

# THE MORNING STAR

A MISSION PUBLICATION OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



## Next WBM Meeting

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

**10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Central Union Church  
Women's Building  
1660 S. Beretania St.**

## Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands

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**Editor: Clara D. Priester  
Presiding: Ruby Donlin**

## A HELPING HAND

You know, he almost didn't see the old lady stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see that she needed help. He pulled in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her. Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe. He looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said, "I'm here to help you ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan."

Well, all that she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon, he was able to change the tire, but he had to get dirty and his hands hurt. As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid. Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. She asked him how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She had already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about the money. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need and God knows there were plenty who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way and it never occurred to him to act any other way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back...the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed and Bryan added ".....and think of me." He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small café. She went in to grab a bite to eat and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The cash register was like the telephone from an out of work actor. It didn't ring much. Her waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed that the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, and the waitress went to get change for her one hundred-dollar bill, the lady slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. She wondered where the lady could be, then she noticed something written on the napkin (under which was four \$100 bills). There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote. It said, "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody nice helped me out the way I am helping you. If you really want to pay me back here is what you do. Do not let this chain of love end with you."

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into the bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard. She knew how worried her husband was and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything's gonna be alright. I love you Bryan."

*Author Unknown*



## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

### **RUBY DONLIN**

An exciting part of being a member of the Woman's for the Pacific Islands is being able to share our mission with Christians across the state of Hawai'i. The 194<sup>th</sup> Aha Pae'Aina that took place on the beautiful grounds of Central Union Church in Honolulu was such an opportunity.

Leading up to the Aha Pae'Aina was the Aha Iki that began on June 8, 2016 where the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) gathered for worship, business and fellowship. All other churches of the United Church of Christ gathered for the Aha Makua following the Aha Iki.

During the Aha Iki, a business meeting was conducted on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 where we elected new officers. William Haole and Violet Makuakane were duly elected Luna Ho'omalua (Chair) and Luna Ho'omalua Hope (Vice Chair) respectively for 2016-2017. Our meetings and especially worship times were filled with joyful singing, and meeting and greeting old and new friends. I met many potential WBM members.

As a new partner of AHEC, our Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands was asked to conduct a tour of Central Union Church and to host a table containing information about our ministry. Under the canopy of Central Union's motto, "Love Never Faileth," in the beautiful sanctuary, Carolyn Winston, former executive director of the WBM and member of Central Union Church, admirably stepped up and shared the connections of the WBM and the women of Central Union Church. Those women saw the critical need for our organization in the 1800s and we have continued to serve the needs of women and children encouraging others to help with our missions in Hawai'i and abroad.

The Aha Makua continued into Friday and Saturday (6/10-11/2016) with an outstanding keynote speaker. The Rev. Karen G. Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in the Office of the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, emphasized the message that "we are called to partners." She explained that through building trusting relationships with each other, sharing our common values of a living God and our commitment to justice, defining our expectations of each other and sharing effective communication by choosing to learn about each other, we could work more effectively.

Another important partnership was established when the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) signed a document of partnership with our UCC churches. They are very interested in our ministries in Hawai'i. The Rev. Charles Buck pointed out our mission ministry through the WBM.

The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands is not a force to be ignored. During our "speak out" time where each signed-up speaker is granted one minute to share what they choose, I gathered five dynamic WBM members, each from a different island, to speak out on behalf of our ministry. As diverse as our membership, each told her story about her involvement in our WBM. Each was pertinent, effective and unique in her own way. Mahalo to Alaka'i Paleka from Maui, Lorna Bufil from Hawai'i Island, Linda Shigeta from Kaua'i, and Kahu Napua Burke from Moloka'i. What a fabulous team of women!

Let me conclude my summer experiences with these words - God will meet all your (our) needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,  
*Ruby*

## OUR MISSION

“The Woman’s Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands is a group of compassionate Christian women coming from a variety of churches and ethnic groups. Our purpose is:

- \* to inspire and empower women to become active Christians, nurturing the Spirit in their individual lives, homes, community and the entire world
- \* to educate and encourage children in their highest potential, and
- \* to be in partnership with sister organizations sharing similar values.”

## OUR CORE VALUES

### Compassion

*Galatians 5:22-23*

But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of **compassion** in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

### Competence

*2 Corinthians 3:5*

Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our **competence** comes from God.

### Commitment

*Philippians 3:15-16*

So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total **commitment**, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet! Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it.

### Character

*Ephesians 4:24*

Take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his **character** in you.

### Community

*Galatians 6:9-10*

So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the **community** of faith.

## MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

**2016-2017**

**2016**

**September 15**

**October 20**

**November 17**

**2017**

**January 19**

**February 16**

**March 16**

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**

**146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Fellowship**

**Central Union Church Parish Hall**

## WBM CABINET

<b>Ruby Donlin</b>	President
<b>Mililani Byers</b>	Recording Secretary
<b>Valrie A. Griffith</b>	Treasurer
<b>Eleanore A. Chong</b>	Finance Committee Chair
<b>Tammie Kurashige</b>	Missions Co-Chair O'ahu VP Representative
<b>Rebecca Woodland</b>	Missions Co-Chair O'ahu VP Representative
<b>Rev. Nani Hill</b>	Kaua'i VP Co-Representative
<b>Rev. Phyllis Meighen</b>	Kaua'i VP Co-Representative
<b>Kahu Napua Burke</b>	Moloka'i VP Representative
<b>Arlene K. Pihana</b>	Maui VP Representative
<b>Clara D. Priester</b>	Executive Director

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CLARA D. PRIESTER



### *God's Limitless Provision*

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7*

More and more, I stand in awe of how God provides so overflowing, so relevantly, so graciously, and so timely. Ever so faithful, He has continually met the needs of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands through the myriad of gifts and talents of our members, the tremendous support of our partnerships, and in countless ways that we do not possess the capacity to imagine.

Our 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Central Union Church was such an example of how God so beautifully provides for our WBM. The event was an amazing culmination to another year of ministry. With 106 attendees, including a significant number of guests, it was our largest gathering in several years. The transforming and provisional power of God was demonstrated as Dion'e Kaeo-Tomaselli shared how she has continued to rise above the trauma surrounding a wrongful arrest and incarceration for five years out of a ten-year sentence. During this time, she pensively composed 25 original songs. Born with a gift of music and song, Dion'e blessed our gathering as she sang three songs including one that she wrote. She will realize her dream of releasing her first Extended Play (EP) CD on Saturday, October 15, 2016. Carla Houser of the Waikiki Youth Outreach Center (also known as YO) presented a summary of much needed services and resources for our homeless youth and shared how the annual support of our WBM enables YO to more widely do what is needed. We witnessed her compassionate heart as she emotionally spoke about how she searches for our homeless youth when she has not seen them at YO. The Honorable Frances Q.F. Wong expressed her appreciation, once again, for the support God provided through scholarships she received through our Mother Alice Scholarship Fund. After retiring as a senior judge of the O'ahu First Circuit of Hawai'i, she had answered the call to attend seminary. Eye-catching centerpieces made by Emma Garrett, one of our newest members, adorned our tables. Linda Shigeta, Kaua'i Co-VP Representative and Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina, Recording Secretary, were acknowledged for their years of faithful service as they stepped down from their positions after fulfilling their respective terms. God's provision was unmistakable when Rev. Nani Hill and Mililani Byers graciously assumed these roles. Our savory Hawaiian lunch was plentiful and our first silent auction yielded great results. Our program saw no technical difficulties and the staff at Central Union Church where we hold our gathering annually were as congenial as always.

For several years, we have been without a Maui VP Representative, but I am overjoyed to announce that on Friday, August 5, 2016, God answered our prayer. Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana, a member of Kaahumanu Church on Maui, enthusiastically stepped into this role and is eager to begin working. You will learn more about Arlene in this newsletter.

As we mourned, but honored eight of our members who transitioned to eternity with our Heavenly Father, God simultaneously blessed us with 14 new members from O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Island.

I could go on and on about God's magnificent provision for the ministry of our WBM and for me personally. For those times when things may appear daunting or seem like there is no way through, I simply remember that my own life authenticates the truth that He has never failed me.

As we begin yet another new year in this vital ministry, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your compassion and dedicated service. Many of you have pressed through illnesses, family matters, juggling schedules and more, to faithfully minister to the many who are hurting and at times, in need of a miracle. As I'm on the front line daily, I can assure you that God is proliferating our efforts and we are clearly making an impact on our islands.

We can truly rest securely in God knowing that He is always present, omniscient, and that His provision is absolutely limitless.



# 145<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP

*Called As Partners in Christ's Service*





# *NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN*

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who is best described as intrepid;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who was born and raised on the mainland and upon completion of her college education, embarked on a life of adventure around the world;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who lived and worked in far off places including Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and East Timor;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who arrived in Hawai'i on February 14, 1968 and has made these islands her home ever since;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who spent her career as an accountant for a variety of Hawai'i businesses;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who, in addition to having a full-time job, found time to design and build her own home;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who, upon retiring from accounting, set out on a new career: that of volunteerism;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who devotes at least one day a week to the Friends of the Library where she finds new homes for books that others have discarded;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who works to end homelessness by honoring her friends at Christmas with a monetary contribution in their names to the Institute for Human Services (IHS);

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who is a "Jill-of-all-trades" at the Central Union Thrift Shop where she brings life to broken appliances and refinishes and restores run-down, used furniture;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who was willing to serve as Treasurer of the Woman's Board and has carried out the assignment with grace, humility, tenacity and resoluteness; who has presented monthly financial reports that value clarity and transparency; and who has helped to ensure that the Woman's Board "financial house" remains in good order.

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who gives selflessly of her time and her talent and never expects anything in return.

**Never Underestimate the Power of a CHRISTIAN Woman**

**Never Underestimate the Power of**



*VALRIE GRIFFITH*

**April 30, 2016**



# *NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN*

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who, as a registered nurse and pediatric nurse practitioner, practiced in fields of mental and public health, and worked in places as far off as Guam and Seattle, Washington; as well as here at home on Oahu and all across the island of Maui;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who was active in local and national politics lobbying in support of issues concerning nurses;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who in 2015 received the national “Spirit of Family and Community Education” award for the variety of leadership positions she has held in Maui’s Family and Community Education organization (formerly known as the University Extension Club);

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who served as chair of Maui’s “Community Voices Upcountry” organization which helped residents of Kula, Maui receive numbered street addresses, thus enabling emergency first responders to locate residents easily and quickly;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who volunteers with the Red Cross and at the Blood Bank;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who has been declared Maui’s Female Outstanding Older American;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who started a Bible study in her home that got so large that it had to be relocated to the church;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who is a leader in her church: who is chair of the missions committee, helps at the bazaars, participates in the quilting group, provides food for the homeless, performs in the church’s hula halau in worship and at a nursing home;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who was the first neighbor island member to serve as President of the WOMAN’S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS from 2002-2004;

Never underestimate the power of a Christian woman who as a young 85 year-old senior citizen lives independently in her own home, still drives herself around (as well as her friends who can no longer drive themselves), continues to visit the sick and the shut-ins, is an avid gardener, and enjoys being a grandmother of nine (including the newest 21 month-old twins);

**Never Underestimate the Power of a CHRISTIAN Woman**

**Never Underestimate the Power of**



*KATSUKO ENOKI*

**April 30, 2016**



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the historic Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands affords multiple opportunities to serve God by utilizing your spiritual and natural gifts to minister to women and children in Hawai'i and the greater Pacific Rim. We meet monthly to conduct business, receive inspiration, and identify ways to continue to make a difference in our communities and world. Annual dues of \$25 are collected from all members and used to further this ministry. There are many ways to contribute to the work that we do through donations of needed items, prayer, financial gifts, serving on mission projects or a committee, and more. A membership application can be found by visiting [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org) or you can contact our WBM office at 791-5647 to request that a membership application be sent to you.

If you are a member of our WBM, please be sure to update your contact information should you move or change any of your information. We want to be sure that you receive all correspondence being sent to you.

## CELEBRATING OUR NEW MOVERS & SHAKERS

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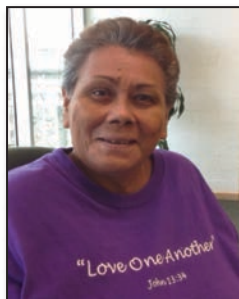
**Cynthia Akimseu**  
Haili Congregational Church  
*Hawai'i Island*



**Nana Aiu**  
Ka Hana O Ke Akua  
*O'ahu*



**Donna Gamboa**  
Grace Bible Church Pearlside  
*O'ahu*



**Della Kua'ana**  
Kahikuonalani Church  
*O'ahu*



**Leslyn Alaka'i Paleka**  
Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church  
*Maui*



**Dr. Charles and Diana Petranek**  
The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i  
*O'ahu*



**Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana**  
Kaahumanu Church  
*Maui*



**Pua'ala Bishaw-Wilbur**  
New Hope  
*O'ahu*



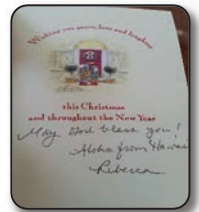


## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**Rebecca Woodland, O'ahu VP Representative & Missions Co-Chair**

For the past sixteen years Central Union Church has been involved with Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox ministry of Samaritan's Purse, packing shoeboxes with gifts of toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other necessities for hurting children around the globe. The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands has participated in this project for the past three years. These gifts are delivered to over one hundred different countries, where they are then hand-distributed to the children, many of whom have never received a gift of any kind. Some children have never had anything they could call their own, not even a toothbrush or pencil. The shoebox gifts fill a physical need, but equally important is their impact on the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the child and his/her community. This past Christmas the people of Hawai'i sent **46,705** gift-filled shoeboxes to the Philippines, Mongolia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Native Americans.

I make it a habit to include a Christmas card or picture postcard of Hawai'i in every shoebox I pack. On the card I write a very short message (one or two sentences) and give my mailing address. The personal connection ~ a card with my name and address (not just the name of the church) ~ matters at least as much as the gift. Let me share a couple of stories.



I recently received a sweet thank-you message from Jillian, a 9-year-old girl in the Philippines. She included a photo of her and her cousins with their shoebox gifts, and also a photo of the card. The most special thing in the box was the Christmas card with my name and address.



In April I spent a week in New York with Jasmina, who received a shoebox gift from me back in 2000 when she was a ten-year-old fifth-grader in post-war Bosnia. She wrote me a thank-you letter, her first attempt at writing in English. We corresponded for about four years, but lost touch after she graduated from eighth grade. The only address I had for her was her school address. My address had also changed. Four years later she found me on-line! She had come to America on her own and was working as a nanny in New Jersey. We finally met in person in 2009, in New York City. In 2013, I was the maid of honor at her wedding. Now she has a beautiful baby daughter and she considers me one of the grandmothers. While visiting Jasmina, I met her mother, sister, and grandmother in Bosnia, thanks to modern technology (Skype and FaceTime). Each of them thanked me repeatedly for being in Jasmina's life. Her sister, Azemina, cried as she spoke about how much the shoebox gift had meant to their whole family. It meant that someone cared. Someone far away who didn't even know them. And it gave them hope.



This year, Shoebox Collection Week is November 14-21. I encourage you to start now gathering school supplies (watch for Back-to-School sales in July), bar soap, small toys, toothbrushes, washcloths, and of course shoeboxes. Wrap the shoeboxes (lids wrapped separately, so the box can be opened and inspected for customs clearance) so they look like actual presents. Yes, appearance matters! Don't forget to include a card with your name.

A wonderful project for individuals, children, and families, Operation Christmas Child is a meaningful, fun, tangible way to make a difference in a child's life.



## O'AHU VP REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Tammie Kurashige, *O'ahu Island VP Representative & Missions Co-Chair*

### *American Eagle Outfitters Blessing – May 3, 2016*



**Far left photo:** Kahu Tarita Tehotu (Tahiti Missions) opens the Prayers of Blessings Ceremony with the cutting of Maile lei across the entrance to *American Eagle Outfitters*, as WBM member, Eva Hubbard (holding koa bowl), looks on. **Center photo:** Tammie Kurashige follows protocol procession with intermittent Shofar Blasts during Prayers of Blessings Ceremony, as Keola Smith (next to Kahu Tarita) looks on. **Far right photo:** Kealoha Benevente (Kawaiaha'o Church) welcomes the Holy Spirit in Hawaiian. Procession following speaking prayers of blessings throughout the store.

### *Kealohi' (Hee'ia State Park) Hokulei'a & Hikianalia Prayers of Blessing - May 15, 2016*



**Far left photo:** Kahu Wendell Davis (Kaneohe Congregational Church), partnering in worship and prayer with Moanike'ala Nanod-Sitch (Ka 'Ohana o ke Aloha Church), and Kahu Curt Kekuna (Kawaiaha'o), for 3rd Annual Prayers of Blessings, specific assembly to the *Hokulei'a* and *Hikianalia* Crews and team members. **Center photo:** Tammie Kurashige in red (left); Shofar Blast opening the Prayer Assembly at *Kealohi'* for *Hokulei'a*, along with Shofar Blasters from multi-churches. **Far right photo:** Prayer and blessings with expression of gratitude through dance by members of Ka'Ohana o ke Aloha Church at Kealohi'.

### *Malem, Kosrae - April 2016*



**Far left photo:** Basketball Court in Malem, Kosrae, before the second phase of a gymnasium project. **Center photo:** Second phase begins. **Far right photo:** Malem, Pastor Lino's son, Kennedy, Pastor Lino's nephew and another cousin.





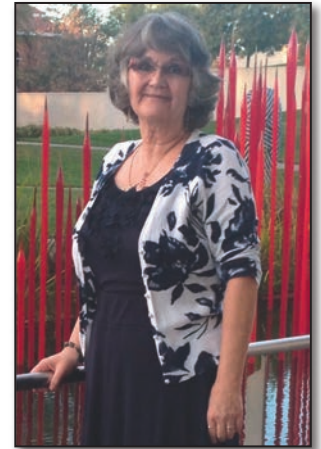
## MESSAGE FROM KAUA'I

**Rev. Phyllis Meighen, *Kaua'i Co-VP Representative***

### TRIBUTE AND ALOHA TO LINDA SHIGETA

Linda Shigeta represented Kaua'i at our 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Central Union Church to bid aloha to the many friends and sisters in Christ she has known through her service as Kaua'i VP Representative over the past five years. Linda has been a very powerful advocate for the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands on Kaua'i and has been very effective in gaining support for Kaua'i-based mission projects. Four of the most effective projects are the sewing entrepreneurial venture of Marshallese women, the Kaua'i Sacred Day Walk for young adults, the sale of Henry Opukaha'ia books through the Kaua'i Museum, and college scholarships for young adults.

We are so grateful to Linda for being such a valiant, determined, and effective representative from Kaua'i. It is with prayers of thanksgiving that we say good-bye to Linda, at the same time we welcome the Rev. Nani Hill to serve as the new Kaua'i Co-VP Representative. Nani will be teaming with Rev. Phyllis Meighen who continues in her position.



**Linda Shigeta**

The entrepreneurial sewing venture with Marshallese women, which was begun with start-up funding from our WBM, continues as a business. The focus has shifted from making purses to sewing slips. Slips are much easier and faster to sew and reach a wider market. With this change the project is progressing toward long-term sustainability as a source of income for the women.

This year was the fourth year for the Kaua'i Sacred Day Walk. The pool was expanded to include adults of all ages since we were unable to generate participation from young adults this year. We saw God's hand in this shift, as women of more mature age were given the opportunity to consider their transition into the next life stage (i.e., second career, retirement, advancing elderhood, discernment of God's calling after a life-threatening health challenge, discovering life purpose). We thank the WBM for supporting the shift by allowing us to apply the WBM scholarship for a mature participant.

Gail Lee, moderator of Kapaa UCC, was the beneficiary of the WBM scholarship. She described her experience as life changing, clarifying God's purpose of her life, and propelling her to apply for a graduate degree in human resources. She was so moved by her experience that she would like to make the Kaua'i Sacred Day Walk available to the leadership team at Kapaa UCC. She sees the Day Walk as a life-changing catalyst for transformative change in the church. Thank you, WBM, for following the lead of the Holy Spirit to direct us in ways we would not have imagined.

Linda has also lovingly mentored Leslie Namoa, a young inspiring Christian woman who served on the Youth Committee for the Kaua'i Association for the United Church of Christ. Leslie's service, including her work counseling and assisting traumatized teens made a profound impact on youth island wide. Leslie has now been a member of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands for two years. She was a wonderfully energetic speaker at our 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship at Central Union Church last year where she shared the lessons learned during her experience with the Kaua'i Sacred Day Walk and expressed her appreciation for the support that she has received from our WBM.

We give thanks to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands for its generosity of spirit in supporting the work of the Christ's mission in our islands and beyond.





## HAWAI'I ISLAND UPDATE

**Lorna Bufil**, *Hawai'i Island VP Representative*

*What does the Lord require of me, to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

Aloha Sisters in Christ!

Praise God for allowing me to be a part of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands. It was such an honor and privilege to be a part of our 145th Annual Meeting and Fellowship. What an important role to be installed to serve on our Cabinet along with our other officers. A special mahalo to Clara, Ruby, Valrie, Carolyn and all of the others for allowing me to be able to assist with registration and preparation of our event. Everything was fabulous and organized. From the table settings, to floral decorations, auction items, our awesome Hawaiian lunch, and not to mention the entertainment which was very touching. It was definitely elegant and well planned. God has surely blessed me with all of you! I'm looking forward to more meetings and gatherings on O'ahu.

Our Missions Committee at Haili Church held a meeting yesterday. In the first week of June, Randy and Gay Hongo visited Haili Church to celebrate with a Christian Endeavor Reunion, gathering all of our former students who attended as youngsters. Our committee presented them with a love offering of \$200.00. We are also planning to host fundraising events and are considering a missions cookbook by gathering recipes from our members and involving our Sunday School keiki to do the illustrations. This should be exciting, as the last cookbook published for Haili was published twenty or so years ago.

I am sad to announce that one of our oldest and honorary members, Ruth Okamoto, passed away the day after Mother's Day. She was a tenant of Haili Apartments who lived there for over 30 years and we are still mourning her loss. She was very dedicated to Haili Church serving as a former Board of Trustee, Secretary and Treasurer. No matter how old she was, she still dedicated herself to serving in our Vacation Bible School. The women made special corsages for Mother's Day which is an annual tradition. Being that Ruth was transferred to a long-term care facility, I planned a special visit with my son, Kelcey, to spend time with her on Mother's Day. Her only daughter lives in Seattle. During this visit, I prayed for her, read scriptures, and sang the Doxology in Hawaiian. I believe that it was the good Lord that guided me that afternoon. Ruth was a mentor to me who will never be forgotten. Her words to me in difficult times were to "Look Up!" I told her that I would never forget that and that she would always be close to my heart. Since she loved orchids, I reserved a special orchid corsage especially made for her. It would, of course, be her last corsage. Ruth passed away peacefully the day after Mother's Day at 3:30 p.m. Her daughter and family flew in from Washington and spent 3 hours with her before her passing. Her daughter consulted with me to choose songs for Ruth's funeral, saying she only knew of one of her favorite songs. I chose two selections which came to my mind - 'Ekolu Mea Nui (Three Great Gifts) = Faith, Hope and Love, and His Eyes Are on the Sparrow. We also graced her with our very own Haili Choir who sang at her memorial service.

I share this with you because I know that God is my Rock and gives me the strength to handle every situation. He is always right beside me. Recently, I shared with my son that the Lord is preparing me with strength and compassion perhaps to equip me to deal with difficult times - maybe even getting me ready to deal with my mother's passing. She suffers from Alzheimer's and every day is a journey as we help to care for her.

A couple of weeks ago, I enjoyed lunch with Debbie Lee, descendant of Henry Opukaha'ia. We talked about many things including promotion of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah."

Lastly, I am committed to recruiting more members to join the incredible ministry of our WBM.

Blessings,  
*Lorna Bufil*



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MAUI VP REPRESENTATIVE



Aloha mai kakou!



My name is Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana. I am 45 years old and of Hawaiian, Chinese and German descent. Currently, I am residing in Wailuku on the island of Maui. I was raised by my paternal grandparents here in Pukukalo until I was 12, then moved to O'ahu with my parents and graduated from Wai'anae High School in 1988.

My broad work experience ranges from restaurant service, landscaping, dairy and farm worker, youth leader, tutor, singer/musician, medical assistant, retail sales and most currently returning to the automotive industry as a parts consultant.

It's been three years now that I've returned home to Maui and to Kaahumanu Church as a member and vice-moderator. I am ever so grateful to all my ohana and friends for their unconditional love, support and patience with me through my trials and tribulations that have now become a living testimony in my walk with Christ.

My passion is to establish stable environments (homes) for teenagers and young children that need direction in their life. I believe that the Lord's blessing is already in motion with my membership in the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and role as the new Maui VP Representative. I am also eager to gather women here on Maui and abroad, and most of all to help create partnerships.

My desire for our youth, more specifically is to:

1. Keep our juveniles here on Maui instead of sending them to Ko'olau.
2. Provide enrichment for Fostering Families/Parents who are involved or want to be involved with foster care.
3. Focus on "Trauma to Transformation" and to foster spiritual and cultural direction.

In closing, I want to share with you a question we were asked in our Bible study: What is OUR purpose for God?" After praying about it with reverence, the Holy Spirit answered in scripture: "CHRISTIAN CALLING."

(Hebrews 3:1) "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."

(1Peter 5:10) "But the God of all Grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you."

Amene!

## FAMILY THANK OFFERING

Our Family Thank Offering Committee, comprised of three members, judiciously reviews requests for emergency financial assistance and approves one-time mission grants to meet special needs of individuals and sometimes families. These one-time mission grants have included assistance with rent delinquencies, security deposits, delinquent utility bills, food, medication and more. Requests for assistance must be made through the WBM office by a pastor or spiritual leader, community advocate, or WBM member. All requests are authenticated by the Executive Director of the WBM through supporting documentation.

This summer, our office has seen a surge in requests for emergency assistance. At times, the needs in our communities seem insurmountable as more and more women, including some with children, find themselves in crisis and unexpected need. Our WBM granted five one-time mission grants totaling \$2400. Recipients of these one-time mission grants include:

- A woman who unexpectedly lost her job and needed assistance with a portion of her rent.  
**Update:** She has secured some contractual work and is confidently and actively searching for additional work.
- Two women with children who escaped abusive relationships. One of these women is a military veteran.  
**Update:** Both women are now safe and living lives void of abuse. They also have support through community advocates.
- A young woman who successfully completed a substance abuse program and needed assistance with a security deposit to continue another program in a clean and sober house.  
**Update:** She has now secured employment as well and remains sober.
- A woman rebounding from a financial crisis needed assistance with a portion of a security deposit.  
**Update:** She is now working full time and doing well.

We extend our utmost gratitude to all of you who have contributed to the Family Thank Offering Fund. A special note of gratitude to Hanako Takahashi and Waiialua United Church of Christ for their constant and astonishing support to our Family Thank Offering Fund.

## PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen. Matthew 28:19-20



Mark & Dayna Blair

Beijing International  
Christian Fellowship

China



Pastor Les & Lynn  
Ginoza

ZOE  
International

Thailand



Tom & Monica Liddle

Global  
Ministries Missionaries

East Timor



Rose Ludwig (far right)  
& daughters

Campus Crusade  
for Christ (CRU)

Guam



## **GIVE ALOHA AT FOODLAND, SACK N SAVE AND FOODLAND FARMS TO HELP US RAISE FUNDS**

Our organization is participating in *Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program*. This program honors Foodland's Founder, Maurice J. "Sully" Sullivan, and continues his legacy of giving back to the community.



### ***How It Works***

From September 1-30, customers are invited to make donations of up to a cumulative total of \$249 per person, per organization to participating Hawai'i non-profit organizations at checkout. Donations made without a Maika'i Card will not be matched. Individuals must use their own Maika'i Card to make a donation. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation.

### ***Matching Gift***

The Western Union Foundation has generously donated \$100,000 to add to Foodland's gift of \$250,000 to Hawai'i non-profit organizations participating in Give Aloha this year. Therefore, the total gift that will be given to all participating organizations combined is \$350,000.

### ***How To Donate***

- At checkout, present your Maika'i Card and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to our organization. If you do not have a Maika'i Card, you may request one. Only one Maika'i account number is allowed per person. Our five digit registration code is **7 8 4 7 1**. Your donation will be added to your grocery purchase total. You may give up to \$249 per organization (donations exceeding \$249 will not be matched). The amount you have donated to us and the name of our organization will appear on your receipt.
- Donations in the form of cash, check or credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and JTB) will be accepted. Donations must be made payable to Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms.
- Donor names will not be released to our organization, so if you would like for us to know of your gift, please contact our WBM office at (808) 791-5647 so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.
- Please do not inform donors that their donation will be matched "dollar for dollar." Foodland and the Western Union will match a portion of their donation.
- Membership dues, fees, tuition and other payments for which goods and services are received in return are not considered "donations."

### ***Are These Contributions Tax Deductible?***

These contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. **Please save your store receipt for tax purposes since it will be the only record you will have of your donation.**

### ***How Matching Gifts Will Be Calculated***

Matching gifts will be calculated after the end of the program. Organizations will receive 100% of all customer donations given to their organization, plus their % of Foodland and the Western Union Foundation's \$300,000 matching gift. The portion of the matching gift that each organization will receive will be based on the total dollar amount of customer donations designated to that organization as a % of all customer donations received for all organizations. For example, if total combined customer donations for all participating organizations equal \$1,000,000, and \$10,000 (1% of total) in donations are designated for organization XYZ, then XYZ will receive 1% of \$350,000 or \$3,500 from Foodland and the Western Union Foundation's matching gift in addition to the \$10,000 from customer donations. The total gift to XYZ organization would be \$13,500.

### ***Announcement and Distribution of Gifts***

Total gifts to organizations will be announced in October. Checks to organizations will be mailed out by October 31, 2016 and will be made out to the organization's name as printed on the organization's IRS determination letter. Checks to sponsored organizations will be written and sent to their sponsoring organization.

# WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

1848 Nu'uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

## WISH LIST

*(new or very gently used)*

The items listed below are regularly needed items for mission projects and outreach. The needs in our communities are alarmingly increasing. If you are able to donate any of these items or a combination of them at any time, it would be a great relief to those in crisis. **Items marked with an asterisk are needed in both travel and full sizes.**

### Personal Items

Shampoo/Conditioner \*  
Body Wash/Soap \*  
Body Lotion \*  
Toothpaste \*  
Toothbrushes  
Toilet Paper  
Hand Wipes/Sanitizers  
Deodorant \*  
Sanitary Napkins \*  
Tampons  
Combs/Brushes  
Personal Wipes

### Bedding Items

Pillows (*standard*)  
Pillowcases (*standard*)  
Blankets

### School Supplies

Crayons  
Composition Books  
Pens (Black Ink)  
Pocket Folders  
Markers  
Erasers  
Pencils

### Baby Items

Baby Powder \*  
Baby Lotion \*  
Diapers & Wipes

### Other

Socks  
Bibles  
Prescription Eyeglasses  
Postage Stamps  
Plain Envelopes  
Fabrics/Sewing Notions  
Gift Cards (Walmart)

## MAHALO NUI LOA

### Donations & Gifts

Rose Marie Doral  
Katsuko Enoki  
Yoshiko Fujiwara  
Donna Gamboa  
Ka'iulani Hess  
Nancy Heu  
Keala Kaimimoku  
Karen Koles, Mid-Pacific  
Institute  
Nainoa Mau  
Toni Rae Mendez  
Gary Nakama  
Christine Nuuhiwa  
Valerie Holt-Parker  
Joan C. Parris  
Dwayne Priester  
Lahela Roback  
Cynthia Sato  
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina  
Mike & Carol Sullivan  
Yota Suzuki  
Hanako Takahashi  
Corole Wong

### Churches/Organizations

Central Union Church

Central Union Thrift Shop  
Church of the Holy Cross  
City of Refuge Christian  
Church  
Ewa Community Church  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Honolulu  
Friends of the Library  
Haili Congregational Church  
Kawaiaha'o Church  
Life Lifters International  
Moanalua Community  
Church  
Pookela Church  
Pukalani FCE Club  
The First Chinese Church of  
Christ in Hawaii  
Waiialua UCC  
Waikeola Congregational  
Church

### Cancelled Stamps

Graceleanor Baird  
Eleanor Bell  
Joyce Bergantino  
Ruby Donlin  
Rose Marie Doral

First United Protestant  
Church of Hilo  
Char Izuka  
Sandy Kaina  
Kapaa UCC  
Judy Rantala  
Margaret Raymond  
Rev. Margery Terpstra

### 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Fellowship

Haneefbilal Abdul-Shafiq  
Fatma Ibrahim-abdulshafiq  
Alma Balatico  
Norina Barcenaz  
Rev. Charles Buck  
Lorna Bufil  
Kahu Napua Burke  
Eleanore Chong  
Richard Doral  
Rose Marie Doral  
Neijon Rema Edwards  
Robinson Frederick  
Rose Marie Doral  
Neijon Rema Edwards  
Robinson Frederick  
Emma Garrett

Valrie Griffith  
Evelyn Hao  
Honolulu Marshallese UCC  
Ka'iulani Hess  
Carla Houser  
Eva Hubbard  
Jeane King  
Masae D. Konno  
Darlene Krenzke  
Tammie Kurashige  
Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee  
Marlene Lee  
Haleaka Martin  
Carol Miura  
Bernadette Park  
Dwayne "Dee" Priester  
Rose Schaaf  
Linda Shigeta  
Yvonne Shim  
Hanako Takahashi  
Pastor Lino Talley  
Alice K.H. Taum  
Dion'e Tamure  
Carolyn Winston  
The Honorable Frances  
Q.F. Wong  
*All others who attended*