
KAFCE NEWS

KAFCE Books for Newborn (BFN) Program is Blessed

In Sept 2020 KAFCE distributed the second half of 300 books collected and purchased for Wilcox Hospital's Pediatric Dept. Carolynn Lum, BFN Chair, met with Dr. Brigitte Carreau, pic below, by the hospital's same day surgery entrance wearing masks. An article was written and published in the Garden Island Newspaper: <https://www.thegardenisland.com/2020/12/09/lifestyles/kafce-calls-for-donation-to-books-for-newborns/>



After reading the news article, Carolynn was contacted by Steven Sobel, Manager, of the Helen Mitsui Shared Blessings Thrift Shop in Kilauea. Public libraries no longer accept used books and they end up either in the trash or at island thrift stores. Steven's shelves were bursting with books! He invited Carolynn and I to take whatever we could carry. Empty wine boxes from Costco were filled with books and loaded into Carolynn's car. We also assisted Steven in re-shelving more books held in storage. Carolynn went through each box at home and pulled out gently used books for KAFCE's next BFN donation and reading event. Steven is willing to donate gently used books to KAFCE each year.



Guess what? A few amazing guardian angels read the same newspaper article as Steven and cash donations came in to help fund KAFCE's BFN Program. Read a letter from one of those donors:

"Aloha,

Thank you for the information, I am enclosing a check for a \$100.00 donation from Bill and Judith Fernandez.

I LOVE books and the sooner the better for a baby/family to have one/two, etc. One of my proudest accomplishments as a parent was to raise two adults who love books! When we lived in Menlo Park, CA, there was a very good independent bookstore, Kepler's, where we brought them after a movie (to "kepple") then pizza. My grandchildren gnawed on books as they teethed and love to read. I could go on and on.

Please put me on a permanent list of some sort to help out and donate frequently.



donation letter continued. . .

As for my husband, author Bill Fernandez: grew up in Kapaa, Kamehameha, Stanford and law school, California judge, then eventually retired at home. Yes, he gave a book talk at the Lihue library plus at other libraries on the island, and at the museum and for the historical society. He has written 11 books, just finished the 12th during this pandemic. 3 memoirs of his unique childhood, then novels featuring native Hawaiian men struggling to understand the Western world, capitalism, and Christianity. All are well researched. A local kupuna told me: "Tell him to keep writing about Hawaiians. He gets it."

I get the pleasure of editing, adding illustrations and photos, then getting them printed and sold. A wild dream come true!

His books are at Talk Story in Hanapepe, the Museum, and Amazon/kindle. I think the local community tv station plays videos of his various book talks from time to time. Check out his website: kauaibillfernandez.com and he is on facebook.

*I look forward to helping out more in the future.
Aloha,
Judith Fernandez*

KAFCE's BFN Program has been blessed with additional resources and friends. May we continue to serve our community and receive blessings for the work ahead. Thank you, Carolyn Lum, for your work as KAFCE's V.P. and BFN Chair!

Frances Dinnan
Newsletter/Historian



Each Hawaiian island is represented by a Lei and Kauai's Lei is the maile lauli'i (small leaf vine) and mokihana (anise scented) berries

KAFCE BFN Program partnered with Usborne Books & More

Read Across America is Kauai's largest literary event and book drive in support of classroom teachers. This annual event was held at Kukui Grove Shopping Center on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

KAFCE gave each child that stopped by our booth a gently used book donated from the thrift shop. Kukui Grove and it's stores contributed goodie bags filled with school supplies, toys, and candies. A total of 150 parents and children signed in at our booth. Thank you to Carolyn Lum and Julia Diegmann, pic below, for your help. This event observed social distancing, face masks, and hand sanitizing rules.



Extra books were donated to Kumu's Cupboard, a nonprofit store located in Kukui Grove Shopping Center where teachers can shop for FREE. Kumu's Cupboard is filled with school and office supplies, materials for art and science projects, and student incentives.

Read all about KAFCE's participation: *Books Ease Pandemic Pain* by Dennis Fujimoto, Garden Island News Reporter.

AND If you get a chance, watch this fun video as Kekaha Elem, of Kaua'i, celebrated Nat'l Literacy Month. YouTube link: https://youtu.be/xx3Y_3-R52U, choreographed to the tune of, "I'm Still Standing."

Frances Dinnan
Newsletter/Historian

2021 CHARACTER COUNTS!®

Carolyn Lum, Chair, reported that KAFCE received 27 essays and accompanied artwork; 7 students were awarded cash prizes; 8 teachers participated, and 4 schools. Thanks to Laurie Ho and Suzie Yokoyama for helping to judge entries received.

The Theme this year was:

“Responsibility”

** Do what you are supposed to do * Plan ahead * Be Diligent * Persevere * Do Your Best * Use self-control * Be self-disciplined * Think before you act * Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes * Set a good example for others * Choose a positive attitude * Make healthy choices*

Outcomes:

1st Place \$75 - Kai Guimarães, Home School, Teacher Keya Guimarães (mom)

2nd Place \$50 - Ryder Vivas, King Kaumualii, Teacher Nathan Cotter

3rd Place \$25 - Jaeneiah Balubar, Wilcox, Teacher Katherine Stennett

Four Honorable Mentions (HM) \$15/ea:

- > Liliana Kiilau, Wilcox
- > Elias Gaines, Wilcox
- > Kawehi Oana-Makanani, Kapaa
- > and Emma Aki, Kapaa



Pic: Kay Nakata and Margo Hashimoto’s hands busy working on yarn leis



Role modeling the characteristics of responsibility our Hui Holomua members, pic below, demonstrated their enduring support for the CHARACTER COUNTS!® Program. Much thanks to Margo Hashimoto, Kay Nakata, and Marina Pascua for making yarn leis and assisting Laure Ho in mailing student awards and printing certificates.

For the first time in KAFCE’s History of sponsoring CHARACTER COUNTS!® every student who entered the contest received something! Carolynn Lum, Chair, requested an additional award at our last meeting. It was meant to encourage students to continue writing and in appreciation of their artwork and time. After much discussion and knowing how limited our resources are Phyllis Tokita of Club Musubi volunteered to purchase 20 gift cards @ \$5 each for a total of \$100.00. Thank you Phyllis for your generous donation 🙏 and thank you Carolynn for your thoughtfulness and volunteerism!

Through these tough times may we all learn to hone the characteristics of responsibility as we interact with the next generation.

Frances Dinnan
Newsletter/Historian



Pic left: Marina Pascua adding the finishing touches to student awards

KAFCE CHARACTER COUNTS!® 1st Place Winner - Kai Guimarães



Hawaiian word kuleana has several interpretations; it is used here to express a person's responsibility.

March is National Nutrition Month!

At eatright.org it suggests we "personalize" our plate. Nutrition is not a "one size fits all."

Week 1: Eat a variety of nutritious food every day * hydrate * take time to enjoy your food

Week 2: Plan Your Meals each week

* use a grocery list * enjoy healthful snacks

Week 3: Learn Skills to Create Healthful Meals

* choose healthful ingredients on hand * practice food safety * reduce food waste * try new flavors

Week 4: Consult a Registered Dietitian or Nutritionist (RDN) *ask your doctor for a RDN referral * get personal nutrition advice to meet your goals * thrive through the transformative power of food

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAR 7 - Sweetbread Fundraiser, 12-1:00 p.m. Lihue Neighborhood Center

APR 10 - KAFCE Council Meeting, Mid-Year Report Update, Via Zoom, 10-11:30 a.m.

JUN 12 - KAFCE Council Meeting, Via Zoom, 10-11:30 a.m.

JUL 29 AUG 1 — NAFCE Convention, Erlanger, Kentucky (tentative)

As this newsletter focuses on Youth and awards for their essay writing skills, I wish to share, "The Hill We Climb," by Amanda Gorman, youngest poet laureate at age 22 who read this poem at the presidential inauguration in 2021, hope her words inspire you as they did me. KAFCE President, Laurie Ho

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.
 When day comes we ask ourselves,
 where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
 The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.
 We've braved the belly of the beast.
 We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what "just" is isn't always justice.
 And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.
 Somehow we do it.
 Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished.
 We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.
 And, yes we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.
 We are striving to forge a union with purpose.
 To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man
 And so we lift our gazes, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.
 We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.
 We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.
 We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
 Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.
 That even as we grieved, we grew.
 That even as we hurt, we hoped.
 That even as we tired, we tried.
 That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.
 Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.
 Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.
 If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.
 That is the promise to glade,
 the hill we climb, if only we dare.

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.
 It's the past we step into and how we repair it.
 We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it.
 Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.
 And this effort very nearly succeeded.
 But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.
 In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.
 This is the era of just redemption.
 We feared at its inception.
 We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.
 But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.
 So while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?
 We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.
 We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation.
 Our blunders become their burdens.
 But one thing is certain.
 If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.
 So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.
 Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.
 We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the West.
 We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution.
 We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states.
 We will rise from the sunbaked South.
 We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.
 And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge, battered and beautiful.
 When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.
 The new dawn blooms as we free it.
 For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

