡🚢🚣🚤🚥🚦🚧🚨🚩🚪🚫🚬🚭🚮🚯🚰🚱🚲🚳🚴🚵🚶🚷🚸🚹🚺🚻🚼🚽🚾🚿 and clothes, 👕👖👗👘👙👚👛👜👝👞👟 and as important, RELIEF for Families in need. Willing Volunteer, so glad to be asked. 🎁😄”

-Hannah 🙌

RSVP Ohana Page:

"Your Favorite Holiday Song, Movie, or Story that Touches Your Heart"

Adeste Fideles: A holiday song that touches my heart.

My father only had one year of college at UH and then family obligations and the world war intervened in his life. He was a most intelligent man with little formal education. He told me after my 7th grade year at Kawanānakoā Intermediate, that all educated people knew Latin and he was going to teach me Latin in the summer before 8th grade. There were no texts or YouTube instructions, only his memory. So, this 13-year-old Kalihi kid started to memorize Latin phrases like *carpe diem*, *cogito ergo sum*, *non sequitur* and *vice versa*. Then I memorized the Catholic mass (yes, in Latin), the last rites and *O Come All Ye Faithful*, in the original Latin. Now when Christmas comes around and that carol is sung, I can only sing *Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes, Venite, venite in Bethlehem*. I still know the entire song. Every Christmas I remember my dad teaching me this song and I remember how important for my dad that I was as educated as much as possible.

-Mike Hu

For over 20 years, my favorite holiday movie has been *Elf*. Buddy (an orphaned baby) is accidentally whisked off to the North Pole when he sneaks into Santa's bag one Christmas Eve. Although he's adopted into the elf community, he's a misfit (being 3 times bigger than the average elf will do that). Even so, Buddy perseveres in life with a positive attitude and when he finds out he's actually a human being, he adventurously sets out to find his biological father in big, bustling New York City. After several hysterical mishaps, it of course, ends with his blended family coming together for a happy holiday ending.



Remember the 1955 song, "Moments to Remember" by The 4 Lads? The nostalgic first 3 lines are - "January to December, we'll have moments to remember. The New Year's Eve we did the town, the day we tore the goalpost down. We will have these moments to remember."

And, here is a personal account of

"Moments to Remember"

New Year Song 1955-1956

It started innocently enough. We acquired a bottle of whiskey from some place. I borrowed my father's car for the night, picked up some Ola'a guys: Kakarooch, Kobet, Butch...

"The New Year's Eve We Did the Town"

We saw the stop sign but ignored it and got T-boned. We landed on a fire hydrant and busted it. "The day we tore the fire hydrant down." Luckily, no one got seriously hurt. Two cars, total wrecks, fire hydrant gone, and New Year's Eve ruined. "We will have these moments to remember."

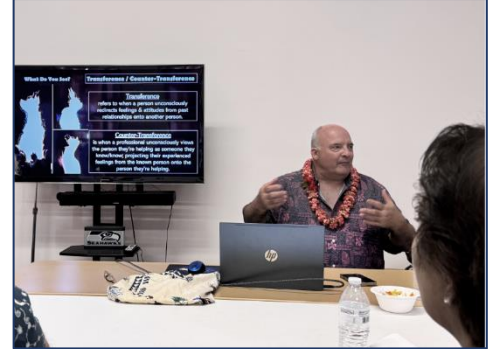
-Ed Tagawa



Community and Program Highlights

Wellness Checklist with Rick Tabor September 3

Life may feel a little wonky these days, but balance is still within reach. In Rick Tabor's presentation, he shared practical coping strategies designed to help stay grounded.



Japanese Cultural Center: Volunteer Orientation and Tour September 4

Nate Gytoku, president of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, guided RSVP volunteers on a walk-through the Japanese history museum in Moiliili while introducing volunteer opportunities that will support their center.



Elderly Affairs Division Calls Out for Help! September 5

The division called out for RSVP volunteers to help update the senior handbooks and to prepare for the UH women's volleyball "Kupuna Night".



Community and Program Highlights

UH Women's Volleyball: "Kupuna Night" September 7

Kupuna Night at the women's volleyball game was truly special. RSVP members volunteered their time to share valuable kupuna resources featured in the updated handbook, and handed out towels and fans to the crowd. During intermission, the Happy Senior Serenaders from Lanakila Senior Center took the court to dance hula and sing "E Huli Makou"—an unforgettable performance that filled the arena with joy. What a show!



Helping Hands Hawaii: Sorting Donations September 10

Seniors came together in a spirit of service, working diligently to sort donated items so that recipients can easily find the resources they need. Their teamwork and dedication helped ensure that every contribution is organized, accessible, and ready to support the community.



Adopt a Family 2025:
Share the Spirit of the Holidays
The holiday season is a time for giving, and HHH's Adopt a Family (AAF) event helps ensure that families and seniors facing hardship in Hawaii can celebrate with joy and dignity.
<http://www.helpinghandshawaii.org>



Hawaii Gerontological Society's Conference September 11 and 12

Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society was pleased to present their Biennial Conference featuring Keynote Speakers Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer, USAging and Lt Governor Sylvia Luke. The two-day conference included presentations related to aging.



Community and Program Highlights

Daniel K. Akaka Family Foundation: Literacy Fair September 13

Volunteers led a hands-on literacy activity that helped keiki build fine motor skills essential for early writing development. And through an interactive picture-identification activity, volunteers also supported language and literacy skills.



Talk Story “Wala‘au” September 15

“What’s the best advice you’ve ever received?” It was a simple question, yet one that opened the door to remarkable stories. As the volunteers gathered, the room filled with a warm hum of conversation—people leaning in, smiling, remembering. One by one, they shared pieces of wisdom passed down from parents, mentors, teachers, and unexpected moments in life.



Ronald McDonald Sunday Dinner September 21

Volunteers signed up to prepare a home-cooked meal of mushroom chicken and rice, and all the fixings for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Their effort brought comfort, nourishment, and a taste of home to those facing challenging times.



Community and Program Highlights

Elder Law with Connie Liu September 25

Connie from the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii led an informative and engaging session focused on some of the most important tools for planning and decision-making in later life. She provided clear, practical guidance on key topics including capacity, powers of attorney, advanced health care directives, and guardianship.



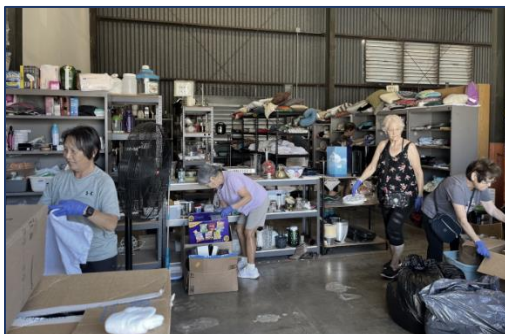
Young at Heart September 26

Young at Heart was designed to empower Hawaii residents aged 50 and older with practical, lifestyle-enhancing guidance. Volunteers and Elderly Affairs Division's staff played a key role in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. As they helped distribute senior handbooks and shared valuable information tailored to the needs of kūpuna and their families.



Helping Hands Hawaii: Sorting Donations October 8

Volunteers played an essential role in carefully sorting donations to ensure that recipients could access what they needed with ease and dignity.



Community and Program Highlights

Talk Story “Wala‘au” October 13

It was a fun and spooky storytelling session that the volunteers explored the question: *“What’s the creepiest thing that ever happened to you?”* Maybe it was an unexplained noise in the night, an eerie coincidence, or a moment that simply didn’t feel quite right. It was a session of chilling, funny, and just plain strange stories.



Children's Discovery Center October 16

Noela, the Guest Services Manager provided volunteers with a guided tour and a comprehensive orientation to their roles as PALs—People Assisting Learning—who play an essential part in supporting the Center’s mission. Volunteers are valued members of the team, contributing in many meaningful ways, from helping with mailings and assisting at special events to facilitating exploration and discovery within the exhibit galleries.



Generations Magazine's Senior Fair October 17

At the Senior Lifestyle & ‘Ohana Fair, attendees explored a wide range of resources dedicated to supporting kūpuna and their families. Volunteers and staff helped to share resources, information and volunteer opportunities.



Community and Program Highlights

Pride Parade October 18

The 2025 Honolulu Pride Parade started at 3:00 PM on Kalākaua Avenue in Waikīkī. The parade celebrated queer resilience and featured floats, music, and community groups. It was followed by the Honolulu Pride Festival at the Waikīkī Shell.



Health Care with Tammy Chu October 23

What comes to mind when you hear the word “healthcare”? Tammy presented an interactive and thought-provoking discussion as the group explored this essential topic. Together, they took a look at the history of healthcare in the United States and pulled back the curtain on some of its inner workings.



Annual Halloween Gathering October 30

Richard once again leads and facilitates the group's annual Halloween movie gathering, a beloved tradition filled with spooky fun and cinematic nostalgia. This year's feature is *Ghost-Cat of Arima Palace*, a 1953 Japanese horror film directed by Ryohei Arai and stars Takako Irie and Kotaro Bando. It was an afternoon of eerie storytelling, classic cinema, and Halloween camaraderie.



Koko Head: 🎵 Where I Live, There are 🌈 Rainbows... 🎵

We became homeless a year after our return
 Oh where, oh where, could we rent or buy
 Nothing in our no-savings budget offered hope

Green, rainy and lush Windward beckoned
 Families were blazing trails to the Leeward side
 Henry Kaiser was changing the east landscape

Koko Head dormant over 900 years with fertile soil
 Dry temps with trades flowing to cool the 'Aina
 Auwe, fields of roses sacrificed for development

As kids this distant place became our hidden treasure
 Rapid Transit took us to Koko Head a short walk to Hanauma
 During warm summer days we boldly went unsupervised

Jumping into the Toilet Bowl was an all-guts-nuts challenge
 Ignoring warnings about calm water changing into an instant-eddy
 Our wonder years enjoyed at this perfect pool to romp and play

Steep incline, uneven shaky stairs, 1,000 and more steps to go
 Torrid sun, stifling air, sweat pouring from bare brows, knees buckling
 Grueling ascent, descent even scarier, will we make it down?

Whop-whop, thwop-thwop, the whirly birds fly overhead
 Often a daily mission on sweltering days with S-O-S calls
 Elderly hiker stranded at the top...child distressed midway

By Mae Fujii

Old Guys and Love
 Do older guys love?
 Feelings are familiar
 Enjoy the moment
 -Ed Tagawa

Talk Story “Wala’au” Potluck, we’ll be adding some extra holiday fun!

Date: Monday, December 15, 2025

Time: 11:00

Location: Honpa Hongwanji in the Lounge

Wishing Tree

We will have a “wishing tree” set up where everyone can place and share ornaments. Please bring an ornament made from recyclable materials. There will also be an option to create a simple ornament during the potluck.

Ugly Shirt Contest

Bring your most outrageous ugly shirt and join in the fun!

Time Travelers Trivia

We’ll also have a lively game of *Time Travelers Trivia* with prizes.

Talking Topic:

TBA

Come one, come all—let’s celebrate, create, and enjoy the festivities together!

Email your RSVP to: Kimberly.itagaki@honolulu.gov

Crossword Puzzle - September October

1	G	2	U	3	M		D	4	R	5	O	6	P		S		7	A	8	S	9	H	
10	R		S		E			11	O		U		I			12	I		D		E	A	
13	A		A				14	C		O		M		M	15	A		N		D		E	R
	N						O					16	E		L		K			17	S	V	
18	D	19	P				20	U	21	P			22	N		A			23	B			E
24	P		A	25	T		R		I		26	O		T			27	S		A	28	I	S
29	A		U		N		T			30	C		O		31	M		P		A		C	T
	R						T		32	U		T			33	A		I			34	E	M
35	E	36	V				37	A		G		O						N					O
38	N		E	39	I		G		H		B		40	O	41	R		S			42	G	N
43	T		I		L		E			44	E		L		O				45	F		A	T
46	S		N		L			47	B		R		A		C		K		I		S		H

Upcoming Events

Talk Story “Wala’au”

HOLIDAY: Veterans Day

Helping Hands Hawaii: Sorting Donations

Active Senior Expo: RSVP Session @ 9:00am

Keiki to Kupuna Thanksgiving Project

“Fraud Prevention” with Peter Inoue

Mayor’s 49th Annual Craft and County Fair

Ronald McDonald House: Gala

Kimchee Day Festival

HOLIDAY: Thanksgiving

Helping Hands Hawaii: Adopt a Family Donor Drop off

Helping Hands Hawaii: Adopt a Family Gift Distribution

Talk Story “Wala’au”

November 10

November 11

November 12

November 14

November 18

November 20

November 22

November 22

November 22

November 27

December 6

December 13

December 15

November

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						

December

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			

Elderly Affairs Division, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

222 N School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Phone: 808.768.7778

Email: EADrsvp@honolulu.gov

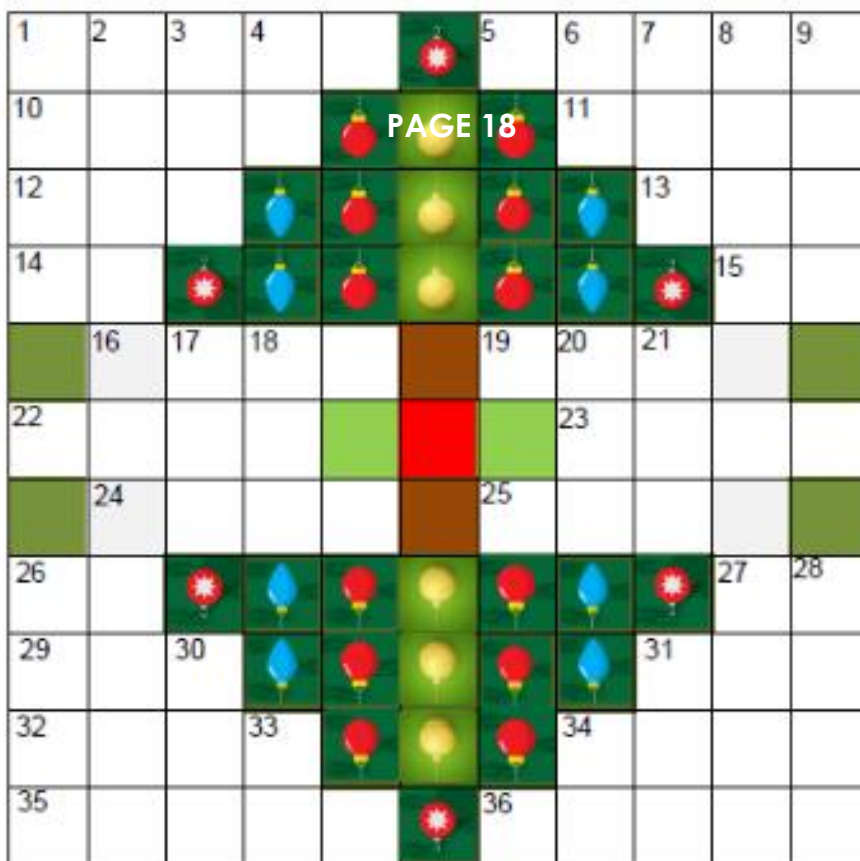
November - December Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. ACRONYM FOR (SELF CONTAINED UNDERWATER BREATHING APPARATUS)
5. THE EVERLY BROS. SANG "WHEN I NEED YOU, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS _____"
10. JUVENILE GOATFISH, IN SUMMER SEASON IN HAWAII, IN SCHOOLS NEAR THE SHORE AND CAUGHT WITH HAND POLES AND TINY HOOKS
11. AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION (abbr.)
12. HAWAIIAN -- EKAHI
13. ESTIMATE (abbr.)
14. NORTH DAKOTA (abbr.)
15. "DECEMBER 1963" -- SONG BY FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS AKA "____, WHAT A NIGHT"
16. THIS "IS A MANY SPLENORED THING"
19. ESSENTIAL FOR HEALTH, THIS CHEMICAL ELEMENT SYMBOL IS Zn
22. HAWAIIAN WORD FOR SONG, POEM
23. ROUND, FLAT, METAL OBJECT USED FOR "HEADS OR TAILS?"
24. TO GET INFO ABOUT A COMPANY OR BUSINESS, GO ONLINE TO THEIR WEB _____
25. FACEBOOK WAS RENAMED _____ TO REFLECT THE COMPANY'S FUTURE SCOPE
26. BLUETOOTH (abbr.)
27. DO, RE, MI, FA, SO, LA, _____
29. READY, _____, FIRE
31. A CAR OR TRUCK'S ID NUMBER FOR DEALERSHIPS, DMV, ETC.
32. WHAT YOU DO TO A QR CODE
34. THE SOUND AN OWL MAKES
35. ELVIS SANG... "BLUE _____ OF HAWAII SMILE, ON THIS, OUR WEDDING DAY"
36. A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT A SINGER MIGHT SIT ON IN A CABARET

Down

1. THE "S" IN A.S.A.P.
2. "JACK BE NIMBLE, JACK BE QUICK, JACK JUMP OVER THE _____"
3. JAPANESE PICKLED PLUM / APRICOT
4. BACHELOR OF ARTS (DEGREE) (abbr.)
6. RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (abbr.)
7. THEME SONG FOR ROCKY III, BY SURVIVOR "_____ OF THE TIGER"



Down - continued

8. LATE '60'S POP BAND WITH HITS LIKE "WINDY", "CHERISH", "NEVER MY LOVE" (THE _____)
9. LYRICS... "LIKE A _____ TO A FLAME"
17. HAWAIIAN WORD FOR A CHANT WITHOUT DANCE
18. SHORT FOR THE DOCTOR WE TAKE OUR FUR BABIES TO
20. WE LOCALS LOVE SHAVE _____, PEOPLE LINE UP FOR IT AT A NOSTALGIC NORTH SHORE SPOT, OR WE CAN GO HERE IN TOWN TO A WIDE CHOICE OF PLACES, INCLUDING WAIOLA
21. THE SECOND WORD IN THESE CONTRACTIONS... HAVEN'T, DON'T, ISN'T, WASN'T, COULDN'T
26. LARGEST TYPE OF GUITAR, PLAYED UPRIGHT, AND HAS LOWEST PITCH
28. RED RIDING HOOD WALKED _____ THE WOODS
30. TOURISTY LUAU UMBRELLA DRINK... _____ T.4I
31. VOICE OF AMERICA (abbr.)
33. NORTHEAST (abbr.)
34. "NOT JUST SHORT FOR HELLO, BUT THE ABBREVIATION FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STATE IN THE NATION"