



Mālama Mānoa

NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, No. 2 / Fall / Winter 2022

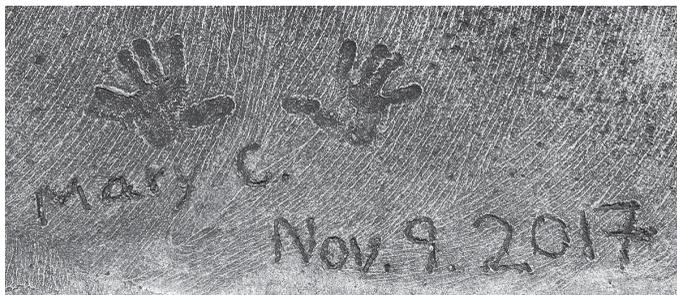
Mary Cooke – A Fond Farewell

by Lowell Angell

Mālama Mānoa founder, Mary Moragne Cooke, passed away peacefully at her beloved home, Kūali'i, on Saturday, June 25, surrounded by her family. She was 86.

In 1992, she founded Mālama Mānoa as a non-profit community organization and led it for five years as its first president. In 1996, she and her husband, Sam, founded the non-profit Mānoa Heritage Center to preserve and protect their historic residence, Kūali'i, and the adjacent Kūka'ō'ō heiau, and to educate the public about the rich history of Mānoa.

Mary was an extraordinary woman and leaves behind a rich legacy of achievements for the betterment of Mānoa and all Hawai'i. She was a kind and humble person, always quiet and softspoken, and made everyone feel appreciated. In her own charming way, she could get you excited about something and enlist your help, however it was needed. And you were always happy to do so.



Mary Cooke's handprints in the concrete outside the Visitor Education Hale in anticipation of its Grand Opening.

Born and raised on Kaua'i, Mary graduated from Punahou School, where she later served as a longtime trustee. She was also a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Among many other community efforts, she and Sam established a preservation fund in their name with Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

We owe Mary and Sam a tremendous debt of gratitude for their vision, commitment, and dedication in



Mary speaking at the Grand Opening of the Visitor Education Hale in April, 2018 — the realization of Sam and Mary Cooke's twenty-year dream to transform the two parcels purchased in 1995 into the welcoming community space and classroom that it is today.

protecting and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage and history.

Mary will truly be missed, but Mālama Mānoa, the Mānoa Heritage Center, and her many other community efforts will live on as her enduring legacy and to always remind us of her.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Mālama Mānoa has established the Mary Cooke Memorial Fund in her memory. Tax-deductible donations may be made on the Mālama Mānoa website [malamaomanoa.org], or mailed to: Mālama Mānoa, P.O. Box 283046, Honolulu HI 96828. The fund will be used to further activities related to her passionate interest in historic preservation.

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

Graced with the wit and will of our founding President, Mary M. Cooke, Mālama Mānoa has flourished for the past 30 years under her wise guidance. Our historic preservation and environmental conservation programs continue to grow. From stream cleanups to invasive tree control, Mālama Mānoa offers numerous

opportunities to support your neighborhood. I encourage you to check out the Community Directory on our website, Mānoa Community Connections, another way we are helping to enhance connections between people and organizations in Mānoa.

Mary's encouragement for me to take on the historic home tours was transformational. In 1983 and 1986, before Mālama Mānoa was a glint in Mary's eye, she encouraged me to volunteer to be a docent in Historic Hawai'i Foundation's historic home tours in the College Hills area of Mānoa and Nu'uano. She said this would be an

opportunity to learn about architectural history and I would really enjoy them. Always the teacher, she was absolutely correct!

Inspired by Mary, Mālama Mānoa initiated our historic home walking tours in 1996 with Spencer Leineweber leading the charge. As many of our readers may know, we have offered these tours every 2-3 years through 2019. Every tour would find Mary volunteering as a docent in one of the homes.

As we remember this beautiful, dynamic kupuna who is no longer with us, let's not forget those who are. We are looking forward to honoring you at our 30th Anniversary Kūpuna Luncheon. You will find details in this issue. We hope to see you there.

As we reflect on all Mary initiated and accomplished, our mission remains clear, to continue to fulfill her legacy of community enrichment and historic preservation for her beloved Mānoa Valley with the same passion, commitment, and dedication she embodied her entire life. You left us some big shoes to fill, Mary, and we'll do our best not to let you down!

With gratitude and my warmest aloha,

Linda Legrande



On June 25th, 2022, the Mānoa RAD Hui (Rapid Albizia Death) took to Mānoa Stream for the first-ever Albizia seedling roundup. Albizia are one of the worst invasive plants in Hawai'i and are already well-established along streams. The group effort, coordinated by community member Scott Snider, comprised a rockstar group that included residents, Mālama Mānoa members, and the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership. This effort was an important first step toward curtailing the spread and negative impacts of Albizia trees along the urban stream corridor. By the end of the workday, over 1,200 Albizia seedlings and saplings had been vanquished. "With an annual sweep like this, we can keep on top of all the new trees coming up," said Scott Snider. "The next step is finding a way to tackle the dozen or so large trees that remain." (pictured L to R, top: JC Watson, Ian Ross, Scott Snider, Wes Oda, Jon Manago; bottom: Dylan Davis, Frankie Koethe, Kāne Kawelo)



Please consider donating to Mālama Mānoa to assist us in our efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the special qualities of historic Mānoa Valley.

The Mālama Mānoa newsletter is published two times per year.

Mālama Mānoa
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www.malamaomanoa.org

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Conveniently located at Mānoa Marketplace!
2752 Woodlawn Drive

The Restored Kūka'ō'ō Heiau: Another Bequest to Mānoa Valley from Mary and Sam Cooke

by Veneeta Acson

Kūka'ō'ō Heiau, built hundreds of years ago, is the only reconstructed heiau (open air religious structure) and the last remaining intact heiau in the ahupua'a of Waikīkī.

Kūka'ō'ō can be translated several ways, depending on the spelling variations with the 'okina (glottal stop) and kahakō (macron indicating a long vowel):

Kūka'ō'ō – Kū (Hawaiian deity) of the digging stick (ka 'ō'ō)
– the digging stick (ka 'ō'ō) stands upright (kū)

Kūkaō'ō – Kū (Hawaiian deity) of the mature growth (ka o'ō)
– attainment of maturity

Regardless of the actual meaning, the importance of the name is that at one time it was possibly a māpele heiau, dedicated to Lono, the deity of rain, fertility and agriculture.

The modern-day recognition of the importance of Kūka'ō'ō heiau is traced back to the time of Mary and Sam Cooke's predecessors at Kūali'i, Lila and Monte Cooke. However, it behooved Sam and Mary to preserve Kūka'ō'ō in the 1990s when they moved into Kūali'i, their 1911 Tudor Revival home.

What is little known, however, is that Mary and Sam's purchase of the land did not include the heiau! When Sam and Mary realized that the land was being sold off and subdivided, they acquired the site on which Kūka'ō'ō heiau stands.

In 1993, Billy Fields, a master stone craftsman from Hawai'i Island, and his crew lovingly restored the heiau through the centuries-old dry stack method.

Both Kūka'ō'ō heiau and the Kūali'i house are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
<https://www.manoaheritagecenter.org/>

Mary Cooke Remembrances

As the first Vice President and the second President of Mālama Mānoa, I experienced Mary Cooke's leadership style firsthand. She coaxed, cajoled, and would never take a "No can" from me. She worked harder than any of us, so how could I ever say "No"? I will remember our thirty-year partnership fondly. A hui hou, Mary. — Helen Nakano, MM President 1997-1998

The beautiful spirit of Mary M. Cooke is personified in the words of James N. Watkins, "Strength – A river cuts through rock, not because of its power but because of its persistence." That was the beauty and power of our dear Mary. Her gentle and kind demeanor gave way to her quiet, passionate nature as a wife, mother, grandmother, mentor and friend. She embodied the essence of the magnificence of Mānoa Valley, her home, her heart. I'm privileged and humbled to have known and worked with Mary. The greatest gift of being a part of Mālama Mānoa was appreciating and trying to emulate her vigor, leadership and the respect she had for every issue, cause, and, most importantly, each person. A hui hou, Mary... you are truly missed, yet are forever in our hearts. — Barbara Lowe, MM President 2001-2002

Some people are named after a flower. Mary Moragne Cooke had a flower named after her! Mary's father, William Middleton Moragne, cross-pollinated plumerias and created the glorious pink/white/yellow "Mary Moragne" plumeria. As a Garden Club member, I remember Mary best from her energetic participation in our flower arranging classes. She

was always early, attired in her signature mandarin-collar floral dresses. She sat in the front row, took copious notes, and managed to get more flowers and foliage in her containers than one would think possible! She worked quietly and quickly. She knew what she wanted to create—something big and beautiful! Mary was a petite woman but she departed our classes with the largest arrangements. I was impressed that, after almost 50 years of Garden Club membership, she still wanted to learn new styles, plant materials and techniques. When it came time for events at her home, Kūali'i, she recruited her "Flower Friends" to create show-stopping arrangements for the entryway, newel post, dining table, piano, and side tables. Mary dreamed big and arranged big. Hopefully Heaven got the message and she will be welcomed with a big, beautiful, fragrant bouquet. Aloha, Mary. — Garden Club "Flower Friend" Jan Tucker

Mary left an indelible mark on our Mānoa community. None of us truly knew the full extent of how productive she was. I treasure the fact that she was a charter member of the Mānoa Branch of the Outdoor Circle. She was steadfast against intrusions into our quiet, peaceful valley. Due to her success with the Gerbode Foundation, Mālama Mānoa received funding to cover the legal fees to save Wa'ahila Ridge from the Hawaiian Electric Company's plans to erect 100-foot steel power lines over our pristine Wa'ahila Ridge. She was a true preservationist when it came to protecting historic properties, and was recognized nationally for her work. She left a living legacy, restoring the Kūka'ō'ō Heiau and endowing the Mānoa Heritage Center with her husband Sam. She will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. — Dr. Jeremy Lam, MM President 2003-2004

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Wai'oli Tea Room Celebrates Centennial

by Lowell Angell

One of the most beloved places in Mānoa is one-hundred years old this year! Wai'oli Tea Room, now operating as Wai'oli Kitchen and Bake Shop, was first opened by the Salvation Army in 1922, as a vocational training facility in domestic skills for the young girls living at their Children's Home. The Tea Room quickly became a popular place for local residents and tourists for afternoon tea and luncheon, and Wai'oli's bakery items were a delicious treat in island homes.

It's been much more than just a restaurant, however. In the ten decades since the Tea Room opened, the adjacent Salvation Army residential facility has always served the community, first as an orphanage, later as a home for unwed mothers, and then a substance abuse treatment program. That commitment to service continues today at Wai'oli Kitchen under operators Ross and Stefanie Anderson. Fulfilling their motto of "Food on a Mission Since 1922," they give employment and "second chances" to women recently released from prison and individuals from the treatment program. Besides providing employment, a portion of their revenue supports these programs. They practice their belief that successful restaurateurs can serve not only their guests, but the greater community.

In addition to offering breakfast and lunch, along with their baked goods (open Wednesday through Sunday from 8am to 1pm), Ross and Stefanie plan to bring back another favorite Wai'oli tradition — afternoon tea. Details are still being determined, but it's sure to once again be a popular feature.

We are indeed fortunate that this unique island venue still exists! Sitting at a table on the open lanai with a view of the garden, or in the adjacent large room with its open-beam ceiling, large windows and fireplace, one feels like time has stood still, at least in this little corner of Mānoa valley! Plan now to come and enjoy this special place!



Stefanie and Ross Anderson in the kitchen of the historic Wai'oli Tea Room, now known as the Wai'oli Kitchen and Bake Shop. David Croxford photo courtesy of HAWAII Magazine



Sixteen volunteers from Mālama Mānoa and Mānoa Outdoor Circle enjoyed a couple of hours removing invasive vegetation from the heiau site at Kamānele Park on July 16, 2022. Special thanks to our Mālama Mānoa Directors (Arleen Garcia-Herbst, Kimie Hirabayashi, Mark Tom and Vanessa Distajo) whose family members joined the fun. A warm mahalo to Councilmember Calvin Say for his assistance and to Ian Ross for delivering coffee to energize the volunteers.

New Veterinary Clinic in Mānoa Marketplace

by Dale Moana Gilmartin

Mānoa Marketplace has welcomed Mānoa Valley Veterinary Clinic to the former First Hawaiian Bank location mauka of Safeway. Founded by Dr. John Kaya, the practice will also feature the services of three young local veterinarians, Pearl City native Dr. Cheyenne Fry, Iolani grad Dr. Kristin Dang, and Mānoa native Dr. Erin Kwock.

John's brother, Marcus Kaya, is the clinic's logistics manager. He says, "My older brother is 'Mr. Aloha.'" He explained that Dr. Kaya opened a veterinary practice in Hawai'i Kai after serving at the VCA Clinic on Woodlawn Drive for 10 years.

"I was a veterinarian in Mānoa from 2005-2015," says Dr. Kaya. He continues, "In that time, the community made me feel at home. Yes, I was their veterinarian, but I also felt like a part of the Mānoa family."

A former public elementary school teacher, Dr. Kaya felt a calling to educate and mentor the next generation of veterinary clinic owners. "He hopes to teach the up-and-coming young veterinarians the ins and outs of running a successful practice. Dr. Kaya feels that passing the torch is essential to establishing continuity in the veterinary profession," says Marcus. Two of the young local veterinarians will be part-owners of the new practice.



Aided by veterinary technician Taylor Takemoto, Dr. John Kaya prepares for an ultrasound examination on Chihuahua "Sprout", an eight-year-old cancer survivor.

The clinic opened on August 1, 2022, and welcomes families and their pets into the clinic, with masks recommended. All four veterinarians are general practitioners, and Dr. Kaya sees exotic pets as well, including birds, rabbits, chickens, turtles and guinea pigs. All four veterinarians are proud to be a part of this 100% locally owned and operated facility, and look forward to serving Mānoa's animal friends and family members.

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

This year Mālama Mānoa is celebrating its 30th year as a community organization. We will be combining the celebration with our Nā Kūpuna Luncheon at the St. Pius X Church Hall on October 15, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The theme of our event is "THE ART AND ARTISTS OF MĀNOA." You will be delighted to learn of the many artists we have in Mānoa Valley and the wide range of art that they have been contributing through the years.

Mālama Mānoa takes great pleasure in honoring our valley's kūpuna with a delicious luncheon, entertainment and gifts. Kūpuna are treated to



a complimentary Hawaiian meal sponsored by generous donations from American Savings Bank, Alexander & Baldwin, and Territorial Savings Bank. We consider you a kupuna if you have lived in Mānoa for 40 years and are 65 years of age or older. Family and friends are encouraged to join us and our kūpuna with a purchased ticket. These kūpuna gatherings are created to be filled with wonderful memories, history and fun for all.

If you know of any kūpuna who are not members of Mālama Mānoa and are not receiving this newsletter, please share our contact information with them.

(Please see Reservation Form on page 7.)

“Seize the Seeds” - A Young Lawmaker in Mānoa

by Dale Moana Gilmartin with Melissa Yamaguchi

Last year, working with Senator Glenn Wakai, 13 year-old Brennan Yamaguchi helped pass a law, Senate Bill 936, nicknamed “Brennan’s Bill”, to ensure that seizure first aid posters are displayed in all businesses in Hawai‘i. This vital information will aid those with seizures and/or epilepsy in receiving informed assistance in case of an emergency. 1 in 10 people in their lifetime will experience a seizure, whether from fever, a fall, heat exposure, even Covid, and 1 in 26 will be diagnosed with epilepsy.

Brennan does not experience seizures, but he has a close friend who does. He started working on this Senate bill in 2020, and continued to testify during the pandemic shutdown. The bill finally passed in 2021.

Senator Wakai says, “I was deeply moved by Brennan’s desire to help his friend struggling with epilepsy. I agreed to introduce a bill for him in 2020. It was derailed by Covid. Undaunted, we re-introduced a similar bill in 2021. This time Brennan testified online. His passion won the hearts of lawmakers, and many put seizure fliers on their doors even before the bill’s passage.”

“Most children don’t recognize societal problems,” continues Wakai, “Or how to begin solving them. Brennan is an extraordinary person who never lost sight of his goal. It was inspiring to be his partner. If we listen to our children and invest in their dreams, I am confident they will create a flourishing community.”

Mary Cooke Remembrances *continued from page 3*

We have had the tremendous pleasure of knowing Mary since the early years of Mālama Mānoa when she invited my husband, George, to become a Board member. She has always inspired members of the Board to share their talents and make our Mānoa community a better place for all. Years later, when I also became a Board member and then President, I could always count on Mary, as an Advisor, to guide our organization in her kind and thoughtful style. We are deeply grateful to have had the wonderful opportunity not only to work with Mary in our organization, but to have called her our friend. — Joyce Arizumi, MM President 2014

Mary had a most unique sense of humor and I cherished sitting next to her in our monthly meetings. She was always the mainstay behind the scenes of Mālama Mānoa. — Chuck Pearson, MM President 2005-2006

When I think of Mary, I remember a sweet, soft-spoken woman, small in stature, but of enormous perseverance and fierce determination. I will miss her and be forever proud to have known her. — Pat Chung, MM President 2012-2013



Brennan Yamaguchi proudly displays his “Seize the Seeds” free distribution kiosk in Mānoa Community Garden.

Collaborating with Maryknoll School, which he attends, and Youth Service America, Brennan also created “Seize the Seeds.” He is distributing free seeds to combat food insecurity and promote sustainability. And, equally important, basic seizure first aid guidelines are printed on the seed packets to educate and spread awareness. One of Brennan’s favorite places to distribute free seeds is Mānoa Community Garden, so stop by and pick up yours today! His project is so successful that seed packets go out quickly and aren’t consistently available. But when you’re in the neighborhood, check out the kiosk, and you may be planting seeds soon!

MĀLAMA MĀNOA

30TH Anniversary and Nā Kūpuna Lunch 2022

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

Check in: 10:30 AM

Luncheon: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

ST. PIUS X CHURCH HALL
2812 LOWREY AVENUE

COST:

Kūpuna - FREE

Guest - \$18

Hawaiian Food

RSVP:

By September 15, 2022

CONTACT:

Joyce Arizumi - (808) 321-4132

Linda Legrande - (808) 384-0450

email: malamamanoa12@gmail.com

2022 Mālama Mānoa 30th Anniversary and Nā Kūpuna Lunch
RESERVATION FORM

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Kūpuna (65+ years old, 40 years living in Mānoa) or, **Guest**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Additional names: _____

Number of Kūpuna attending: _____ FREE

Number of Guests attending: _____ \$18/person

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

PLEASE REMIT CHECK TO: MĀLAMA MĀNOA

MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO: MĀLAMA MĀNOA
P.O. BOX 283046
HONOLULU, HI 96828

Mālama Mānoa Foodland Give Aloha

Mālama Mānoa is a proud participant in the Foodland Give Aloha program, a community matching gifts program held annually through the month of September.

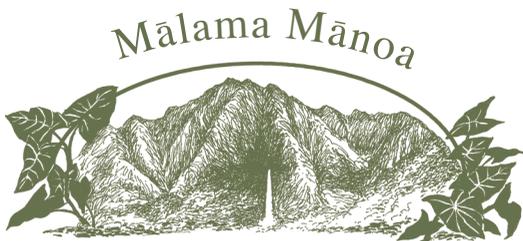
Donations are tax-deductible and anonymous, and can be made in person every September at Foodland locations, or when placing an online order for pick up or delivery. Mark your calendars now!

How to Donate:

At checkout or the customer service counter, present your Maika'i card (or your phone number) and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to Mālama Mānoa: code number 77651.

The name of our organization and your donation amount will appear on your receipt. Please save your store receipt as a record of your donation. Foodland does not reveal donor names or amounts. Mālama Mānoa would love to acknowledge your generosity and send you a Mānoa sticker for your participation! If you donated or will donate in 2022, please email malamamanoa12@gmail.com.





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Mānoa Merchandise

We have lovely Mālama Mānoa tote bags, hats, and shirts. We also have a new shipment of short sleeve, cotton T shirts! Email to check on inventory. All funds directly support Mālama Mānoa's community activities. Email: malamamanoa12@gmail.com.

Mālama Mānoa Officers

President – Linda Legrande
Vice President – Vanessa Distajo
Recording Secty. – Arleen Garcia-Herbst
Treasurer – James Hasselman

Board of Directors

Veneeta Acson	Kama Hopkins
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Thalya DeMott	Mark Tom
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Mary Cooke	Leslie Uptain
Joseph Ferraro	John Whalen
Tom Heinrich	Scott Wilson
Barbara Lowe	

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Nā Kūpuna Luncheon

- Saturday, October 15, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
St. Pius X Church Hall

Mānoa Stream Cleaning

- Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Woodlawn Bridge (across from Longs)

Kamānele Park Cleaning

- Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
2237 University Avenue

1000 Tree Giveaway

- Saturday, November 12, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
College Hill, 2234 Kamehameha Avenue

Annual General Membership Meeting

- Thursday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Waiwai Collective, 1110 University Avenue

Keiki to Kūpuna Family Fun Day (Blue Zones Project 4M)

- Saturday November 19, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Old Stadium Park, 2237 S. King Street

Community Calendar

The Mālama Mānoa Board of Directors and the Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 are not holding in-person meetings until further notice.

