

Where is your mask?

By Ruth Walker



Everyone said that it was easy to sew a mask, so I tried.

It was easy finding scrap fabrics that I had stored in boxes for over 30 years. It was easy to wash and iron those fabrics in preparation for sewing. It was easy to seek patterns on Google. The difficulty at first was in selecting which pattern would be the easiest to maneuver since there were many patterns being featured on the internet.

After a good and easy start, I found a simple pattern with three pleats using four long ties from the four corners of the mask. This mask was easy to make, east to wear, and easy to fit any person because the ties could be adjusted to the person wearing the mask. I gave the mask to Alan. His reaction was, "Sorry mom, I can't make the ties behind my head."

So I went back to the drawing boards to look for another pattern. I created one with two pieces of elastic that went around the head. I forgot why, but Alan was not satisfied with this mask.

I tried one more only to have Alan reject the mask because the elastic was too wide and the results put pressure on his ears.

I tried a fourth pattern that looked like a box that covered the face, the nose and the chin. Ugh, he didn't like that either.

At this point I gave up on Alan. I gave him a bandana to use to cover him up telling him, use this as there are no ties, no elastic, fits you because it's adjustable and is washable.

It was easy sewing the mask but not so easy satisfying a son!



Legislative Officer Michele Kurihara-Klein and Executive Director Randy Perreira signwave with Representatives Scott Saiki and Aaron Johanson.



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Members supporting HGEA-endorsed candidates Coby Chock (1), Keith Amemiya (2) and Patrick Branco (3).

WORDFIND

what is your hobby?

- Antiques
- Basketry
- Bingo
- Cards
- Coins
- Crochet
- Dance
- Drawing
- Exercise
- Gardening
- Golf
- Knitting
- Macrame
- Movies
- Music
- Painting
- Poetry
- Pottery
- Puzzles
- Quilting
- Reading
- Singing
- Swimming
- Stamps
- Travel
- Weaving
- Writing

E F D M G I B E P F G B K B T P Q V S B
 C C A N U J V A X N M B N M E X Y E O Q
 N V G W H G I Z I E R T I N H A I O O P
 A S B A V N J W U E R W T K C V K R P U
 D N K G T Z A A A I G C T C O B M D N Z
 V H P I N R S D V T Y T I M R O B X P Z
 D G N G D I I G N E M J N S C F D J J L
 J G N N P N M G O L F R G F E T G T R E
 N Q G I G O I M G N I G N I S G N R L S
 U Z B N V S T E I M A C R A M E I A O D
 I G R E X A N T B W Y A T T C L T V Q V
 U R K D S A E I E O S D H I B I I E E H
 B S E R F T N W O R M N S O Y L R L R S
 J Z I A E G R X G C Y U L S J I W F E A
 D H V G O W R T H Y M C O B S M F U E K
 G N I T L I U Q F B R W A K V T Q D L S
 B A S K E T R Y H X X G H H Q I A M M H
 I U X L R E K C O Q F P O E T R Y M I X
 S D R A C J T V N N Q K M N A D A H P T
 T G Z X V O P R X F X C A Y I H G V X S

HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Message From Retirees Unit Administrator: Mahie Trask
- Where is your mask? By Ruth Walker
- Coronavirus Chronicles: Ethel Fleming & Timmy Albao
- Word Find Puzzle: What is your hobby?

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A MESSAGE FROM RETIREEES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

Aloha and hope you are safe and well. Since COVID-19 has taken over the way we can gather, all of the usual retiree activities such as line dancing, bingo, movie day, even the

campaign activities that are in full swing right now have had to be curtailed. I decided to ask your board of directors to submit stories on what they have been doing to keep busy and engaged during this pandemic. While not all chose to write stories some also included pictures of their time. I have included President Walker's story, Kauai Chapter President Timmy Albao and State Secretary Ethel Fleming's stories to begin the series and will include more in the next issues. I hope it inspires some of you to send in your COVID-19 stories or pictures.

While we have not cancelled the September general membership meetings, I would like to note that the for now Maui chapter meetings will take place at the Maui HGEA office until another location with better parking can be secured. UPW is not available at this time. I also urge you to please call your island division office the day before any scheduled meeting to see if the meetings have been cancelled. With the daily increase in corona cases, we are being extra cautious.

Thank you to the Big Island and Oahu phone bank volunteers that diligently called many, many retirees and actives on behalf of our endorsed candidates. With the help from Division Chief Scott Collins and Legislative Officer Michele Kurihara-Klein, the phones were set up allowing us to continue practicing social distancing. Thank you to everyone that volunteered and we hope you will continue to join us after the Primary Election as we prepare for the General Election. The Amemiya campaign really appreciated the Oahu retirees for not only helping with the phone bank but volunteering at the headquarters for rubber banding canvassing material. They could not have gotten all the work done without your help! Thank you Oahu Chapter.

Lastly, as of this writing, Primary Election is 5 days away. I hope we are successful in our endorsements but more importantly, I hope that our members understand the importance of supporting our endorsed candidates.

Continued on next page ...

Our process is open to all members, to engage in the forums to meet our candidates, to participate in questions to the candidates, and to give us your feedback once the interviews are done. To have units divided, only weakens the organization. To divide and conquer is a tactic from the beginning of time, but in order to lift us all, and not pit one group over another, we MUST stick together. The HGEA Endorsement Policy No. 10 addresses members participating in supporting candidates not endorsed by HGEA. Getting our contracts funded by the Legislature at the end of the session was a huge accomplishment and then creating Bargaining Unit 15 for the Ocean Safety group was the icing on the cake from the 2020 Legislature. That could only happen with the leadership of this great union working with the leaders of the legislature. It's what happens when our endorsed candidates get elected. It is not complicated, but simple mathematics. HGEA is the largest labor union in this state, let's join together so that we can all Rise Up, kupuna, actives and our communities we live in.

Stay safe,

Mahie

Myself and Tommy Oi attended, via teleconference, the State Board meeting on June 4, 2020. Subsequently, I held a Chapter Board meeting. Since we have less than 10 on the Kauai board, we held a normal, in-person, meeting. Getting to see and be able to communicate in person was a welcomed part of our sheltered life. One member brought a goody bag for each board member and another brought bottles of hand sanitizer made the Koloa Rum Company. These things cannot be had if we had a meeting via virtual communication.

I also attended via telephone, a meeting of the Kauai Division Executive Council representing the retirees. Updates of the contract negotiations were the main subject (funding was passed by the legislature).

I am also the President of the RSVP Advisory Council. We had a virtual meeting with 3 new members. This part of the meeting was not right as those who did not know the new members could not see them. Two of the new members you might recognize, Gerald Ako, retired Division chief of the Kauai HGEA office, and the other is Carol Saiki, the Treasurer of the HGEA Kauai chapter. Both of them also volunteer at the Grab-and-Go breakfast and lunch program for children under 18 years of age. Our latest project that we did was putting together 21 bags of needs for 21 identified homeless children. These children were known by the DOE and the identities were confidential. Deliveries of the bags was done by DOE personnel. The present DOE Area Superintendent retired as of June 30 but will continue to be on the board as a volunteer. Besides the new Area Superintendent being on the board, we will now have two retired Area Superintendents on the board. For more information and pictures of the project, see the Sunday edition (June 28, 2020) of the Garden Island paper (thegardenisland.com).

Timmy Albao, Kauai Chapter

CORONAVIRUS Chronicles

Adding variety to the daily routine of walk around the neighborhood after fixing breakfast for my husband (Jim), our cat, and myself, and sprinkling fish food into the aquarium, I say "yes" to the request from my friend to get involved with the Keith Amemiya for Mayor campaign at his HQ in February, a few hours a day. There's a packed lunch in the refrigerator to make things easy for Jim. Then, bam... Honolulu gets shut down mid-March due to the new spreading coronavirus. What to do during the pandemic?

Seniors are said to be vulnerable, so... change the routine; become isolated as a protective factor, especially as I travel by bus. My son is a physician, so sends cautionary messages to me about hunkering down. At the same time, Jim's medical condition worsens, as his body fails him, leading him eventually to Hospice care at home. I'm at home more, anyway, with only about an hour a day for myself to go shopping for groceries and cleaning products (hard to find.) Thank goodness for the help of health aides for Jim. In mid-May, on Mother's Day, my physician son said 'Mom, I think Dad only has about two weeks left.' Jim passes in his sleep that night. We had signed up for the Willed Body Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) just 10 days before that event!

My green orchid bloomed that day. I felt a sense of relief and "freedom." I could develop a new kind of freedom within parameters of guidance from the government about taking care of ourselves during the pandemic. One of the first things I did after the electric bed, oxygen supplies, etc. were removed, was to trim the dead leaves from houseplants, and it felt like I was focusing on life. My youngest son, who had returned from deployment to Afghanistan during this time, started having simple "dates" with me: having picnic dinners at Diamond Head lookout, or Kuhio beach, or drive to Laniakea to see the turtles that usually the tourists (now not here) flock to see... all change-up or additions to my new routine of living.

I still feel the need to connect with people, so I forward funny emails that others send to me. Plus, there's only so much that one can say to my cat! I need to remember my vocabulary. But guess what? I'm now at HGEA HQ volunteering to do phone banking for our endorsed Mayoral candidate, KEITH AMEMIYA. I recite a script of the same words to dozens of people a few hours a day. So if you see me, talk to me. I would like to know what's up with you.

Ethel Fleming, Oahu Chapter

