



**MĀNOA VALLEY**  
CHURCH

# Mānoa Connection

*Connecting our 'ohana*

eNewsletter

August 6, 2025

## Harvest Fair—MVC's Annual Signature Event

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, Mānoa Valley Church will hold its 53<sup>rd</sup> Harvest Fair. Except for a brief hiatus attributed to COVID-19 restrictions, MVC has made the Fair its annual signature event.

Clearly, this event began from generations past and continues to be buoyed by current members and their offspring. With the presence of MVC's preschool and afterschool programs, there is much promise for reaching into the future.

Did you know there are MVC members who begin planning as early as the day after the Fair for the following year? The dedication and commitment of the volunteers are unshakeable and the Communications Committee thought it would be interesting to find out what drives the spirit behind the work of many.

So, a roving reporter asked one question to several MVC members and here are their reflections. Question: What does the Harvest Fair mean to you?

**Richelle Fujioka**, co-chair of this year's event: "Harvest Fair is not simply a fundraiser, it's a wonderful celebration of a dedicated church community!"

**Susan Shiraki**: "The Harvest Fair is a time when everyone works together in a joyful way to raise funds for our church."

**Madelline Oshiro**: "The Harvest Fair is such a blessed time for Mānoa Valley Church to open its doors and celebrate with neighbors and families. Each year we see new and familiar faces reinforcing our love and common ties with the community."

**Maizie Okimoto**: "Working joyfully together on projects with hope that our efforts will help carry out activities at our Church that will bring us happily together in Love."

**Earl Yonehara**: "For me, Harvest Fair has been an opportunity to work with the congregation in partnership to help increase the fund for our building renovations and maintenance. As a Trustee member since 2013, facilities management is a key to keeping our 58-year-old facilities in tip top shape for future generations of worshipers. God has given each of us different gifts. No matter how insignificant one may view their contributions, collectively we can all serve God as one body."

**Bette Uyeda**: "Just one of the major activities that we no longer do for the Fair is making (rolling) our own sushi. I remember that was a wonderful activity that brought both young and old, women and men together for lots of fun. Hard work but lots of learning and laughter. That's where I learned to roll sushi from our elder experts."



### Links

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Harvest Fair—2019

The Harvest Fair is MVC's prelude to the Holiday Season. "Celebration," "joy," "fun" and "service to the church and God" are echoed in the above reflections, and how better to work among fellow members of MVC and make new friends as we praise God through a day of service and thanksgiving. There is still need for volunteers, so we invite you to come and join in the spirit of camaraderie.

Look for the Harvest Fair event matrix on page 3 of this eNewsletter and discover the many booths and activities that await you. For more information, please contact either of the event chairs: Dianne Ishida, [dianne@hawaii.edu](mailto:dianne@hawaii.edu) or Richelle Fujioka, [richelle.fujioka@gmail.com](mailto:richelle.fujioka@gmail.com).

### Harvest Fair Needs Help with Security



With the return of White Elephant and the increased amount of goods, the Harvest Fair needs support from volunteers who will keep an eye on the gym and breezeway, especially on Friday, October 31, when booths will set up their displays.

In past years, Ron Hashiro, Alan Ito, Ruth Komatsu, and others remained on campus throughout the night before the event. We plan to continue this practice to help safeguard the property.

Volunteers are needed only to *monitor* the campus—not to intervene—other than calling 911 if something seems amiss. While we are still developing our plan, the intent is to have short shifts to lessen any burden on individuals. The current plan has shifts starting at 9 pm on Friday, October 31st, and at midnight and 3 am on Saturday, November 1st.

Please contact Roger Au via email at [roger.mvc.19@gmail.com](mailto:roger.mvc.19@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this important function.

### Harvest Fair is...



JOY



FUN



A CELEBRATION



A BLESSED TIME FOR MĀNOA VALLEY CHURCH

# HARVEST FAIR



**Saturday, November 1, 2025**  
**9:00 am–1:00 pm**  
**Breezeway and Gym**

Co-chairs: Dianne Ishida ([dianne@hawaii.edu](mailto:dianne@hawaii.edu))  
 & Richelle Fujioka ([richelle.fujioka@gmail.com](mailto:richelle.fujioka@gmail.com))

Volunteers needed! Please look over this list and contact the booth leader now! Also, if you can help set up on Friday, Oct. 31 from 5-8 pm, contact the overall chairs.

Booth	Contact Person	Help Needed
Art	Sue Yamamoto <a href="mailto:susan-yamamoto@outlook.com">susan-yamamoto@outlook.com</a> Cat Iwami <a href="mailto:catz@hawaii.rr.com">catz@hawaii.rr.com</a>	
Baked Goods	Louise Yamamoto (808) 807-5577 <a href="mailto:yamamolouise007@gmail.com">yamamolouise007@gmail.com</a>  Catherine Miyahira (808) 941-2965	Calling all bakers and goody makers! We need all types of baked goods i.e. cookies, cakes, pies, breads, snacks such as prune mui, pretzels, granola, energy bars, etc. Cakes, pies, breads, and more perishable items will be accepted <u>only on Saturday 11/1</u> . All other items that can last for a week like cookies, prune mui, etc. can be dropped off the Sunday before. <u>Please let Louise know if your items will need packing</u> and indicate if items have nuts in them.
Beverage & popcorn	Pastor Abe & sons <a href="mailto:pastor@manoavalleychurch.org">pastor@manoavalleychurch.org</a>	Helpers needed at Harvest Fair to serve drinks and popcorn.
Craft/Gift Shop	Bette Uyeda (808) 988-4990 <a href="mailto:auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com">auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com</a>	Calling all crafters and those who enjoy sewing! We need new craft or sewing items that you can donate to our Gift Shop. Call Bette Uyeda at (808) 988-4990 or email at <a href="mailto:auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com">auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com</a> for more information on how to donate or help in other ways.
Food	Reggie Tamashiro (808) 208-6971 <a href="mailto:r2tamashiro@hawaiiantel.net">r2tamashiro@hawaiiantel.net</a>  Evelyn Chong (day of)	Helpers needed on the day of Harvest Fair to serve food and collect money.
Hot Dogs	Ron Iwami <a href="mailto:Iwamih001@hawaii.rr.com">Iwamih001@hawaii.rr.com</a>	Two volunteers needed on the day of the Harvest Fair to help cook and package hotdogs.
Kiddie Games	Trisha Honda <a href="mailto:asc@manoavalleychurch.org">asc@manoavalleychurch.org</a>	Monetary donations are welcome to cover the cost of prizes and lunch for the student workers.
Plants	Maizie Okimoto (808) 988-6216 Alvin Fujioka (808) 737-4766	We welcome potted plant donations! Please call Maizie Okimoto or Alvin Fujioka if you have plants to donate.
White Elephant	Sam Browning <a href="mailto:mrsammyjb@gmail.com">mrsammyjb@gmail.com</a>	We are looking <b>now</b> for people willing to chair one of the following booths: <i>bulky items/electronics, books, clothing, housewares, jewelry &amp; children's goods</i> Helpers needed to sort donated items during October. Helpers also needed to sell items at Harvest Fair. More info to follow shortly about item donations—what and when!





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# ADULT WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

## Instructor: Cat Iwami

Looking for a simple, creative way to try something new?

Join us for a two-part watercolor workshop designed for adults- no experience needed. You will learn the basics of watercolor painting - how to use color, learn about composition, and explore different watercolor techniques. Each session includes hands-on learning activities and time to create your own final piece.

**Dates:** Saturdays, September 13 & 20

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** MVC Gym

**Cost:** \$20 (covers both sessions and all supplies)

**Supplies are include.** Bring an apron and a notepad.

**Space is limited to 12 adult participants.**

### To sign up:

Fill out the registration form attached to the newsletter or pickup a registration form in the breeze-way bulletin board – submit to the church office including payment.

Payment payable to: Manoa Valley Church

Deadline for registration is Monday, September 8th, 2025

Questions contact: Cat Iwami, [catz@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:catz@hawaii.rr.com)



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# ADULT WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Instructor: Cat Iwami

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADULT WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

**Dates:** Saturdays, September 13 & 20

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** MVC Gym

**Cost:** \$20 (covers both sessions and all supplies)

**Supplies are include.** Bring an apron and a notepad.

**\*\* Space is limited to 12 adult participants.**

## CONSENT & WAIVER:

I, the undersigned, give permission to participate in the Adult WaterColor Workshop for Saturday 13 & 20, 2025. I understand and accept that the organization is not liable for any injuries that may occur during the workshop. By signing, I agree to the terms and conditions.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMIT YOUR FORM:** Please submit this form and payment by dropping it off at the church office. Make checks payable to Manoa Valley Church – note Adult Watercolor Workshop. Once received, you will get an email confirmation. Questions contact Cat Iwami [catz@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:catz@hawaii.rr.com)

For Office Use: Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment : Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

## All in the 'Ohana

You may recognize **Anita Motte** since she often hands out bulletins at worship, so read on to learn more about this remarkable woman. Anita tells us: "I am originally from California and moved to Hawaii 22 years ago. I am a widow and a mother to one married son who also lives here in Hawaii. I am a grandmother and a great-grandmother! I have a little terrier mix dog named Belle. I am a licensed Real Estate agent, and I love serving in the community and I love the Lord. I am so grateful that God led me to Mānoa Valley Church. I love greeting members at the door of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings and learning their names and faces." Members, make sure *you* introduce yourself to her on Sunday!



Anita Motte

## All in the 'Ohana



**David Kuraya**, one of the founding members of Mānoa Valley Church's contemporary Praise Band, was in Honolulu this summer to perform his magic show. It was described as "an evening of world-class magic" on July 17 and 18, at the Waikiki's Magical Parlour in the International Market-Place. As the picture attests, MVC members were able to enjoy David's talents!

Reggie Tamashiro, Ron Hashiro, David Kuraya, Bette Uyeda, Dianne Ishida and Alene Nakasone

## Bingo/Ice Cream Social

Who: Everyone

When: Sunday, August 24, 2025

Time: After Worship Service

Where: Hiro Higuchi Life Center



Light lunch will be served. There will be prizes for adults and children, lots of ice cream and lots of fun!!  
For more information, contact **Dawn Hamada** @ 808-988-3271 or [dawnhamada@gmail.com](mailto:dawnhamada@gmail.com).

## Opportunity to Provide Food

We will be bringing dinner to Family Promise parents and children on Thursday, August 14, 2025. If you would like to contribute a dish or meal, please sign up on this [LINK](#) or text **Inga Park Okuna** at (808) 258-3781. Thank you, MVC 'Ohana, for making a difference in the lives of struggling families!



## Emergency Shelter Simulation Exercise



On June 28, 2025, Mānoa Valley Church hosted an American Red Cross (ARC) Emergency Shelter simulation exercise. MVC members **Ron Iwami**, **Sue Yamamoto** and **Earl Yonehara**, along with nearly 30 other volunteers, are now certified to assist in operating shelters. The exercise allowed the volunteers and ARC staff to fine tune potential future operations.





Thank you for your donations to the St. Pius X Food Pantry and Family Promise Welcome Home Kits during the Super Summer Celebration!



Free pots, plants and fertilizer were available during the Super Summer Celebration to those who wish to grow plants for the Harvest Fair.



Date	Event
Aug 14	Family Promise dinner donation
Aug 15	Statehood Day Holiday—office closed
Aug 17	Keauhou Shelter sandwich making, 9 am, breezeway
Aug 24	Ice cream/bingo social, gym, after Worship
Aug 24	Pastoral Relations Committee provide snacks
Aug 30	Deadline for September eNewsletter articles