

Plantation Village News



<http://www.hawaiiplantationvillage.net>

FALL 2009

President's Message

Dear Friends,

It has been a challenging year for the Board of Directors and the operations of the village. I am extremely grateful that Board members have assumed responsibility for the various committees. No one said they were too busy to help.

Of course our financial situation is a concern for us, however, we are holding our own at this time. We had a very successful Legacy Awards Dinner. The awardees from last year were present and we were very happy that they were there. The silent auction was a huge success!

Alan Wong, who was present at the dinner, had a fundraiser to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Pineapple Room. He is donating the proceeds to Hawaii's Plantation Village. It is wonderful to have a benefactor of his caliber.

We were fortunate to have Jo Ann Fakler start work on our artifacts and museum. She has since left Hawaii but she started the ball rolling. Loretta Pang, our third vice-president will oversee our collections. We have many volunteers to thank for their expertise and help. That was an area that really needed attention.

The Haunted Plantation operation is owned by an entrepreneur and he uses the Village to stage the Haunted Plantation. It was very successful and we received a generous donation for use of the village. There have been a number of events throughout the year which have all been well attended. We also had a rummage sale, crafts made by the Village Crafters, baked goods made by Marlene and her bakers (they could start a bakery). It was a fun event!

Our hard working Executive Director, Jeffery Higa, keeps the engines going and he has been as great help to me. We look forward to your continued support.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for late January 2010. Until then, have a happy holiday season.

Faith Evans



2009 Plantation Legacy Award Honorees

Hawaii's Plantation Village paid tribute to six individuals ... recipients of the second annual Plantation Legacy Awards.

Daniel Boylan - Professor of History and one of the founding members of UH-West Oahu.

A frequently requested commentator on both local and national politics, Dan Boylan is the host of "Insights on PBS" and writes a weekly column for Midweek. He is an active volunteer in the community, and was instrumental in establishing the early governance of Hawaii's Plantation Village. He has served in a number of HPV board leadership positions and continues to teach the younger generation the significance of Hawaii's plantation history and its contributions towards our multicultural heritage.

Glenn Okada - Son of "Major" Okada, founder of HPV.

A Waipahu High School and University of Hawaii graduate, Glenn Okada worked for Bank of Hawaii and AMFAC before starting his own successful development business, GO Development Company. Now retired, HPV has been a frequent benefactor of his largess. He has given tirelessly to HPV and the organization would not be in the solid and stable financial position it is in today, without his generosity and leadership.

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Richard Hirata – HPV past-President

Richard Hirata earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and was a manager with Hawaii Finance and Development Corporation (HFDC). During his tenure there, he spearheaded the development of over ten thousand affordable housing units, including the first development in Kapolei. He was named 1994 Manager of the Year for the State of Hawaii. Bringing decades of management and financial leadership to HPV, Hirata has served in numerous leadership positions including Vice-President, President and interim Executive Director. He currently is serving as past-President.

Marlene Hirata – Daughter of "Major" Okada, HPV founder

With over 25 years experience as an elementary school teacher, Marlene Hirata was most recently at Pohakea Elementary School and she was named Hawaii State Teacher of the Year in 1994. She continues to volunteer at Pohakea and Hawaii's Plantation Village where she chairs many events including the annual Bon Dance festivities and weekly seniors' crafters group and workshop.

Yoshiko Yamauchi – HPV Volunteer

Former Department of Education Resource teacher, Yoshiko Yamauchi was the first DOE assigned teacher at HPV. She established the format for the school tours and aligned our curriculum with DOE teaching standards. As a volunteer, she continues to guide and advise our educational program making it the only one of its kind in the nation. Thanks to her efforts, she has increased participation of Hawaii's schools from a handful at the outset to over 14,000 school children annually.

James Yamauchi – HPV Volunteer

Former Department of Water Supply employee, James Yamauchi has been involved with Hawaii's Plantation Village as long as his wife, Yoshiko. More of a "behind the scenes" volunteer, he is HPV's principal carpenter and fabricator. He established and maintains the Ethnic Garden, and volunteers almost daily, over seeing a variety of projects.

Congratulations to all.

Left to right:

Councilman Nestor Garcia, Glenn Okada, Marlene Hirata, Richard Hirata, Dan Boylen, Yoshiko Yamauchi, James Yamauchi and Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu

The dinner was held on Saturday, September 26 at Hale Ikena, Ft. Shafter



Photo project ...

Another big project for this year is our photograph collections.

Our collection is small when compared to the State Archives or Bishop Museum collections. Our collection is of value and growing. We have some wonderful photos and have people using our files for their books, exhibits and reunions.

The goal of the project is to have all our photos accessioned into our collection and filed properly. Every photo, even those in the Village, must be scanned into our computer and eventually uploaded onto a website for public access. We have photo albums of wonderful photographs that need to be accessioned into our collection.

This will take many man hours. We need a good scanner and people to do the scanning, people to accession the photos and do the paper work.

The Great Flood of 2008

Heavy rains on December 11, 2008, overflowed Waikele Stream, bordering our lower Village complex, and caused extensive damage to the Ethnic Gardens. The force of the water lifted benches imbedded in concrete and uprooted trees and covered the area with mud. We lost four benches that were imbedded in concrete and many trees (koa, lehua, mountain apple, jackfruit, milo and kou). All sixteen paddies (taro, rice, water chestnuts, lotus) are now covered with mud. We haven't taken an inventory of the area, but water from the spring continues to flow towards Waikele Stream and lotus leaves are visible amongst the tall grass.

In early March, the soil was dry enough for us to take an inventory of what survived the flood. What a thrill to see the low growing plants surviving: ohai sebastiania, black ilima, day lily, uki uki, ahuawa, Chinese lotus and an iris plant in bloom. Also squash vines were crawling over the ulu tree and the macadamia nut and Bartlett pear leaves were peeking out of the mud.

For almost a month we harvested approximately 100 fruits from the caimito tree and served them to the visitors that visited the Village. While gathering fruits from the tree, it showed signs of shock. The debris had covered 50% of the trunk, but the tree seemed to be surviving. By the end of April, the tree died.

In another area we noticed the star fruit tree leaves above the debris. As we started to clear the area, we found the branches of the jaboticaba trees peeking through the soil and leaves of the macadamia nut tree still thriving in the tall grass. We are now trying to save these trees.

Despite the devastation and loss, we gained rich top soil and mulch. The Ethnic Garden is now overgrown with Guinea grass and castor beans. Volunteers Victor Tanimoto, Ron Tadaki, Johnny Yee and James and Yoshiko Yamauchi are slowly ridding the garden of the unwanted weeds and debris.

Soon the gardens will again showcase the story of the immigrants through plants. Plants used for food, medicine, and shelter along with plants that were commonly found in plantation camps will remain the primary focus of the garden.

As we cleared the debris, we experienced first hand that as we took care of the land and plants nature responded positively in kind.



Ron Tadaki clearing debris from Star Fruit



Victor Tanimoto working on the Guinea Grass near the sugar cane patch



Relive the Plantation Days on February 7 Kicks Off 2009

Hawaii's Plantation Village celebrated the Year of the Ox and "Relive the Plantation Days" on Saturday, February 7. Festivities started with the beating of the drum, gong and cymbal during the Chinese Lion Dance used to scare away "evil spirits" so that good luck will follow.

Highlights of the day included a dance performance by Josephine Carreira, mochi pounding demonstration with some audience participation and a popular household rummage sale.

There was a great turnout of visitors and residents enjoying the first HPV event for 2009.



35 years of records now organized!

The major project for 2008 concerned all the records of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park and Hawaii's Plantation Village (about 160 boxes). These boxes were completely organized, inventoried, re-boxed, and labeled for easy access to all our paper history. This was about a nine month long project and was the initial cleaning of WCGP's historical records.

These boxes had been stored in the container directly behind the 'Major' Hideo Okada Education Building gathering bugs and dust with no key as to their contents and were deteriorating fast. The cleaned records are now stored in the Education Building on 3 rolling racks containing 18 boxes each. The inventoried boxes give easy access to past records and information to staff and researchers.

Report from the archivists

The Collections Department is organizing the artifacts and their information for easy access by staff and eventual uploading of the information to a website. Our volunteer, Alice Ryder, and I have been going through the racks, shelf by shelf, to ascertain what is in the collection and where we need to begin our task of identifying the collections strong and weak points. *We have such a wealth of history on our racks and every one of us should walk with pride that we are part of their preservation.*

We are bursting at the seams in the artifact storage room with overflowing shelves. In the beginning, we collected everything people brought to us. Now, the board will need to re-visit the purpose of the collection and identify items we should no longer seek and may not be feasible to keep while aggressively collecting those that time may soon make unavailable to our collections, such as personal items and memoirs/diaries/journals from early plantation times.

We have boxes of old tools, *some rusty and bent*, which need to be evaluated. What do we keep and what is junk? Old bottles from milk and soda works around the islands, as well as other bottles, fill a large space. We have lanterns that are more rust than metal. Many books, some of which are recent and have no connection to the plantation, also fill a number of shelves. We have an entire rack, 18' X 8', of boxes with textiles – clothing, linens, bedding, from all ethnic groups featured at the village. What are they, what was their era and use, were questions the items brought to mind? We have twelve racks that are exciting and filled with treasure. Some items, though, were dropped off at HPV on their way to the trash dump. A determination should be made on their contribution to the collection's purpose.

Exciting finds from the archives



Our ethnic clothing collection is being evaluated piece by piece, properly folded and stored. Deanna Espinas invited Jo Farina to look at our Filipino collection. On January 12, Jo went through most of our collection, giving us the date and style of clothing. She was most helpful and we discovered some beautiful Maria Clara and *terno* dresses. The collection contains many pieces of special occasion wear for men and women, but almost no everyday wear or plantation wear. Any items donated should be dated prior to 1946 and were either used on the plantation, or are like what was used on the plantation.

Right—Traditional Filipino 'fancy' dress

Our Japanese collection is quite extensive and makes up 2/3 of our entire textile/clothing collection. On February 12, Barbara Kawakami, internationally known expert on Japanese Kimono, came for a day of exploration into the boxes holding our collection. Like Jo Farina, Barbara identified the garment, its purpose, date, and fabric. We have some beautiful picture bride wedding kimonos, as well as kimono and haori (outer garment) made from hand woven silk from 1885. Barbara is very excited about our collection and believes that we have an extensive and exciting selections of vintage Japanese wear. She suggested we have a showing of our unique



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pieces for a fund raiser. Barbara shared with us a couple more days before dedicating her time to finishing her latest book. She recommended Rev. Yoshinobu Sato from Mililani's Honbushin International Center to continue the project.

Left—Cathy Oleano, Barbara Kamakani (striped top left) Molly Nakahara, Jo Ann Fakler, Yoshiko Yamauchi.

Barbara demonstrates the correct way to fold a kimono for storage, using archival tissue paper.

Rev. Sato has helped us extensively. He enjoyed his time with us, even though thinking in English gave him a headache. We know our collection is unique when he is excited to see what comes out of our boxes.

Rev. Sato has given us his expertise more than 7 days. He completed examination of our collection on May 21st. Now there will be at least 3 days of photographing the clothing, another 3 to fold and store each piece correctly, plus hours of data entry before the project is completed.

Left—Rev Yoshinobu Sato (left) examining a kimono with Helen Yanamura.



Local experts charge \$100 each to appraise a kimono. We are so lucky to have patrons Like Barbara and Rev. Sato who share their time with us freely for so many pieces in our Japanese collection. The many volunteers who helped with this project have given HPV a great gift.

Marlene Hirata was so inspired working with Barbara Kawakami at HPV, that she donated over 80 pieces of her grandmother's clothing to our collection. Many are unique and unusual pieces. Marlene's grandmother rented clothing to people who did not have the proper kimono for the occasion. The Hirata Collection is a great addition to HPV.

Left—Hirata Collection—A wedding kimono of a picture bride.



We have some wonderful stories about some of these kimonos, which we will share in the next newsletter.

Josephine Carreira will examine our very small collection of Portuguese and Puerto Rican textiles/clothing. For our Chinese collection, we recently received 2 silk skirts, over 100 years old, belonging to the donor's mother. Douglas Chong will be accessing them and the rest of our Chinese collection. Korean immigrants numbered only 7,000, immigrating only for a few short years. Our Korean collection of plantation artifacts is very small. Mrs. Hyoncha Koga graciously came and evaluated them.

We do need to build up these small collections with pieces of clothing that the immigrant brought with them, wore in the fields, wore at home, or for special occasions during Plantation Times. We also are interested in journals, diaries, and personal papers that describe plantation life. Copies of these documents would be appreciated.



Alice Ryder and Margie Kodama writing the information that Rev. Sato gives them for each item he examines.

Rev Sato is in background on his computer.

The cost of preserving history

We have been fortunate in receiving artifacts, but at the same time, these artifacts cost us money. For example: A kimono is donated to HPV. It is placed in the freezer to kill any insects it may have. Later it is hung up to air for at least a day. We then begin the accession process. The kimono is entered into our records and receives a number. The number is permanently attached to the item by sewing a small cotton ribbon to the kimono. A photo is taken of the artifact, and then any information about the original owner, the donor, any information known and the photo of the item is entered into the computer, and the paper work filed. A print is also attached to the filed paperwork.

Using acid free paper, the kimono is folded and placed in an acid free box. The box is labeled with all the accessions numbers of the kimonos inside and the box placed on a shelf in a room that should be under climate control. The kimono should be removed from the box yearly and hung out for a day of airing, then re-folded into the box. The room should be vacuumed periodically to keep the room clean as well as checked for bugs. All this work is for just one item. Collection's care cost money. Currently we have money for only one part-time staff member. Acid free boxes and tissue shipped from the mainland are costly.

What can you do to support HPV's collections?

Hawaii's Plantation Village is in need of cash donations earmarked for our archives. Supplies, labor, filing cabinets and storage containers are just a few of the things that are in short supply for the archives.

Call with a credit card or mail in your donations today and help us preserve part of Hawaii's history that is quickly disappearing.



Mold ...

Mold was discovered in the artifact room on some of our books in January. They were cleaned and treated over a 2 week period. Sue Oshiro, our Monday volunteer who accessions our photographs, is shown here helping JoAnn Fakler clean the books.

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THE STATE
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& THE ARTS

HPV's newsletter is supported in part by the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts through appropriations from the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i and by the National Endowment For the Arts

BECOME A MEMBER ...

Despite the down turn in Hawaii's economy, we are moving forward with our plans to expand our Hawaiian complex. Our membership, the backbone of everything we do here in the village, is vital to our continued growth.

If your membership has expired, please feel free to contact Rechie at 677-0110 or hpv.waipahu@hawaiiantel.com. With the Christmas season and New Years coming up, now is the perfect time to renew and take advantage of the 10% discount we offer members in our gift shop!

HPV members are entitled to:

- receive newsletters
- free guided Village tour
- special events and heritage celebrations free entry
- 10% discounts at the gift shop
- Relive the Plantation Days free entry

Newsletter prepared by
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