Ama

The official publication of the

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

SEPT – OCT 2021

The Outrigger Canoe Club
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On the cover:
Kai Lenny takes flight on his The Hydrofoil Company Foil. The Hydrofoil Company is owned by Kai's brother Ridge and designer and engineer Carlos Merino. Kai finalizes and approves all of the company's research and development.

This page:
Kai Lenny comes in for a landing at the Club.

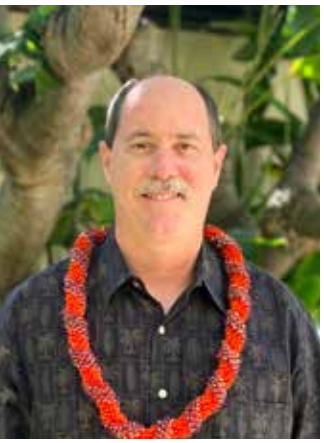
Photos by Matt Heirakuji

Ama Ø Outrigger Canoe Club

The official publication of the Outrigger Canoe Club is titled Ama to honor the Club's lineage. The outrigger of a canoe is called an Ama in ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi (Hawaiian Language). It was a nautical innovation that allowed the Polynesians to efficiently navigate the rough waters of the Pacific. The Ama is also the port hull of a double-hulled canoe, which is the vehicle that brought the Hawaiians to these beautiful islands.

ALOHA FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS!

Last week, I had the pleasure of enjoying some afternoon pūpū while discussing a little business on the Koa Lanai, followed by a spontaneous late afternoon beer at the Snack Shop with some fellow members while watching the sunset. As I reflected on that satisfying experience, I couldn't help but think about how much effort it took by so many to make happen, a fact that may not be fully appreciated by our membership.



One unique feature of our Club is its committee structure, which is driven by members who volunteer their time and effort to make our Club great.

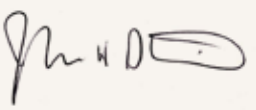
The Outrigger has twelve different standing committees and many ad hoc subcommittees, which are made up almost entirely of volunteers. These committees meet at least once a month, and most have subcommittees that meet more often as needed. A great deal of what members experience and sometimes take for granted is driven by these committees.

As examples, the newly refurbished Snack Shop could not have happened without significant work first by our Long Range Planning Committee, and then by our Buildings and Grounds ("B&G") Committee. The B&G Subcommittee on Seawall Repair have spent countless hours to make sure that the seawall repair is done in a timely manner while minimizing disruption to our members. If you feel, as I do, that the food and service on the Hau Terrace and the Koa Lanai have improved lately, that's due not only to our Food and Beverage staff, but also to a subcommittee formed by the House Committee that continuously looks for ways to elevate your dining experience.

Meanwhile, for each special event that occurs around the Club, such as Keiki Christmas and the Lū'au, we can thank the volunteers of our Entertainment Committee. The many sports that the Club participates and excels in could not take place without the efforts of the Athletic Committee and each of its sport-specific subcommittees. The wonderful pictures, documentation and other reminders of the Club's past achievements and milestones are thanks to the tireless efforts of the Historical Committee.

Every new OCC member is first vetted by volunteers on the Admissions and Membership Committee. Our Club is kept fiscally responsible and functioning in no small part by the efforts of our Finance Committee. The Club's communication channels and *Ama* Magazine production team operate with oversight by the Member Relations Committee. And finally, without the efforts of both the Nominating Committee and the Judges of Election it would be impossible to conduct our annual elections.

These are just a fraction of the many tasks that our Committee volunteers tackle. As I mentioned in my first message, the Club is like a canoe that needs the strength of many to propel it forward while being skillfully steered to achieve excellence. While our management team and staff deserve kudos for their hard work and dedication, much of the member experience at the Club is also due to the many hours "donated" by our members. It is this shared spirit of kokua and kuleana that make the Outrigger Canoe Club so unique and special.



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General Manager's Corner

ALOHA OCC OHANA! One of the things that amazes me about the Outrigger Canoe Club is the history and how we connect with the sports of old Hawai'i. This is never more apparent than when you are watching the Olympics and are able to root for our very own Outrigger members competing and representing the USA!

From the giant American Flag proudly displayed at the front of the Club, to the wonderful past Olympians plaques displayed in the lobby, to all of the pictures of Olympians displayed in the Ka Mo'i Boathouse, the Club was all in for the Olympics!

My fondest memory will be of the Tri Bourne watch party in the Ka Mo'i. Friends and family gathered, hooting and hollering, chanting and cheering for Tri Bourne and his teammate Jake Gibb! It was so cool to see. Congratulations to all of our members that competed in the 2020 games, we are all so proud of you!

A very special thank you to the Historical Committee for all of their hard work on the lobby display and the Boathouse display, both looked amazing!

Turning to operations, it's hard to believe that we are already having to say goodbye to another beautiful summer at the Outrigger Canoe Club. We do have some exciting news to share for the coming months ahead. First, I am very proud to welcome Lana Osgood to the Outrigger Canoe Club 'ohana. Lana has joined us as the Logo Shop Manager and brings years of knowledge and retail expertise to our operation. We are looking forward to all of the great things that she has planned for the shop! Stay tuned. In addition, we are happy to announce that the Logo Shop is now open seven days a week.

Our Food & Beverage team is excited to announce that daily lunch service is now offered in the Ka Mo'i Boathouse from 11am to 4pm. Seating is first-come, first served. We have also created new member's only dining hours—reservations from 5:30 to 7:30pm will be reserved for members. Guest and reciprocal members will be able to reserve before or after this time block or on the day-of, if there are openings still available.

The pickleball craze has been sweeping the nation, and for our members who don't want to miss out, we now have pickleball courts open on the top level of the parking structure Monday to Friday from 7am to 1pm. Courts are available by reservation on the Athletics page of the OCC website.
I hope that you get a chance to enjoy your Club this fall, whether it's out on the water, playing pickleball or enjoying the sunset with drinks and dinner. I look forward to seeing you around the Club!

My very best,

Tyler Roukema,
General Manager

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The LOBBY

CLUB HAPPENINGS,
CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

This Way In

Baby Court yesterday and today. Above (left to right): Gary Vietch McClaire, Butch Ledford, Jimmy McMahon, and Steve Fearon with the ball, circa 1958–59.

Ballad of the Baby Court

Alan Lau's tribute to the birthplace of volleyball champions is now online

By Lesa Griffith

Members at the Club's Olympics watch party cheered as Tri Bourne and his partner Jake Gibb spiked their way to a win over Switzerland in beach volleyball on July 27. A stone's throw from where they sat rapt in front of the bar's TV is where Bourne, along with so many others, got his sandy start in the Club's Baby Court.

In fact, competing at this year's Olympics were four volleyball greats who got their start on the Baby Court—Bourne, along with indoor players Micah Christensen, Erik Shoji, and Kawika Shoji. Bourne was a last-minute replacement for another Baby Court baby, Taylor Crabb, who tragically contracted Covid-19 and could not par-

ticipate in the Games.

Past President and Winged "O" member Alan Lau has written an engaging, comprehensive history of this hallowed 830.7 square feet, not quite half the size of a regulation beach volleyball court, with a seven-foot-high net. As a longtime volleyball player, coach and member of the Historical Committee he is uniquely positioned to tell the story.

He had originally started writing the piece in early 2020, wanting to have it done in time for the Tokyo Olympics. Then the pandemic happened, the games were delayed and Lau had more time on his hands to delve deep into the Historical Committee's rich online archives and oral histories at outriggercanoeclubsports.com.

"I was motivated by my interest in all of the history and traditions of the Club," says Lau. "In addition to that, I have seen literally two generations of kids graduate from the Baby Court to play at the highest levels, including the Olympics. I always thought the history of the court would be a good story and being at home during the pandemic gave me the time and opportunity to work on it. It was really neat reading through some of the oral histories in doing my research."

Lau has unearthed a remarkable tale of a court going from a playpen to keep junior members out of the way of older members' exercise to an incubator for world-class volleyball talent. Its origins go all the way back to the Club's first location, next to where the Royal Hawaiian now sits, sometime after 1915, when Club Captain George "Dad" Center first strung up a volleyball net on the sand. By the 1920s, beach volleyball was an integral part of Club life.

Lau was surprised to learn that when the Club moved to its current site, a smaller footprint almost meant the end of the Baby Court. But former Club President Ron Sorrell fought hard for the venue "where we all learned to play...If you can live through Baby Court spirit-wise, then you go up to the bigger court, you are going to be a great volleyball player," he argued.

From Lex Brodie to first Baby Court Olympian Miki Briggs McFadden to today's Olympians, Lau covers all the personalities and talents who have honed their volleyball skills on the Baby Court, a humble rectangle that he calls "the birthplace of champions."■

See Alan Lau's full article, filled with great archival photos, at **outriggercanoeclub.com***—it's in the menu bar at the top of the page.*

Volleyball VIPs: Kawika Shoji, Micah Christenson and guests Butch May and three-time Olympic gold medalist Misty May-Treanor dropped by the Club in August.

Outrigger at the Olympics

In case you were under a rock in July, here's how OCC players fared at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Taylor Crabb was slated to play beach volleyball, with partner **Jake Gibb,** when he tested positive for Covid-19, sending him home. Taking his place was fellow OCC player **Tri Bourne** (you can see a photo of Taylor and Tri as youngsters in Alan Lau's article online). Tri and Jake made it to the round of 16 before being eliminated by Germany's Julius Thole and Clemens Wickler.

Indoors, the US team fell to Argentina before the quarterfinals. On the team were OCC's **Micah Christenson, Erik Shoji and Kawika Shoji**. "We worked really hard for this. We delayed another year to work as hard as we could for this. This isn't the way we wanted to finish plain and simple. It's heartbreaking," Christenson told the Associated Press. His face on the small screen after Argentina scored its final point said it all. ■

Listen to Baby Court History

Volleyball Committee member Danny Alvarez has started a series of oral histories about the Baby Court. So far he has interviewed Peter Balding, Jr., Maddison McKibbin, Alika Williams, Kawika Shoji, and Spencer McLachlin and Nick Costello. Listen to their great stories about getting their volleyball start at OCC at **outriggercanoeclub.com**.

Reading 'Riggers

Words from an Olympian

By Gerry DeBenedetti

Reading Riggers is excited to welcome Olympian Tri Bourne on November 5.

It was a thrill to watch him and his partner Jake Gibb make it to the round of 16 in beach volleyball at the Tokyo Games. Did you know talented Tri is also an author?

Along with discussing the book and writing process, of course, this is a chance for young readers and aspiring athletes to ask questions about the Olympics and volleyball from one of the best in the sport.

Date: November 5 at 10am

Volleyball for Milkshakes

By OCC member Tri Bourne & Travis Mewhirter

Tri Bourne and fellow volleyball player Travis Mewhirter use real names of OCC members in this young adult novel that stresses sportsmanship, personal growth, and cross training in other sports for strength and stamina. When young Tri signs up for summer beach volleyball only to discover his bff and partner Trevor has teamed up with an archrival, he embarks on a character-building journey that changes his view on beach volleyball, and life. This fictional tale will inspire, humor, and teach lessons that will last a lifetime. ■

The Stories of O—Share Yours

The Outrigger Canoe Club is a cache of amazing stories that bring to life its long history as well as that of Hawai'i. And OCC members are the only ones who can tell them. Help Ama continue the Club's storytelling tradition by sending us your memories and experiences. Send a short paragraph—who, what, why, where and when—and photos if available to ama@outrigger-canoeclub.com. Share your voice.

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Club Events

Kupuna Dinner

DATE: Monday, September 13

Celebrate your revered wise ones with a special dinner at the Club. The Entertainment Committee has created fun activities to encourage conversations between keiki and kupuna. For more details, visit **outriggercanoeclub.com**—reservations are recommended.

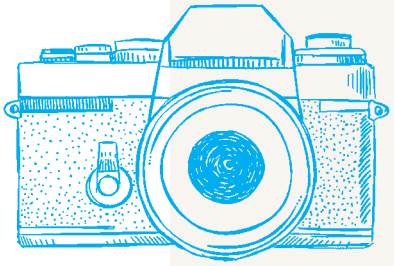
Stew & Rice at Home

DATE: Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30pm

Just in time to kick-off the OCC Annual Photography Contest, photographer, professor and author David Ulrich presents "The Art of Seeing with a Camera" via Zoom. The event will be presented as a meeting, so plan to turn on your webcams and microphones.

If you're serious about improving your technique, you won't want to miss this.

Ulrich is a professor and co-director of Pacific New Media Foundation whose photographs have been exhibited internationally in more than 75 one-person and group exhibitions. He is the author of the acclaimed books *The Widening Stream: the Seven Stages of Creativity and Zen Camera: Creative Awakening with a Daily Practice in Photography*. You can see his work at **www.creativeguide.com**.



OCC Annual Photo Contest

SUBMISSION PERIOD: October 1—31

Take advantage of the late summer light and get the perfect shot for the Annual OCC Photo Contest. Members are encouraged to submit digital photos on the OCC website, but photos can also be submitted at the Front Desk. Details and entry forms are available on the Photo Contest link on the OCC website home page. Make sure to submit your entries by Sunday, October 31.

Employees of the Month

On the frontline and behind the scenes, these employees have been recognized for their outstanding performance. July was an exceptional month that took extra effort from all areas of the Club to make this summer a success. So we have two July stars.

JUNE

Warren Florendo

The Snack Shop saw some record-breaking sales this summer and Warren Florendo has been in the middle of the action, serving up a side of great attitude with your burgers, fries and new sandwich specials. She joined the Snack Shop team in 2013 and was last honored in January 2020 for her invaluable role during the Snack Shop renovation.

JULY

Jamin Garnett

Like Warren, Jamin Garnett had a turbo-charged summer at the Snack Shop. He was a key player in keeping the flat irons sizzling and the smoothies mixing. Jamin picked up extra shifts and helped carry the load during peak service hours. He started in the main kitchen as a cook in 2018, the transferred his talent and experience the Snack Shop team.

Serna Quinones

Serna Quinones was the pillar that held up the Logo Shop during the tumultuous 2020/2021 year. In addition to providing courteous, friendly service to our members and their guests, behind the scenes she assisted the management team with updating the inventory processes and rebuilding the stock room. Serna also helped fulfill online orders and ensures the Logo shop is stocked and ready for business. She has been an important member of the Logo Shop team since 2018, and we're all thankful for her dedication and attention to detail.

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Cheers!: Amber Minha (standing) of Staglin Family Vineyards leads the July Wine-Os Program dinner.

Tasting with the Wine-Os

The Club's wine tasting program has a new name and new in-person experiences

After a year of virtual wine tasting dinners, these gourmet events—now called the Wine-Os Program—are back in person. In July, 18 members gathered for an intimate dinner featuring the wines of Napa's Staglin Family Vineyards. Amber Mihna, the vineyards' national sales director, led a tasting that was expertly paired with Executive Chef Mark Gedeon's perfect plates.

Chef Mark and his team prepared nairagi crudo with an apple and black pepper verjus, arugula and horseradish that was the ideal mate to the Staglin Salus Chardonnay. While pistachio-crusted rack of lamb in a red wine sauce with asparagus and potato puree went seamlessly with the Staglin Estate Cabernet and Salus Cabernet. Guests had a dreamy sweet ending with Pastry Chef Vivian Wu's chocolate crémeux bar with red berry compote.

The Virtual Wine Dinner series, which offered a takeout kit of two bottles of wine and light food pairings from the Club kitchen, successfully kept the vintages flowing during the pandemic while also keeping members in touch in a delicious way.

"Our experience was enhanced by sharing each online event with Brister and Mark Thomas in our home," says Robert Durkin. "Our relationship was strengthened by these events during Covid-19 when it was so difficult to connect at the Club. Brister has a knack for connection even online and it brought us ever closer to other members such as Preston and Mary Ann Lentz and their daughter Elizabeth. Every event was a gas."

Mary Ann Lentz says that she and her husband Preston participated in many of the Zoom tastings. "We had so much fun that my husband did a special one for his clients. The food was awesome."

PHOTOS BY TOMMY PIERUCKI

"Once the wines have been selected, we do research on the wine and winery to see what they already pair with their wines—this is a point of reference for us as the best wine pairings tend to come from regional pairings, where the wine and food may have developed together for generations."

—Rede Eder

So how are the pairings decided? Food & Beverage Director Rede Eder says that the process generally starts with a tasting to see if the wine is something he and his team wants to highlight, as well as be a candidate for the Club wine list.

"Once the wines have been selected, we do research on the wine and winery to see what they already pair with their wines—this is a point of reference for us as the best wine pairings tend to come from regional pairings, where the wine and food may have developed together for generations," explains Eder. "As an example, Northern Italian wines will pair with Northern Italian foods in a more natural way because they evolved together. California wines can be very similar though more broad in food choices as they are New World wines that have evolved to pair with a more international acceptance of domestic and ethnic foods."

Temptations (clockwise from top): Uncorking the wine selections; pistachio-crusted lamb; chocolate crémeux bar with red berry compote and a cacao nib crisp.

The Club held a subsequent Wine-Os dinner on August 25, with master sommelier Michael Jordan leading a tasting of Jackson Family Wines. Look out for future dates in the weekly Enewsletter and on the website. Dinners will be kept to a maximum 36 guests and will range from $100 to $150 per person. ■

To the House of the Sun: Candes Gentry (left) with Pu'u 'Ula'ula behind her. Rachel Bradley makes the final climb.

Members' Notes

Run to the Sun

Two members push their limits on Haleakala

After a couple of years off from racing, Rachel Bradley and Candes Gentry were looking for a goal, something big and daunting they could put on the calendar and work towards. They found it in Maui's annual Run to the Sun. On July 24, the duo tackled the longest run of their lives, ascending from sea level in Paia, Maui, to the 10,023-foot summit of Haleakala. This year the elevation challenge was a virtual event.

Training didn't go quite as planned—minor injuries, travel, and life in general got in the way and they had only a 13-mile run under their belts on race day. What they lacked in training they made up for in positive attitude and belief that with more than 20 years of racing and training experience, they could make it to the top.

They started the day at 5am in Paia, running up Baldwin Avenue to Makawao—an immediate relentless climb. From there it was on to Kula, where the race director and Maui friends were waiting at the Haleakala Highway sign to say hello. Above Kula, they ran on through the switchbacks, eucalyptus groves, pastures, and rocks of Haleakala Highway. Along the way they split up and yelled encouragement to one another from the turnouts, and mostly, just kept moving forward. Team sherpa Scott Bradley supported them every one to two miles, providing food, drink, and reason to stop and rest for a minute or five.

Neither had ever run more than 26 miles before, and they hit that mark at the Haleakala Visitor Center with 3,000 feet more of elevation to go. Candes ran steady throughout the day, while Rachel struggled in the middle miles, but rallied in the final stretch knowing that Candes was just up ahead, and thinking of how great it would feel to finish together.

Fellow member Howard Word showed up on his bike near the Visitor Center and kept the pair company for the final nine-mile climb. There were tears somewhere around 9,000 feet and instructions "not to let her get in the truck no matter what," but they made it to the summit, completing the 35.5 miles in approximately seven and a half hours. Scott and Suzanna Bradley and Steve and Poet Shropshire were patient and encouraging supporters who played a big role in making it happen. The two look forward to future adventures. ■

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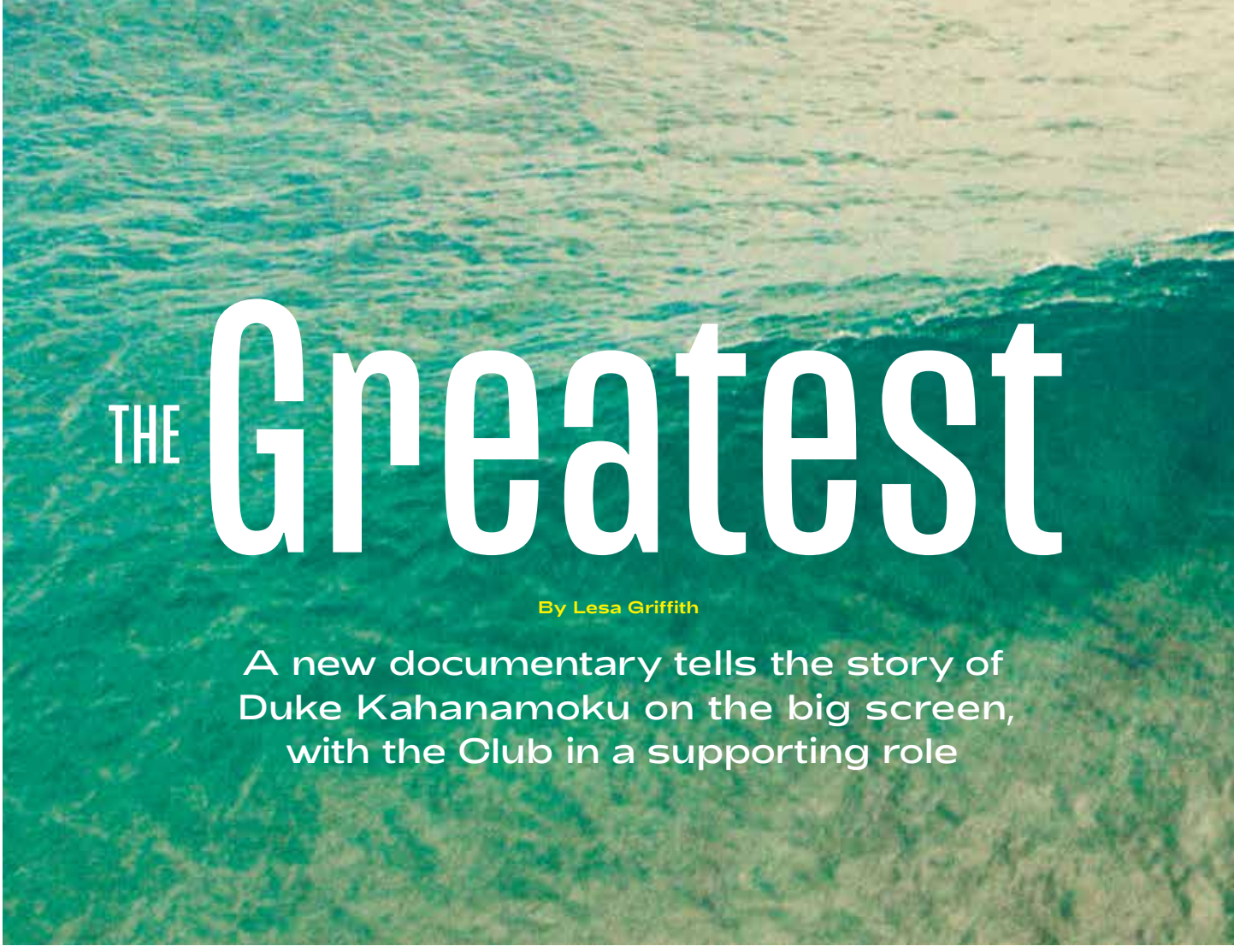

THE Greatest

By Lesa Griffith

A new documentary tells the story of Duke Kahanamoku on the big screen, with the Club in a supporting role

"He immortalized Hawai'i and turned surfing into what it is today. The language of this tiny island chain is one of the most famous languages in the world because of one word. 'Aloha' was his main message, and holy cow, look what it did," says director Isaac Halasima about Duke Kahanamoku, the subject of his new film *Waterman.*

Halasima has been working on the documentary since 2017, but his wonder and reverence for Outrigger Canoe Club's most famous member, Olympian and father of modern surfing has not waned. He is driven to tell Duke's story to help future generations of Polynesians understand that a Hawaiian man forged so many paths. It is also a story that includes the Outrigger Canoe Club. And it is extra meaningful having the film come out the year that surfing made its Olympic debut—Duke's dream come true.

The Prequel

Based in Orem, Utah, Halasima has a personal connection to Kahanamoku. "When I think of Duke, I think of me existing," he says. His uncle is the late artist and Brigham Young University–Hawai'i professor Jan Gordon Fisher, who created the iconic statue of Duke that stands sentinel at Kūhio Beach. His mother came to Hawai'i from Utah to attend BYU and live with her brother, "and she found a Tongan," explains Halasima. (That Tongan is former rugby star Timote Halasima.)

His uncle Jan nurtured in Halasima pride in his Polynesian heritage, as well as encouraged him to pursue a creative career. And he told his nephew the story of Duke Kahanamoku. "For him, artwork involved a lot of researching. He had a notebook of research, of [his subjects'] personality characteristics. He knew the Duke story and it meant a lot to him," says Halasima.

When his career as a music video director started taking off in 2013—he directed Imagine Dragons' videos for "Demons" and "Gold"—Halasima's uncle

On the shoulders of a giant: Duane DeSoto tandem surfs as Duke Kahanamoku in the documentary *Waterman.*

urged him to turn his attention to Duke. "He said, 'You should tell this story. You have a different connection than most people.'"

Halasima discovered the invaluable book *Waterman: The Life and Times of Duke Kahanamoku* by David Davis and connected with Sidewinder Films, which produced the acclaimed film *At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal.* The inspirational story of Duke hooked Sidewinder and they helped Halasima put together a team.

For co-producer Chet Thomas, learning about Duke had a personal effect. "It's Dukes spirit of aloha that drew me to him," says Thomas. "I've always wanted to have that instinct in me but I didn't know how. So for me this film has been my journey figuring that out... how to embody that spirit of aloha in my actions, my words, my life.

In Hawai'i and at the Club

Halasima spent time on O'ahu researching and shooting for the film, and when he and his crew arrived in 2019, "we had no idea where to start," he says. "We were throwing fishing lines everywhere and hoping something bit." Then an OCC member helped carve a path.

Halasima was at the Club with Thomas who is friends with member Brandon Simmons. Simmons introduced the duo to Marc Haine, who told them, "The guy you should talk to is Billy," as he pointed toward the water at member Billy Pratt. "I turned around in my chair and there he was, with his OC1, just finishing a race, and talking to kids about paddling," recalls Halasima.

> "So much is made of his athletic prowess, but the greatest legacy for the people of Hawai'i is his gift of aloha." —Billy Pratt

A who's who of surfing and Hawaiian culture—including Kelly Slater, Kai Lenny, Jack Johnson, Carissa Moore, Buffalo Keaulana, Tom Pohaku Stone and Ellie Kahanamoku—is featured in the film, "and Billy had a finger in all of it," says Halasima. "He opened up so many doors for us. He cares and really wants to immortalize Duke." Pratt's instrumental role earned him a new title to add to his resume—producer.

"For me [the film] is an opportunity for us to share our culture, and for us to articulate the background of surfing to the world. And to share the gift that we have had in the name of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku," says Pratt. "So much is made of his athletic prowess, but the greatest legacy for

the people of Hawai'i is his gift of aloha. I wanted to do my part to ensure that we heard the voices of the people past and present who have perpetuated this great legacy and live the good, humble work of Duke. It's my kuleana to do my part to see that his legacy continues for another 130 years."

Pratt, an accomplished waterman himself, is beyond thrilled with how the film turned out. By mid-August he had screened it five times, "and I cried every time," he says.

While the Club helps perpetuate the Kahanamoku legacy today, the film also looks at Outrigger's relationship with the legend in the past. After his attempt at building a Hollywood career didn't pan out, Kahanamoku returned to Hawai'i. "He finds himself as a janitor and pumping gas," says Halasima. "There were songs making fun of him. That's when the Club stepped up and is one of the early ones to help him out. Alexander Hume Ford and Dad Center were there for him."

> "One of the film's biggest themes is how Duke found a way to get people to unite, and just look at each other as human beings. Duke still unites today." –Isaac Halasima

Halasima says it is a privilege to have been able to shoot at the Club—it is the setting for interviews with Pratt and fellow member Fred Hemmings.

"You can tell that guy was hardcore—when it comes to surfing he was like a linebacker on a board," Halasima says of Hemmings. "He spent so much time with Duke, he helped me see the Duke that he saw." He adds that Hemmings had the film crew's favorite line, when talking about Kahanamoku's hands and feet—"these aren't chopsticks you put in the water, they are paddles and fins."

Also in the film talking about Kahanamoku is Paul Strauch, who along with Hemmings, Butch van Artsdalen and Joey Cabell, was on the 1965 Duke Kahanamoku Surf Team. Halasima filmed Strauch in California, where he is a board member of the Surfing Heritage & Culture Center. "You want to see someone who really looks and acts like Duke would today, he is it," says the director about Strauch. "Everyone he talked about was with so much aloha, you could tell he wanted to cry because it meant so much to him. Fred too."

The film includes reenactments of key events in Kahanamoku's life, with surfer Duane DeSoto playing the legend. One of those scenes is of Kahanamoku's famous first Amateur Athletic Union swim meet, held in Honolulu Harbor. The 20-year-old broke the 100-meter freestyle world record by 4.6 seconds. If you watched the Tokyo Olympics, you know that records today are beaten by hundredths of a second.

"That blows my mind," says Halasima. "Someone who never trained for a formal race and beats a world record by that much. You do that any other time or place and it's a freak out moment. It's special to me. The spot where he did that is still there. I hope someone puts a plaque or something up."

Seeing that spot inspired Halasima to do the scene. "Everyone pushed against it, but we had to do it," he says. "The water was gross, and we had to put up shark nets. But on film the foggy water does things in the light and looks so cool. And everyone was game. They did it. It was a lot of fun to sit with the actors and help them feel the moment."

Aquaman meets Duke (sort of)

The Duke Kahanamoku name remains magnetic. Halasima is still amazed that Pratt, with an assist from Brian Keaulana, was able to bring Jason Momoa on board as the documentary's narrator.

"The timing is unreal," says Halasima. "That a guy who plays Aquaman would speak on my documentary called *Waterman*. What are the odds one of the biggest stars right now is Hawaiian and is a waterman?"

After the first five minutes of the film, you hear Momoa's throaty voice say, "Water."

"That is a Hawaiian wanting you to remember everything he says," says Halasima, who had to go through two weeks of quarantine just to be in a room with Momoa, who was on location in Toronto at the time. Originally set to be released in 2020, the pandemic pushed production

Director Isaac Halasima, Duane DeSoto as Duke Kahanamoku, and Tom Pohaku Stone on location in Makaha.

back a year.

Halasima would show Momoa segments from the film and explain scenes to him. "I knew he would get into it, and he did," says the director. Momoa even asked to redo some parts after seeing clips later. "He didn't have to, but he wanted to," says Halasima.

The same goes for the sound editors who worked on the soundtrack. In July he was in Los Angeles working with the sound team. "I want to give Duke Hollywood," says Halasima. "The only thing he wanted that he didn't really get was a little bit of Hollywood fame. That's where he hit a wall. So I wanted a whole score with sound effects like Justice League movies, I wanted it to be big and emotional. All last week that's what we were doing. And they got it. We'd go until five in the morning because they caught that vision."

The Legacy

There is so much lore about Kahanamoku, yet Halasima found it interesting that some of the well-known surfers he spoke with didn't know the legend was first internationally known as an Olympian swimmer. He would ask interviewees how many American athletes they knew of who have monuments dedicated to them in three countries. "And no one can name anybody," says Halasima. "Duke is the only one—in Australia, New Zealand and the US. That's wild. That usually makes people wonder why that is," and the conversation gets going from there.

To Halasima, when pioneering athletes who overcame racism, such as Jesse Owens, Jack Johnson and Jim Thorpe, are talked about, Kahanamoku should be part of that conversation. The film also encapsulates the tragic history of Hawai'i in an animated segment. Between those two elements, "if anyone should have been angry, it was Duke," says Halasima who feels some kinship as a boy growing up brown in a white Utah town. "But he took a different road, and that helped preserve a whole culture."

He also sees Kahanamoku's spirit live on through the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation. And to thank the Club for its help on the film, the production company is making a $25,000 donation to the foundation. "The producers really caught the vision," says Halasima. "That's the Duke effect—it makes you want to help people."

Halasima wanted his film to have what he calls a "fireworks finale" that shines a light on the ripple effects of Duke. He takes us to New Zealand for the New Brighton Duke Festival of Surfing in March, to Australia where a statue of Duke presides over the Sydney's Freshwater Beach, and to the bronze Duke that stands tall in Huntington Beach, California. Then finally the work of ODKF. "He has made an impact," says Halasima. "The foundation exemplifies Duke's character and what he taught. Real heroes do exist."

From Hawaiian scholar Isaiah Walker to former state senator Hemmings—"talk about perspectives, we got them all," says Halasima. "You don't want to put them in a room together because they could fight politics forever. But the second you mention Duke...big smiles on their faces. They cooled out and became the happiest personalities. One of the film's biggest themes is how Duke found a way to get people to unite, and just look at each other as human beings. Duke still unites today." ■

Waterman on Screen

▶ **As of press time, Billy Pratt is planning to organize a screening** of *Waterman* at the Club. Keep an eye open for an announcement in the weekly Enews. Sidewinder Films will be entering the documentary in the film festival circuit as it looks for a distributor.

The Creative Side of Kai

He's already been anointed the best waterman of his generation—now the challenge-hungry Kai Lenny is taking on writing and filmmaking.

By Mara Pyzel | Photos by Matt Heirakuji

When Kai Lenny needs to host a meeting on island, or simply needs a spot to catch his breath from his relentlessly full agenda, the busy Maui waterman knows exactly where to head—the breezy shade of the Outrigger Canoe Club lanai. That's where you'll find him with a hydrating coconut water in hand, deep in conversation, fleshing out the details of one of his many projects.

But that's where the traditional businessman facade ends. "I might foil over there," he casually drops. "I use the wind to get blown from Maui all the way to O'ahu. I'll get some funny looks, like, 'Oh, where'd you come from? We didn't see you go out. We've been sitting here all afternoon,'" he says with a chuckle. "I love being able to go someplace like the Club when I don't necessarily have a place to go." To the accomplished 28-year-old Pa'ia athlete, an inter-island commute via board is nothing more than conventional.

To call the watersport star "nontraditional" would be a gross understatement. Propelled by his youthful energy, this multi-award winning, title-earning, professional surfer, foiler, kiteboarder, SUPer, windsurfer, and all-around waterman is just getting started.

Having sought out nearly every ocean-based thrill—and excelled at it—Lenny's spirited curiosity has led him to an ongoing rotation of creative endeavors on dry land. Instead of pushing his limits on a monster wave, he's now also daring himself to push the limits of his imagination. "Life is stranger than fiction," he says of the opportunities that have sought him out and which the enthusiastic Lenny rarely turns down. "There have been times where I've actually surprised [myself]."

This fall, Lenny becomes an author with the release of *Big Wave Surfer: The Greatest Rides of our Lives* by prestigious New York publishing house Rizzoli. Lenny sat down with editors Beau Flemister and Don Vu, penning a book. "Working on the book was pretty tricky because I had never done it before and there's so many layers to the process," Lenny says of recounting his stories and perspective of big-wave surfing in this photo-narrative, along with jaw-dropping accounts from Shane Dorian, Ian Walsh, and other daredevils who frequent the Pe'ahi lineup.

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN EXCITED ABOUT PUSHING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION THAN EVERYONE ELSE."

He has also provided his perspective on the big

Up, up and away: The sky is the limit for Kai Lenny, who has a book and film coming out.

"I READ THE BOOK 'WATERMAN'... THE THING THAT STUCK OUT TO ME THE MOST (ABOUT DUKE) WAS HIS KINDNESS."

Reading 'rigger: Kai is known for his athletic feats on the water, but he also loves to sit with a good book when relaxing at the Club.

screen, appearing in the new documentary *Waterman,* about the great Duke Kahanamoku. And he is in the middle of a deeper dive into film—as a producer and actor for a feature directed by filmmaker and close friend Etienne Aurelius.

"I've always been excited about pushing in a different direction than everyone else," says Lenny. And working with world-renown filmmakers and internationally recognized authors is a new challenge in a high-stakes environment.

He relishes the learning curve—as with his water skills, he won't stop short of going for gold. What his fans might see as a success, Lenny thinks is just a start, and tells himself he can do better. "I'm a perfectionist. I've won championships. I know what it feels like to be the best. So when I'm not the best, it's really frustrating."

Holding his own under such pressure is a talent he has developed through a lifetime of big wave surfing. Taking the wisdom he has gained from his time in the waves, he says, "It's the side of me that's very focused, of course, but it's also very calm; it's like the person I am when I'm just about to paddle out for a really big day... You have to be in touch with every aspect of yourself—that stone-cold killer approach of riding a big wave and not being scared, because you can handle it."

And if he can't? Tapping into his trademark limitless optimism, Lenny utters aloud what he'll often ask of himself: "Why not push yourself farther out of your comfort zone? Worst comes to worst, you get embarrassed."

Lenny doesn't have to look far for guidance. The legacy of his mentors, historical and contemporary, is interlaced with the lore of the islands.

Swell time: Kai Lenny likes the "surf dynamic" between Diamond Head and the Outrigger Canoe Club.

"I've always tried to work outside my comfort zone."

"I'm mirroring what my heroes did with me here in Hawai'i: the Dave Kalamas, the Laird Hamiltons, Robbie Naishes—the watermen of Maui," he says. Like Lenny, these outstanding men are on a never-ending quest for challenge, pushing themselves to achieve greatness in and out of the ocean.

Waterman director Isaac Halasima was impressed with Lenny's knowledge of the barrier-breaking legend who stands out above all others—Duke himself. "I read the book *Waterman* [by David Davis] and I found it incredibly inspiring," says Lenny. "The thing that stuck out to me the most was his kindness," says Lenny. "Duke was one of the most impactful people, as a person, as an athlete, as everything... So, if I can mirror myself to be like Duke, then I'm living a good life. He seems to have done everything anyone would want to do. He won gold medals at the Olympics. He acted in movies. He was the best surfer, one of the rare few surfers of his time. And he inspired billions."

Lenny's foray into film may see him extending his own influence with what promises to be a ground-breaking work. The film pulls from Kaua'i-raised Aurelius's real-life experiences and highlights surfing and homelessness in Hawai'i.

"I don't feel like there's ever been a surf film that truly captures the spirit of what a surfer really feels, you know? It's always a little bit corny and, not to say there haven't been decent films, but I don't think there's been a truly great one," Lenny says, citing the film's authentic approach as one of the components

that will speak to audiences nationally and locally. This is no *North Shore* or *Blue Crush*. Think more along the steely-eyed lines of Chris Kahunahana's *Waikiki*.

"I've always strived to work outside my comfort zone," reflected Lenny, "When you're growing up, you get really focused on one thing and here in Hawai'i, it's so easy to focus on all things in the ocean. But as I've gone through more and more experiences, I've realized that I can further push my boundaries as a person, as an athlete, as my reach. As an athlete, I just want to ride waves and have fun, but I also want to do bigger and bigger projects, especially ones that are really challenging."

Like the great watermen before him, including his historical hero Duke Kahanumoku, it seems there is nothing at which this young talent can't excel. Whether armed with a pen, a script, a kite, paddle, or board, the guy takes it all in stride, a smile on his face, coconut water in hand, making perfection look as effortless as a downwind breeze. ■

Land and sea: Kai with a copy of his forthcoming book in the Club lobby (above), and getting wet with his foil.

Four More Enter the Waterman Hall of Fame

▶ **In 2019, Kai Lenny was inducted** into the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation's Waterman Hall of Fame, along with Tracy Phillips Darling and Robby Naish. The honor is given to those who perpetuate the spirit of Duke Kahanamoku—Hawai'i's most famous global ambassador of aloha and original waterman—and are recognized at the Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame awards banquet at Outrigger Canoe Club.

The event wasn't held in 2020 due to the pandemic, and this year it is back (restrictions willing) on Oct 7. This year's honorees are newly minted Olympian Carissa Moore, already shining as an ambassador of aloha on TVs around the globe after her gold medal win in Japan, big wave legend Shane Dorian, champion paddler Kelly Fey and envelope-pushing marathon swimmer Mike Spalding.

Waterman Hall of Fame Awards Banquet
Oct. 7, doors open at 5pm
For tickets or tables, go to dukefoundation.org

Kai's Club Tips

What is your favorite item at the Snack Shop?

I really have to refrain from eating the hot dogs, as good as they sound—I've usually just ended a downwinder. But I would say the chicken quesadilla. It's kind of like a meet-somewhere-in-the-middle [dish] and I love Mexican food so much. And the occasional chocolate milkshake.

What is your favorite break in the OCC area?

I do really like Lighthouse at Diamond Head a little bit farther up. But really, everywhere is a wave, you know? I like Suicides, which is just next to that as well. It's kind of interesting, it's its own little surf dynamic between Diamond Head and the Outrigger. There's so many good little waves for training and the majority of the people are the local crowd, which is unreal.

Do you have a usual at the bar?

I'm not really a drinker. I'm usually so dehydrated I'm either drinking water or coconut water. Occasionally a glass of red wine—very rarely.

What is something you like to do at the Club that people would be surprised to know?

I cannot stress how important reading is because it helps with your speech. You learn how to subconsciously deliver lines a certain way or how to structure what you say... It keeps your mind a little bit clearer for doing a heavier project. I still love watching shows and going through YouTube and stuff, but when I'm in full work mode, it's almost like I can't because it's there; it's taking space from my imagination.

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OCC Tide Calendar

September 2021

FEET | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | FEET
6AM NOON 6PM

New Moon Sept 6
First Quarter Sept 13
Full Moon Sept 20
Last Quarter Sept 28

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October 2021

FEET | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | FEET
6AM NOON 6PM

New Moon Oct 6
First Quarter Oct 12
Full Moon Oct 20
Last Quarter Oct 28

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17 2:18 1.4 7:54 0.4 2:10 1.9 8:36 0.1	18 2:53 1.6 8:43 0.4 2:43 1.7 8:57 0.1	19 3:26 1.8 9:29 0.4 3:14 1.6 9:18 0.1	20 3:58 1.9 10:14 0.4 3:43 1.4 9:39 0.1	21 4:31 2.0 10:59 0.5 4:11 1.2 10:00 0.1	22 5:04 2.1 11:47 0.5 4:38 1.1 10:22 0.1	23 5:39 2.0 12:40 0.5 5:06 0.9 10:44 0.2
24 6:17 2.0 1:43 0.6 5:35 0.8 11:08 0.3	25 7:03 1.9 3:01 0.5 6:16 0.6 11:36 0.4	Rise: 6:15a / Set:6:48p 26 8:01 1.8 4:32 0.5 8:16 0.6 12:15 0.5	27 9:10 1.8 5:38 0.4 10:57 0.6 1:44 0.6	28 10:18 1.8 6:15 0.3 12:01 0.8 3:48 0.6	29 11:17 1.8 6:43 0.2 12:39 0.9 5:16 0.6	30 12:05 1.8 7:08 0.2
Rise: 6:34a / Set:5:56p 31 Halloween 1:14 1.2 6:24 0.5 12:48 1.8 7:32 0.1						

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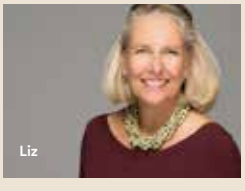

IN MEMORIAM

Ellen Wood
DECEASED: AUGUST 5, 2021
Member: 29 years

Joyce Stupski
DECEASED: JULY 19, 2021
Member: 7 years

Jan Newhart
DECEASED: JULY 21, 2021
Member: 48 years

Lyle Phillips, Jr.
DECEASED: JULY 7, 2021
Member: 69 years

H. James Stahl
DECEASED: JUNE 18, 2021
Member: 47 years

PHOTO BY MATT HEIRAKUJI

A Hui Hou
Kai Lenny's parting shot.

Opelo Road
Waimea, Big Island

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