Conversation at a van stop on Saturday, Sept. 22, the van filled with the oranges and bananas in honor of our friend George Abe.

“I am so hungry, I really need lunch”.

“Here is lunch, my friend, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an orange and a banana...
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Calendar of Events for 2018/2019

Saturday, November 10, 2018  Chili Cook-off Fundraiser (benefiting Holy Innocents and ACCW), Time Noon to 3 pm at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 561 Front Street in Lahaina, HI

Sunday, November 11 - 17, 2018 Homeless Awareness Week on Maui, please see www.mauiepiscopal.church for daily event details

Thursday, November 29, 2018  ACCW BOD Meeting, 4:30 PM on the Decker's Lanai

Saturday, February 2, 2019 A Tasteful Benefit, fundraiser benefiting Trinity Episcopal Church By-the-Sea and ACCW, great food, auction, fun. (Save the Date, Time/Location is TBD)

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Meet the Board of ACCW

By Paula Baldwin

We are:

Paula Baldwin, President; Mary Lou Mellinger, Secretary; Leah Sarne, Treasurer; Rev. Linda Decker, Recording secretary; Rev. Amy Crowe, Maui Clergy Representative; Peter Lee, Bishop’s Representative; Chuck Spence, Information; Kit Hart, Statistics and Supply Room; Joan Vila, New Member and events; John Decker, finance; Barb Zipf, recently resigned because of family illness.

We are an all-volunteer board as is all of ACCW’s 70+ members. We meet once a month, open and close with prayer, and do our best to conduct ACCW’s challenges and successes in a prayerful manner. We also eat as you can tell from our picture. We will have 3 members leaving in 2018. If you are interested in joining this hardworking and rewarding community, please let me know. Email: paula@accwmaui.org

Some reasons people come share their talents and time;

In a word, the awakening of the inner self is purely the work of love and there can be no love where there is not “another” to love. Furthermore, one does not awaken his innermost “I”..merely by loving God alone, but by loving other men. Keku Akana via Thomas Merton

I’ve been involved with efforts to help the homeless for thirty years and have long been concerned that the Episcopal congregations on Maui didn’t work well together. I was therefore intrigued by Keku’s idea of a multi-parish ‘care van” and participated in the discussion which led to the creation of ACCW. My original role was to help
I’m excited about the importance of in-reach, the feeding of each of our souls to grow and be ready to meet our friends on the street. It’s vital to help us all grow in faith, in connection with God. **Rev. Linda Decker**

I like to share ideas and share in the planning of direction and growth of *[ACCW]*. **Kit Hart**

I have organizational gifts and it gives me joy to join committed friends, use my gifts, and watch us continue to grow a life-giving project. Life giving for those we serve and life giving for us. **Paula Baldwin**

After participating in a year of shared ministry meetings between the 4 Episcopal Churches and in 2012 listening to Keku’s grounded and well-researched vision of a walk as disciples of Christ in service to our most vulnerable neighbors I was all in. In 2013 I became a member of the newly formed *[ACCW]* board of directors. The wisdom and intelligence of this Board their ability to stay focused on the operational details while praying for and listening to Maui’s neediest people is a humbling and joyful experience. **Mary Lou Mellinger**

I am a member of the board of *[ACCW]* because God calls us, such as in...”Our family awoke to the fires at 2am. We opened the church and served water and pbjs from the freezer along with other snacks. We served about 20 folks who had to leave their homes including folks from the shelter above aquatic center. Including calling 911 for one with an asthma attack.” **Rev. Amy Crowe**

We are all one community, members of God’s creation serving and being served. **Paula Baldwin**

*Doing things for others, particularly those in need, brings much more happiness to our own lives.* **Chuck Spence**
Facilitated by Rev. Jodene Hawkins, 16 ACCW volunteers gathered to discern why we are here and where we might be going.

I begin by quoting Jodene Hawkins: “Awe, that’s the only word I have, awe. There were no complaints, everyone was invested, committed and wanted to be together. The gifts we offer to ACCW are—trust, all committed to this ministry, visibility, stories, the four Episcopal churches working together. Diocesan support, the importance of the 4th seat. She sees our job now as one of feeding the system with information and emphasizing the importance of the 4th seat—always open for interested persons.”

Note from Paula—the 4th seat is literally the 4th seat in the van always open for a ride along, someone who wants to experience firsthand what a van run is.

Peter Lee: until the mission started, the congregations on Maui were tribal. The mission drew us together; it has been a miracle for us as well...The water we give is a sign of dignity (as well as care).

Kit Hart: First thought is in agreement with Jodene as to keeping an open system; open to information, ideas and new people. Our lunch meeting of a few weeks back brought the idea of rolled shirts and expanded first aid packs. Maybe more informal drop in lunches to brainstorm, get to know each other better.

John Decker: confirmed in feeling that this is not top-down project, but arose out of concerns of members of congregations; we’re doing that right.

Joan Vila: Sees new people. Not bored; willing to keep caring.
Linda Decker: delighted with "shared ministry", with one being in touch with members of the other congregations.

Mary Lou Mellinger: saw three groups:
1. “Keep on trucking”, (doing good, on right track)
2. Action-oriented comments: needs/involve young people, social media strategies/cultivate KHAKO and board relationships, have lunch, ride 4th seat/let people know of opportunities to help.
3. In-reach: sharing comments, commitments, invite to prayer-&-potluck suppers.

Keku Akana: after reading the comments from the retreat, really circling back to our original efforts for basic operational needs

Paula Baldwin: the community built by our volunteers is superb and humbling. I praise God for that and I pray that we will be able to listen and discern each additional step on the way to continue to serve that cold water with dignity and love.
A Celebration of Life for George Abe was held Saturday, September 22 at Good Shepherd Church. Over 200 people honored the Abe family by participating in military honors, a celebratory Eucharist as only we Episcopalians can do it, and Hawaiian chant at leaving. And all 200* stayed for a meal as only local Maui can produce. A true thanksgiving for an amazing life.

The eulogy of George Sueo ABE

Kekuhaupio R. Akana
I have been tasked with one of the highest honors of which a person can be bestowed, by George’s beloved wife Jeanne Abe, that being delivering the eulogy of a person, a human being, of who’s life, no one can copyright, and upon his birth, our eternal Creator assigned him his very own unique fingerprints…fingerprints that have no duplicates, there is only one George Sueo Abe.

When I recently received a copy from Jeanne of the beautiful sketch that step-son Kirk Kurokawa drew of George, I thought…my Wow, this sketch sums him up so well….so I thought, my eulogy could simply consist of all of us here, just meditating on this sketch for a few minutes and allow u to ponder your experiences, and the pathways u all here walked with George.  Because all of you being here… are also his eulogy, part of his life and in many ways an extension of his unique fingerprints….his expressions, his humor, his conversations, his gritty task master personality, his hard head, his soft heart….he was a samurai , who welded a sword of friendship and carried a shield of fun….he came from that generation of men of which sometimes we all wonder,

if God shut down the manufacturing facility…..I!, because they don’t make men like that anymore….

George Sueo ABE was born on November 29, 1933, to Mr. Shinzo Nishida and Mrs.Osata Nakamura Nishida at Kula Hospital.  George’s Mom died shortly after giving birth to George, so George was adopted and raised by his Mom’s older sister Mura Nakamura Abe and her husband Shinzo Abe. For George, they were his parents.

As I understand it, George’s dad then returns to Japan, remarryes and grows another family…thus, George, has other brothers and a sister.

George grew up and was formed in old Paia town (a vastly different Paia from the one we see today!) just behind the Old Kubo Gas Station. He attended Holy Rosary School from Kindergarten to 8th grade and then the Old Maui High School in Hamakuapoko, where he graduated in 1953.  George had a crisp memory of his Paia days, the town, the old shops and the surrounding area’s was still vibrant in his memories (before the 1960’s/70’s decline) where he
could recite the exact amount of barber shops, knew who was dating who, which cop was on duty, who the fireman were, and which Paia families were related to which and all of the in’s and out’s of the subtly dying Paia era plantation life….

After High school George attended the Maui Technical (Now UH Maui) School for 2 years, taking auto mechanic training courses… he then worked at Maui Motors, Kubo Gas Station, Fukunaga construction, Aloha Shell, even spending one year on Kwajalein Island as an auto mechanic.

He served in the Hawaii Army National Guard from 1953 to 1968 and again from 1971 to 1981 for a total of 25 years of service with the rank of Master Sergeant /Intelligence and had a top secret security clearance….. I can tell all of u here, I had some TOP SECRET conversations and (gossip, oops) sessions with him…..and they will remain top secret!!!!

George also had careers with Endo painting, Global Construction; he also retires from Maui Land & Pine, and winds down his working life with various Airport and Hotel Security companies…. Like most men of his generation, they worked…and worked…

When I looked at one of his work resume’s from the year 2002, I noted that he listed his references as Mustard Murayama, Mel Ida, William Kinaka and Tommy Sato…all dear friends who stayed in touch throughout the years,…All of them I am sure, could give u a whole other version of George!…

He was also a fishing partner with Dr. Rockett for several years…..

Through his earlier adult years, George is married and has 3 daughters, Debbie, Kelly and Stacie, his marriage doesn’t work out (endure?), but, he never ceases to love his daughters…. and life grinds forward….. Here we pause and we let George remind each of us that our lives do not offer finality by or with our tough times, but our lives are defined by how we handle our valley experiences…..how we come through our own deserts….our own tough times….

*(George’s favorite story bookmarks are available in the Supply Room. Please come, take, enjoy.)*

George shows us, The beauty and strength of our faith has never been built
One Person Can Make a Difference

One morning, just before dawn, a man woke early so he could watch the sunrise over the ocean. As he walked along the beach he came across a young girl who seemed to be doing something peculiar. She was picking up starfish and throwing them into the sea—one after another. He asked her what she was doing.

“The tide washes up all these starfish and they can’t get back by themselves,” she said. “They will die in the sun if I don’t throw them back into the water.”

The man looked up and down the beach at the thousands of stranded starfish. He couldn’t help telling her, “but there are too many starfish to save before sunrise. Why bother? You won’t make much of a difference.”

She paused for a moment, then picked up another starfish and threw it as far as her slender arm could manage. With a satisfied grin, she turned to the man and simply said, “I made a difference to that one.”

The man stood in silence, considering the girl’s youthful wisdom. Then with a smile of his own, he reached down for a starfish...and tossed it into the sea.

After they met, the man and the girl were married and had two children. The marriage was happy and the children were healthy. But life was not without its challenges. The man’s father died on the Big Island, so the family decided to move to Waimea/Kamuela, where Jeanne’s roots are, and where they can be closer to Jeanne’s Mom. While living in Waimea, they decide to give the Episcopal Church there “a chance”, (another miracle in itself!) the church is called St. James....and there, in the quaint country town of Waimea, George and Jeanne ABE find a church home and a church family....They quickly become very involved in their church....and of course, with George’s project manager adeptness, he becomes an usher/greeter, creates name tags for the members, and then assumes the responsibility of Jr. Warden, taking on many tasks to help invigorate a now very energetic St. James Parish....

As miracles so often go (right in front of us, and yet completely unseen), in comes a vibrant new youngish Priest to St. James Church.... And as George tell’s it.....this guy is a priests priest...with the old school work ethic, determined pastoral care, and an evangelists gift...well, this Priest is here with us, Father David Stout ( and I know George is delighted that Father Stout, Father Vance,
See folks, in 2012 a group of dedicated Episcopalians from the 4 Maui churches were plotting a mobile outreach ministry for the street poor... this evolving, crazy Christian plan, was to deliver water, nutrition clothing and comfort to Maui's growing homeless population, 3 days a week, every week, and every weekend... and long story short.. it is George & Jeanne Abe who STEP UP (or should I say step in to the fray!), and become the supply team leaders for this fledgling backyard outreach mission, and with George's church militant spirituality and Jeanne's gentle and focused ways, they plan, set up, organize and activate... A Cup of Cold Water's supply room and the team (of course with other dedicated servants, who are here)... It's a funny thing, how these mustard seeds grow and go... no St. JAMES, no George & Jeanne Abe, no ACCW... and as ACCW it is now in its 5th year of service feeding, clothing, referrals, comforting, listening and praying for 800-1,000 homeless folk every month...

Of course, George will credit the many volunteers involved, rightfully so... but folks... George would always say, “One person can make a difference”......and instead of spending his twilight years on a golf course, or rocking his life away, and turning inwardly for ourselves in life, at the age of 78....he pulls off his own miracle of the feeding of 5,000....but by the grace of God!

George's favorite line to me was always “how come”... “can..just go do this...or that...”! He made name tags for our church members, started early service coffee hour, and gave out many a wooden cross to parishnors etc forged by his own hands...the wooden pew candle holders u see here today were made by...
Several months ago, while at home, he fell hard on his face and his entire face became a dark black and blue..... but of course, he just had to take a selfie of himself and circulate it ..sending a photo to my wife, and then he follows it up with a baboon emoji! Yep George loved cellphone emoji;s!  George also loved leadership roles, was once the assistant director of the Boy Scouts of America, part of the Maui AJA Veterans, Kahului Lions Club, American Cancer Society and Kahului Union Church....

In these last months, George taught me a personal/private lesson, a lesson he didn’t even know he was teaching me, a lesson of how to be faithful, joyful and fearless in the face of death.  This man never once ever felt sorry for himself or grumbled about his eventuality....he kept serving with a smile on his face and a joke on his lips....

He loved Jeanne, he loved his family, he loved people, he loved making new friends, golf, his golden retriever dogs, travel, wood work...George loved good fun.... So George, as the popular song goes, we all here sing to you:

“Cause all of us
Loves all of you
Love your curves and all your edges
All your perfect imperfections”

Today, we celebrate his resurrection, his entrance into the church triumphant, today we celebrate his unique fingerprint on Earth, today we do what George Abe really loved to do..... today we go have “good fun”...So, lets go have plenty good fun for George ABE...enjoy the service, ... and as George would say, “Eh make sure u guys come eat after aahh!”

AMEN
### A Cup of Cold Water

**Recent 2018 Statistics**

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Requirements for all positions:
Wants to spend time with all God’s children in work, laugh, joy, grace filled environment.

Run leaders;  Needs current Hawaii driver’s license, drivers abstract. Relieve run leaders who have served for 4 years. Approximately 8 hours a month, 2 runs per month. Benefits include training and support, amazing teams to work with, grace and joy filled time serving our brothers and sisters around Maui.

Supply Room:  Needs physical ability to stand, bend, sit and lift 3-4 lbs.  Will sort, count and make decisions on donated items.  Will prepare bins for run teams to stack the van.  Will help prepare shopping lists for Costco and other stores. Benefits include short hours, air cooled Supply Room, amazing angels to work with, laughter and friendship.

Operations officer:  Needs ability to multi task, work closely with President, basic computer skills.  Will relieve President of administrative tasks, think independently, and share joys of jobs well done, ACCW running smoothly.
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