

Retired Clergy Families' News

VOLUME III, Edition 1

WINTER, 2024

Edited by Carol Arney

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy, 4:7 NRSV

Retired Clergy and Families honor Black History Month at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA) on February 7th

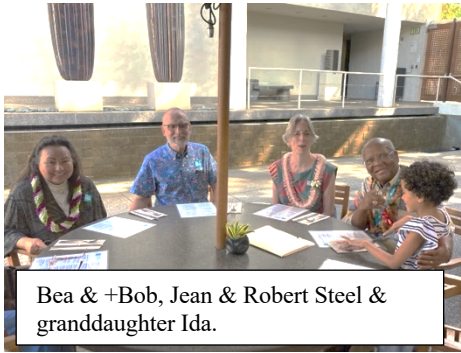


The Oahu members of the Retired Clergy and Bishop +Bob Fitzpatrick and Bea Fitzpatrick enjoyed a luncheon at the HoMA Cafe followed by a presentation by The Rev. Dcn. Robert Steele to honor and learn more about Black artists at the Honolulu Museum of Art. Black History Month is from February 1st to March 1st and our own Robert Steele, deacon at Holy Nativity and his wife Jean have donated a part of their collection of African American art to the Museum.

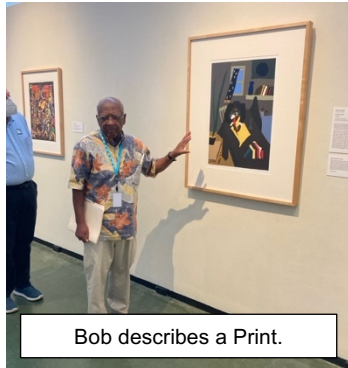
The first paragraph of the text behind Robert and Jean reads:

"Forward together celebrates the Honolulu Museum of Art's transformative acquisition of 55 prints from the Jean and Robert Steele Collection. Organized in two rotations of 25 print's each, the exhibition examines some of the ways in which African American artists and black owned and operated workshops shaped the development of printmaking to influence 20th-century American art and visual culture. Dr. Steele is the former director of the David C. Driskell Center for the study of the visual Arts of African Americans and the African Diaspora in the University of Maryland. Now residing in Hawai'i, he and his wife Jean have been collecting prints and works on paper by African American artists since the 1960s. Over the decades they befriended many of the artists and printmakers whose works are on display."

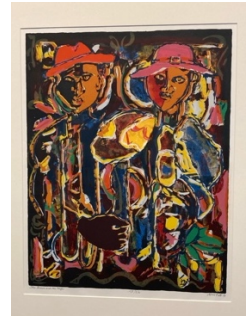
On this occasion, both Robert and his wife Jean talked about the many prints exhibited there. For those of you who missed it, we hope that you have an opportunity to visit HOMA and see the exhibit.



Bea & +Bob, Jean & Robert Steel & granddaughter Ida.



Bob describes a Print.



Eugenia Park, Phil Paradine



Norma & frank Chun



Myrtle Kaneshiro, Martha & David Blanchett, Hollis Maxson, Alison Dingley Richard Shields, Dave Kennedy

Meeting for lunch to Bring in the New Year!



Photographer in this seat!
Greg Johnson

Carol Arney, Priscilla Millen, Allison Dingley, Val & Peter Besenbruch, David Kennedy, Dave Ota

January 2, 2024!

Although many of us were traveling or busy with family, a faithful 8 gathered to keep up the tradition. Because we were a small group, we could all discuss the challenges of ministry to the unhoused, as St. Elizabeth's Church has a vital ministry to the un-housed. Greg Johnson is filling in there during the next search since David Gerlach's retirement and shared his experiences.

A Holiday Lunch with Bishop +Bob **November 7**

We held our Holiday gathering early this November at Paesano Ristorante Italiano in Aiea. We had a record attendance at our traditional holiday gathering. There was a gift bag of small gifts for +Bob from CPG, an interesting story about Holy Innocents (Maui) told by Heather Mueller, plus lots of laughs and delicious Italian food!



Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick



Heather... see story below



Carol Connell, Marilyn Howard, Greg Johnson, Alison Dingley, Karen Swanson, David Ota, Phil Paradine, Brian Nurdling, Mimi & Peter Wu.



Frank & Norma Chun, Hollis & Ethel Maxson, +Bob & Bea, Priscilla Millen, Heather Mueller

The story of Heather Mueller's picture:

I was ordained to the priesthood at Holy Innocents on April 22, 1981. It was at a time of transition with the departure of rector, Charley Burger.

Bishop Browning asked me if I would take responsibility for the worship at Holy Innocents and so starting in May, I was serving Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, Lahaina.

One day in June 1981, when I was in the office, a tall Filipino/Hawaiian woman came into the office and said, "I want one baptismal for my nephew." I then asked her about her connection to Holy Innocents. She said, "I am in the picture".

I had to hear this twice, and as she spoke, she pointed to the sanctuary of the church. Then I looked at her face and I finally understood what she was saying. **She was the model for the baby Jesus in the painting on the wall behind the altar.**

I then took her into the church and took her picture in front of the painting. I am amazed at how she still had the same look as the baby in the painting.



Chaplain Team Visits Queen Emma's Summer Palace November 8, 2023



Our Chaplain Team and the Bishop's Diocesan Support Staff were invited to a tour of Queen Emma's Summer Palace, located in cool Nu'uano. It was a beautiful chance to get together. We sincerely are a TEAM, and we work together to provide care and concern for the retired clergy of the Diocese of Hawai'i and their spouses and widows.



Diocesan Convention 55 October 20-21, 2023

Retired Clergy at Convention



Front: Linda Decker, Bishop, Alison Dingley, Carol Arney, Frank Chun, Marnie Keator
Back: Peter Wu, Kate Cullinane, Dwight Brown, Karen Swanson, David Ota.

The Right Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick opened Convention 55's Education Day with a huge welcome, flanked by a large cross on stage that had triggered people's curiosity. It is the rooftop cross from Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, one of the few items salvaged from the ash and rubble. This was the cross displayed on the stage, and there it remained throughout the entire event. Its presence served as a reminder that Holy Innocents Church and its members were there in our hearts.

Our Chaplain Team

Chaplains to Retired Clergy, Spouses, and the Widowed: OUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

The Rev. Bruce DeGooyer, Coordinator and Ministry to the Widowed

Mail: 518 Melemele Street, Wailuku, HI 96793, revbrucemaui@gmail.com 808-740-8316

The Rev. Heather Mueller, Ministry to those on Maui, Molokai, and Hawai'i Island

Mail: 155 Cross Road, Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790, heathermaymueller@yahoo.com (808) 446-3545/Home. (808) 430-0120/Cell

The Rev. Carol Arney, Newsletter and Ministry to widows and widowers.

Mail: 2542 Date St. # 402, Honolulu, HI 96826; arneycm@earthlink.net (808) 938-2284

The Rev. Frank and Mrs. Norma Chun, Ministry to those on Oahu and Kauai.

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Colored text means live links (It works for most computers.)

From the Editor: The winter edition of our newsletter is a little late this year due to many health changes by your editor. (I'm fine now.) I apologize, but since "winter" is December-January-February, I'm just getting in under the wire! I hear you have had some late snowstorms this month, so I can still call it the winter issue. Thanks to leap year!



On the Mainland and around the World!

Buon Natale Buon Anno

I am on Kauai for the holidays for the first time in 4 years! I stopped in Seattle for a few days to celebrate with Sarah, Elizabeth, Chloe and Sabryn. Chloe and Sabryn came to Kauai to enjoy Christmas with their parents, Josh and Holly, so we were all together on Kanani St.

Venice is still home for the moment, and I will return there at the end of January. My next trip to Seattle will be in March to see Sarah star in "Something's Afoot" at the 5th Avenue Theater.

Best wishes for your 2024. Love to all, Paula!



[On Feb 3, 2024, at 10:51 AM, Gaylord Hitchcock <gaysov@hotmail.com> wrote:](#)

Both John and I are now Chaplains to Retired Clergy in the Diocese of San Diego. Will we see you at Healdsburg this spring!

From Editor (Carol) Here's a little way you "Mainlanders" can participate in our newsletter! Spring is coming, and with it our next edition of the newsletter. I invite each of you to **send me a picture** of something that represents springtime where you live. (It's harder to notice the changing seasons here in the islands.) The picture can be something that says SPRING IS HERE!! to you. It can be flowers like daffodils, tulips, etc. or pussy willows and green buds on the trees, or baby animals. Use your imagination. Send it to my email with a caption, a photo credit, and what part of the county you are from.

arneycm@earthlink.net.

During my brief stay on the mainland, in St. Paul, MN. spring was my favorite season.





WINTER Birthdays

Clergy

December

- *Richard Shields December 11*
- *Walter Stevens December 25*

January

- *Russell Johnson. January 15*
- *Bruce DeGooyer. January 20*
- *Tom Yoshida January 23*
- *Pamela Redding. January 24*
- *David Baar January 31*
- *Marilyn Watts January 31*

February

- *Peter Besenbruch February 1*
- *Dwight Brown February 12*
- *Allison Dingley February 17*
- *Janice Watson February 20*
- *Andrew Waimsley February 22*
- *Philip Paradine February 24*



Clergy Spouses

December

- *Paggy Cromwell December 13*
- *Ethel Maxson December 27*
- *Judy Winkler December 31*

January

- *Rae Costa January 15*
- *Nancy Minuth January 25*
- *Young Jin Kim January 26*

February

- *Norma Chun February 12*
- *Martha Blanchett February 12*
- *Christy Kessler February 13*
- *Grace Lee February 14*
- *Winona Yoshida February 27*

Surviving Spouses

January

- *Tutu DuTeill January 10*
- *Nancy Minuth January 25*

February

- *Dorothy Moore February 27*

Retirements

During the past few months, we have had three clergy retire from active ministry, and join the ranks of those of us who have retired.



David Gierlach, Rector, St. Elizabeth's, Honolulu

David was called in 2010. Under Fr. David's leadership, St. Elizabeth's has four ethnic choirs that add joy to the Sunday Mass, in addition to our wonderful Bell Choir and children's choir, (musical director Ajaon Chen), hosts the Catholic Worker through Wallyhouse, providing many services for those in need in our community, including a daily food pantry, delicious Saturday breakfasts and Tuesday hot lunches, Laundry services for the houseless; a community peace garden with aqua and hydroponics and is actively involved in social justice organizations and causes. *From St. Elizabeth's website.*



Bruce DeGooyer, Vicar, Holy Innocent's, Maui

Bishop Fitzpatrick wrote:

Today was the first day of Bruce's retirement. Good Shepherd's Rector, Moki Hino, invited me to preach and Bruce to celebrate the Eucharist. I was able to bless new stoles and an alb for Bruce to replace some of his vestments lost in the Lahaina fire.

Bruce had come out of retirement to serve as Vicar of Holy Innocent's. He had decided to retire before the Maui fire occurred and retired at the end of September 2023.



Raymond Woo, Vicar, St. Luke's, Honolulu,

retired as of January 1, 2024. Father Ray and his wife Viv will be moving to Penang, Malaysia, at the end of the year to be closer to their family in Singapore.

Father Ray has over 40 years of dedicated service in a variety of settings, most recently as the Vicar at St. Luke's for the past eight years. He has served on a number of Diocesan ministries, including the Commission on Ministry (COM), Standing Committee, and as a teacher for two graduating classes of the Waiolaihui'ia Center for Ministry (WCM), the Diocese's formation program.

From Chronicle, July 23, 2023

With the exception of Ray Woo, who is now in Penang, Malaysia, we hope to see the newly retired in some of our activities for the retired clergy families in the future. We hope to see Ray (and all of you) back for a visit in the future.

In Memoriam

Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: we give you our heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHRISTINE "TEENA" URBAN



Christine "Teena" Urban passed away on October 2, 2023, at her home at the Ivy at Hawaii Kai, after many months of decline from congestive heart failure and COPD. She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She moved to Honolulu, Hawaii when she was 28 years old. She never left. She loved Hawaii and made it her home, visiting the mainland only to see her mother and sisters annually. Teena completed her Bachelor of Science at University of Hawaii shortly after arriving in Honolulu and began a teaching career in special education at Radford High. Later she entered the field of education administration. She was Vice Principal at Castle High School from 1987-1991; she was Principal at Keolu Elementary School from 1991 until her retirement in 2000.

Teena married the Rev. Darrow L. K. Aiona, who preceded her in death in 2012. Their 41-year union was accentuated by a common faith as well as by years of foreign travel together, which they both enjoyed immensely. After Darrow's death, Teena volunteered regularly, until her death, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church where Darrow had been Rector. Teena was spunky and sporty, independent, determined and kind. *Edited from obituary Published by Star-Advertiser from Oct. 20 to Oct. 23, 2023.*



MRS. SIMEONA GESTON, the widow of the Rev. Alejandra Geston Aiona, died on October 30th. Many will remember that Alex only died this past June. A service was held for her at St. Timothy's Church 'Aiea on November 25. Please keep their daughters and the entire Geston family in your prayers.

From Bishop Fitzpatrick's email.



REVEREND CANON DAVID PAUL COON The Reverend Canon David Paul Coon, 95, of Kamuela, died on December 12, 2023, after a long illness. He was born on January 3, 1928, in Flint, Michigan. In 1970, David was appointed Headmaster of 'Iolani School and remained in that position until his retirement in 1992. After his retirement in 1992, Rev. Coon became the substitute minister in various parishes on the Big Island, traveling between Ocean View and Kapa'au. In 1998, Rev. Coon became an interim trustee for Kamehameha Schools, where he served for two years. He continued his service to the community, serving on various boards, including Parker School, the North Hawaii Community Hospital, and fundraising for various causes. David Coon is survived by his wife of 70 years, Joanne Leilani. *Edited from obituary Published by West Hawaii Today on Dec. 30, 2023.*