From the Executive Director

By Helen Wong Smith

Aloha mai kākou!

To quote a bard of the 1960s, “the times they are a-changin’” and hopefully you’ll appreciate how the changes we are making will improve the Kaua‘i Historical Society. Supporting the goal of increased outreach, my presentation Genealogical Resources of Hawaii’s ‘Ohana was given in four of the island’s five districts (Līhuʻe, Kōloa, Kawaihau, and Hanalei) at different times to accommodate those who work or prefer not to drive at night.

Thanks to Board member Pua Rossi Fukino who is revitalizing our Facebook presence, users worldwide will know of our activities and offerings. Over 13,000 of our historic illustrated maps produced in 2000 will be distributed to island hotels and their guests in order to increase awareness of Kauaʻi’s rich historical culture and of the Historical Society.

A new webpage will allow online transactions such as membership renewal, purchases, payments for scans or research. We hope that you’ll find the new webpage easier to navigate and discover new information with each visit. Please give us your feedback for further improvement.

An organization with our longevity requires adaptation to economic impacts and evolving technologies, so we’ve taken a hard look at expenses. One response is to decrease our newsletter from a quarterly to a monthly, concise edition and to use electronic delivery. In order to facilitate this, we need you to register on our new webpage and submit your email address. This preempts rejection of incorrect addresses and assures delivery. Go to kauaihistoricalsociety.org and put in your email address.

Improving operations and systems will support preservation of and access to our collections. These functions are often under-supported but vital to fulfilling our mission. In addition to grants mentioned in this newsletter, we have entered an agreement with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to have selected portions of our collections added to the Papakilo Database, consisting of multiple collections of data pertaining to historically and culturally significant places, events, and documents in Hawai‘i’s history. The definition of papakilo is “a foundation for seeking, searching, observing.” Partnership with this online repository increases our outreach and helps us to preserve and perpetuate cultural and historical information and practices with others.

Two Queens Visit Kaua‘i

Premier Kaua‘i performances by two leading actresses will be presented on February 13 and 14 when Jackie Pualani Johnson portrays Lili‘uokalani in a one-woman play, Lili‘uokalani at Washington Place and Denyse Woo-Ockerman portrays Queen Emma in a second short play, Vespers at Hanaiakamalama.

UH Hilo Professor Johnson has portrayed notable women in Hawai‘i’s history including The Conversion of Kaʻahumanu (Elizabeth Kaʻahumanu was a queen regent of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i in the 1800s), Isabella Bird (an adventurous English traveler, writer,
Our Mission is to collect, preserve and disseminate the oral, written and pictorial history of Kaua‘i County and to educate ourselves and the public about the history and cultures of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau.

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P.O. Box 1778
4396 Rice Street, Suite 101
Lihu‘e, HI 96766
Open Monday-Friday, 10:00-4:00, except holidays
Phone 808-245-3373; fax 808-245-8093
www.kauaihistoricalsociety.org
info@kauaihistoricalsociety.org
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By Gaetano Vasta
ALOHA AND MAHALO NUI LOA, FRANCES FRAZIER
By Donna Stewart
Frances Nelson Hali’aalohanokekupuna Frazier of Kauai passed away in Kapa’a on October 19, 2015, at the age of 101. She was a Hawaiian language translator and cultural resource. She left a huge legacy of documents that she painstakingly translated from Hawaiian. Kaua’i and the wider Hawaiian community are greatly saddened. Numerous tributes were paid to her during her long life and after her passing. Many generations will continue to benefit from her work.

In the Kaua’i Historical Society library, we have a large collection of land transfer documents from the 1800s plus other manuscripts that Frances meticulously translated.

Her mother was part-Hawaiian, her father of Caucasian descent. During the 1950s, she was a volunteer typist for Mrs. Mary Kawena Pukui, an Hawaiian scholar at the Bishop Museum. Mary Kawena Pukui inspired Frances and others are credited in the acknowledgements.

Frances translated the touching account of Kaluaikoolau’s last years in Kalalau Valley (as a fugitive diagnosed with leprosy) that was dictated in ‘oelohawaii‘i by his wife Piilani. Printed in Hawaiian and English, Frances ensured that her translation conveyed the poetic nuances of Piilani’s language.

Reg Gage, KHS Board member, spent time with Frances and her husband Hal after they moved here. Reg treasures the many stories and vast knowledge that she shared with him.

Aloha pumehana, Hali’a.

Welcome and Mahalo!
NEW MEMBERS
September 1 - November 30
Al & Diana Albergate
Jay Armstrong
Larry & Berna Arruda (Gift from Wilma & Barbara Akrona)
Shirlette Burnz
Barbara Cameron
Nicholas Clarke
Carol Clazie
Ms. Jackie M. Dooley
Rob & Gabrielle Dorman
Ron Fritzsche
Dan & Julie Fregeau
Marjorie S. Hillback
Janet Killermann
Sabra Kauka
Barb Lankford
John H. & Daphne H. McClure
Lilia Merrin
Dr. Dave Moore
Steve Murphy
Herman Paleka
Joan I. Paleka
Jim Powell (SCS Archaeology)
Milton Ching (SCS Archaeology)
Ramona Kincaid (SCS Archaeology)
Elicia Murphy Wetherington
Ms. Mary Zook

DONATIONS
September 1 - November 30
Up to $50.00
Anonymous Cash
Helena Cooney

Up to $100.00
Margaret Akana
Stu Burley

Up to $200.00
Cash (2015 Vintage Book Sale)
Reg & Sandy Gage (In Memory of Frances Frazier)

Up to $500.00
Lloyd Palmer
James & Sylvia Thacker (In Memory of Kai‘opua Fyfe)

With Gratitude and Good Wishes
The last few months have been busy at the Kaua‘i Historical Society office, and here’s a few of the highlights.

- Helen Wong Smith presented “Genealogical Resources for Hawai‘i ‘Ohana” in Lihue, Princeville, Koloa, and Kapa’a. See her column on her talks to several school groups. Staff and Board members helped at each meeting and refreshments were donated by Times Supermarket, Kauai Kookies, and Foodland.

- Grants in varying amounts were recently awarded by the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Young Brothers Community Foundation, Annie Sinclair Knudsen Memorial Fund via Hawai‘i Community Foundation.

- The 2016 “Plantation Days” calendar with beautiful colorized photos of plantation locales is available at the office and selected gift stores.

- We receive numerous requests for photos and documentation that are in our collections every week. Many other requests are general inquiries—where can I find the camp, map, birth records, etc. of my grandfather? Helen Wong Smith, RuthAnne Jackson, Marianne Buley, Laraine Moriguchi, and Donna Stewart locate and send the information or refer the requesters to other sources.

- The sale of vintage and rare books plus tea cups netted over $3,400. Some remaining rare volumes will be placed in an online catalog soon.

- We wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! Let us pray for peace and joy.
Get Them While They’re Young: Outreach to Our Keiki

One of KHS’ initiatives is to increase outreach to the younger generation. Two opportunities occurred this past quarter: visits by the YWCA STEM program for 9- to 15-year-olds and a Kaua’i Community College anthropology class taught by our Board member Pua Rossi Fukino.

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program initiates a comfort level and interest in these subjects in order to groom future leaders for our communities. Award-winning physics teacher Erin Wilson from Princeville conducts the program on a research-based Positive Action curriculum to help the students appreciate how special they are and to understand the connections between their actions, how they feel about themselves, and the huge impact that the decisions they make now can have on their futures. A revised presentation of Genealogical Resources for Hawai‘i ‘Ohana presented across Kaua’i was given to the keiki who were most interested in looking for pictures of their family in high school yearbooks in our collection.

The presentation ‘Imi i ke kumu i nā ‘āina (seeking the resources of the lands) provided Anthropology 220 students with resources to research the ahupua’a (land division) and wahi pana (storied places) of their homes. Recognizing their penchant for online resources, I presented websites including Ulukau’s Place Names, digitized maps at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, the Papakilo Database and the Hawaiian Legends Index which includes place name indexing.

Supplementing the wealth of digitized information, the students were reminded of the benefits of primary resources available in our archival collection. Each received our historical map and Kaua‘i in History: A Guide to the Resources to continue their research endeavors.

Call our office at 245-3373 or email director@kauaihistoricalsociety.org if you want to introduce a group of students to the Historical Society.

By Helen Wong Smith