

*Friendship~Love~Truth*



*Pilialoha~Aloha~'Oia 'To*

## Hawaii Odd Fellow Christmas Projects

### Kalaeloa Veteran's Initiative

Story on page 3

### Family Programs Hawaii

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## **Excelsior Lodge #1**

### **Noble Grand's message**

This has been one memorable year! To my officers, committee chairs, Trustees and my brothers and sisters of Excelsior Lodge, thank you for your support! Excelsior Lodge No. 1 is alive, well and flourishing thanks to the many individuals that are a part of this lodge, to all of its members, participants, supporters and leaders, you all deserve a big MAHALO!

We've successfully maintained seven community service projects on eleven different days throughout the year; adopt-a-highway, bus stop painting, Hawaii Public Radio, Hawaii Food Bank, Special Olympics, Waimea Falls clean-up, and Crawford Convalescent Home. We also introduced a new community service partner in Hawaii Meals on Wheels and held a golf tournament to support the Institute for Human Services. Thank you to all our participating Brothers and Sisters!

One year ago I had hoped to increase membership not by the quantity of members but by the quality of members and thanks to your efforts we have done just that. We have recognized several individuals that will now be moving up the chairs to serve the lodge in a greater capacity. These soon-to-be officers will be working closely with the newly formed Past Grand Advisory Council. This council will serve as an advisory board to the Noble Grand; to work with the nominations committee to provide recommendations and guidance for future officers, to provide training for these officers, to establish a training module to educate members on lodge business and to create a mentoring program for new members and their sponsors.

Our meeting night collections have benefit many worthy charitable organizations; SOS Villages in Cambodia, The Hawaii Arthritis Foundation, The Kalaeloa Project, Hawaii Meals on Wheels and the Cord Blood Bank project. Thanks to all of you that dig deep to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We are a beneficial fraternal society and must provide for our members and their families as well as the greater community. Together, let's make a difference!

Respectfully submitted in FLT,

Steven Tseu

Noble Grand

Excelsior Lodge No. 1



## **Harmony Lodge #3**

### **Noble Grand's message**

My years of working experience have allowed me to become quite involved with people of many backgrounds and cultures. This has been a challenging but rewarding experience for me. My involvement in Harmony Lodge No. 3, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has been another of those challenging and rewarding experiences.

We had a very active year which started with a great showing of members at the Food Bank Collection site at the Windward City Shopping Center. We followed that activity with our Horseshoe tournament whose proceeds benefitted the Child and Family Services, Domestic Abuse program. We then held our annual Harmony golf tournament at the Navy Marine Golf Course. As in the past, the golf tournament proceeds continued our support of the Ronald McDonald House. We also continued to provide musical entertainment for the residents of the Crawford Home as well as Supporting Excelsior Lodge's Adopt A Highway program out at the Laie property. These activities demonstrate our commitment to our motto that "WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE". I believe wholeheartedly if we all continue to work together as one, there is no doubt we can Make A Difference.

I realize that we have members who have been with the Order for a good number of years and are very much set in their ways. But, if we take the perspective of seeing with the eyes of the many instead of a few, I truly believe that good things will follow. Friendship, Love and Truth lie at the core of our valediction. I trust that all of you will agree that the spirit of our valediction does not stand for I and Me. It has always stood for We and All. So if we continue to work together, we can indeed continue to make a difference.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my officers, my staff and not the least of all, my fellow members for making this a very special year. I am very thankful for the opportunity of sharing in the laying of the Wreath of Aloha with my fellow Harmony members at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Attending the Sovereign Grand Session was also a great honor and experience. I would strongly encourage any member considering the office of Noble Grand to attend the Sovereign Grand Sessions at least once. It is a great learning tool as well as an excellent venue for meeting Odd Fellows from other jurisdictions. Being there to experience the installation of the New Sovereign Grand Master and his Staff was a remarkable opportunity. I would also like to thank our communications committee who produces our newsletter for allowing me to work side by side with all of you this year.

Like they say this is not the ending but it is a new beginning...

Aloha

Jerry K. Apana, Noble Grand

Harmony Lodge #3

## Veteran's Initiative Christmas Lunch

Story from page 1

The Hawaii Odd Fellows once again showed their support for our veterans by sponsoring the annual Kalaeloa Veteran's Initiative lunch on Saturday, December 15, 2012. Along with our Easter lunch, this project is the second of two events the Odd Fellows hold for our homeless veterans. The two events are co-sponsored by the Hawaii Odd Fellows and the My Father's House Ministries. As in prior years, the Odd Fellows supply the food and servers while My Father's House provide gifts for the approximately sixty residents present.

New this year were Christmas letters to the veterans written by students from the Keoneula Elementary School after school care program. Read aloud, their heartfelt messages were well received by the vets in attendance. Kudos to Harmony Lodge #3 Noble Grand Jerry Apana for organizing this worthy project that brightens the Holiday Season for our most needy veterans. Contact Brother Jerry if you would like to volunteer or contribute to the Easter veteran's lunch.



**Top, L to R:** Kristin Kobayashi, Keoneula Elementary School co-ordinator, Jerry Apana, Noble Grand Harmony Lodge #3, and Deborah Dudoit, My Fathers House Ministries.

**Bottom:** Harmony Lodge #3 and My Father's House volunteers.



## Family Programs Hawaii Holiday Celebration

Where can you squeeze 1,300 children, 1,000 parents and 1,646 volunteers into one room? The NBC Exhibition Hall, that's where! This year's holiday luncheon, care of Family Programs Hawaii was again a huge success thanks in part to the 30+ Excelsior Lodge volunteers that showed up at 6:00 AM to spread their Aloha! Our members were able to transform the entire Exhibition Hall from a stark and lifeless hall into a Christmas wonderland with Christmas decorations and trimmings. Our brothers and sisters worked to put up banners, set-up tables and chairs, set-up vendor booths, donned Christmas Trees and where ever help was needed. Our group won the hearts of many of the other volunteers for our willingness and enthusiasm...to all of you, MAHALO! I urge all of you to consider coming out next year to kokua, it will warm your heart to know that your hard work made a difference in the life of a child.



Excelsior Lodge members setting up the main stage decorations.



## Polynesia Encampment

The Polynesia Encampment #1 held their sixth annual Christmas visit to the Kapiolani Children's Hospital on Saturday, December 15, 2012. The Encampment donated \$300.00 in toys and gift cards for distribution to the patients in the hospital. Chief Operating Officer, Martha Smith welcomed the Encampment members and thanked them for their continued support of the children, who, due to illness, will spend their holidays in the hospital. According to Martha, because of their long time support of the hospital, the Encampment is literally one of a select few organizations that are allowed to directly distribute gifts to the hospital patients.



**Clockwise from above:** One of several children who received an early Christmas gift. **Top Left:** Organizing one of two tables with Christmas gifts. **Top Right:** The recipients of our gifts included some very young children. **Above Right:** Debra and Chelsey Castro, Pat and Gail Uza, Kapiolani Hospital Staff, Martha Smith COO, Maria Cosare, Child Life Assistant and Emily Mendez-Bryant, Donor Relations. (Children's pictures printed with Parents/Guardian's approval).

## Newsletter Update

Have you visited the Excelsior website lately? Beginning with the September 2012 issue of the Hawaii Odd Fellow newsletter, we have begun posting the publication online. Our hope is that our Hawaii members will eventually choose to view and download the newsletter online. There are several advantages for online publishing. First of all, it will reduce the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter. It will also allow us to present all the photos in each issue in color and make the newsletter available to Odd Fellow members worldwide. With online publishing, your newsletter staff will be able to add last minute entries to the newsletter so the information posted will be of a more timely nature. Coming with the March 15, 2013 issue, we will post the newsletter the same day it is sent to the printers so you will be able to view the edition a week before it is received in the mail. If you would like to opt out of receiving your newsletter in the mail, please send an email to [puza@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:puza@hawaiiantel.net) indicating that you prefer to view the newsletter online. Of course, you can always decide to return to having the newsletter mailed to you, but we hope that seeing the publication in color will entice you to choose online viewing.



## Aloha from Charlie and Judi

To all of our Odd Fellow Brothers and Sisters, we are sure by now you have heard the news that Charlie and I are no longer the custodians of the Excelsior Laie Cottages.

We felt we were not able to fulfill the requirements of the job any more. We are both getting older and have had health issues that need to be addressed.

But your new custodians are good experienced people and we have no doubt that they will do a great job. But please be patient with them if they don't know all of you yet. They will learn just like we did. And I'm sure if you accept them like you did with us every thing will work out just fine.

But.....mainly this little note is to thank all of you who have stayed at the property, for all the desserts, food, friendship, help with projects and for making us feel a part of your family.

There were good times and some not so good, when we had to enforce "the rules", but thank you for understanding that we were just doing our job. We will miss the camaraderie we shared with you all of you. Our only hope is that Glenn and Bernice Akamine get to have the same experiences we had.

We will still be involved in the lodge so I know we will see you at meetings, right? Mahalo again, Judi and Charlie Van Gieson formerly of Laie, Oahu now of Mililani, Oahu.

## New Laie Caretakers



Welcome to our new Laie Country Home caretakers Glenn and Bernice Akamine. They are resuming the duties formerly performed by Charlie and Judi Van Gieson. Glenn is a long time Excelsior member and is the brother in law of Rich Heflin, PDDSGM. Bernice recently joined the order and is looking forward to getting familiarized with her fellow brothers and sisters of the order. The phone number for reservations remains the same at 293-9090. You may also email your reservation request (preferred) to [akaminelaie@gmail.com](mailto:akaminelaie@gmail.com). Bernice is also an accomplished artist and you are encouraged to visit her website: [www.berniceakamine.com](http://www.berniceakamine.com)

## Broken Links

**We bid Aloha to our departed brothers and extend our condolences to the following Excelsior members' families:**

**Victor Weisberger**

**Valdemar Myhre**

**David Lanai, Associate**

**Daniel Yoon**

**Leonard Kling**



## Members Corner



**Happy Birthday Wishes go out to the following Members...**

**October:** John Lattanzi, Glen Goya, Jean Lizardi, Gail Uza, Tedmund Cheong, Alfred Antonio, Wayne Lovell, Gary Johnson, Ben Baniaga, Lloyd Faulkner, Sam Naho'opi'i, Richard Heflin, Lambert Burke, Yona Chock, Miriam Cabral, Bay Watanabe, Francis Robinson, Jean Tanaka, Keith Williams, Rod King, Craig Oka

**November:** Ernest Baptist, Timothy Connors, Ben Villaflor, Lynne Hill, Glenn Beppu, Melvin Mung Lim, Jr, William Lau, William Settle, Juana Tabali-Weir, Leonard Kling, Steven Ariola, Trina Rivers, Freida Menezes

**December:** Thomas Yim, Howard Malin, Kenneth Wiseman III, Brandee Kahaleiwai, John Osborn, Jesse Smith, Bobbie Miyamoto, Jerry Apana, Delores Gregorie, John Hill, Norvia Shiroma, Nicholas Young, John Bonsey, Michael Griffin, Lloyd Nakao, Wallace Sakuma



# Scenes from the Excelsior Lodge Annual Dinner

Ala Moana Hotel, Saturday, December 8, 2012





## Bingo Night



**Above:** Brothers Rod Schultz, PG and Stanford Shiroma, PG, called the numbers

Excelsior Lodge #1 held a Bingo Night on Saturday, October 20, 2012. The event was previously our Oktoberfest/ Casino Night get together and was well attended by over 40 members. Those in attendance enjoyed good food, a dozen rounds of Bingo with prizes as well as a night of



**Middle:** Carter Crowell and friends

**Bottom:** No Hawaii Odd Fellow function would be complete without good food and fellowship.

## Past Grand's Advisory Group

Fulfilling a long standing initiative; Steven Tseu, NG, Excelsior Lodge #1, recognizing a need to better educate our incoming officers, organized an association of Past Grands in an effort to meet the need. Once organized the Advisory Group will include all Past Grands of the Hawaii jurisdiction.



## Excelsior Lodge No. 1

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

1134 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96816

### PAST GRAND ADVISORY GROUP

#### Mission statement:

The Past Grand Advisory Group will be comprised of all Past Grand's and the current Noble Grand of Excelsior Lodge No. 1. The purpose of this advisory group is to advise the leaders of the lodge on matters where their experiences and wisdom will help guide and benefit the lodge as a whole.

#### Specific matters:

- 1) Work with nominations committee in providing recommendations and guidance to the Noble Grand on the selection of future officers.
- 2) Establish a training module to educate members on lodge business.
- 3) Provide training for incoming officers.
- 4) Create a mentoring program for new members and their sponsors.
- 5) Meet quarterly with the current Noble Grand and Vice Grand of Excelsior Lodge No. 1

## Upcoming Events

**Rebekah Christmas Party:** Saturday, January 12, 2013, 5:00—9:00 pm, at the Lodge Hall. \$10.00 for each member and (1) guest, refunded at the door. Games, prizes and good food. R.S.V.P. deadline: January 4, 2013 to Carol Crowell.

**Excelsior, Harmony and Rebekah Joint Installation of Officers:** January 22, 2013, 6:00 pm at the Lodge Hall. Attire: Coat and Tie for incoming male officers, business attire for women.

**Polynesia Encampment and King Kamehameha Canton #1 Installation of Officers:**

February, exact date and time were not available at press time.

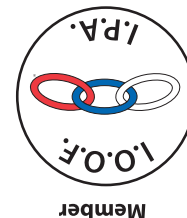
## Publication Dates

The Hawaii Odd Fellow is published quarterly. The newsletter is scheduled to print on the 15th of March, June, September and December. Submissions for inclusion in the newsletter are due by the first day of the month of publication. Beginning with the September 2012 issue, all Hawaii Odd Fellow issues will be available online at: [ioofhawaii.org](http://ioofhawaii.org)



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