Coronavirus Chronicles

Early March was mid-semester for my English class at Kapiolani CC and nutrition class at UH Manoa. I like challenging myself by learning with my young classmates who are probably three times as young as I am. I feel invigorated by the campus atmosphere and these classes are free! The UH’s Senior Citizen Visitor Program allows Hawaii residents who are sixty and older to audit classes. I don’t need to take the exams and I don’t get graded. I also had free ukulele class at Kapaoloni Park through the City and County Parks and Recreation Program. As a retiree, “free” is the magic word for me.

My UH classes then transferred to online learning. It was an added challenge to learn English concepts online like metaphors, foreshadowing, themes, and symbolism. The nutrition class was useful; there was something in each online lecture that applied to my diet and health. I was sad when my ukulele class got cut short, but I continued to practice at home. I was able to find the notes to songs by trial and error, picking on the ukulele string one note at a time. My friend Charles would call me up and I’d play for him, “Scarborough Fair” or “Puff, the Magic Dragon.”

For fall semester 2020, UH allowed us kupuna to continue taking classes. I have online classes in estate planning and world religion. I have heard that online learning is harder than in-person, and it’s true. There are many distractions at home, but I need to try my best to focus. The UH professors and all teachers everywhere, have been working so hard to make online learning work.

Terry Nakamura, Oahu Chapter

Terrified by the virus, our seeds of comfort were stolen by the storm.

Kaiser Permanente webinar: “How to Thrive as a Caregiver”

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Please join Kaiser for a one-hour webinar on October 27, 2020 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

You do not have to be a Kaiser member but you will need a computer/laptop and an email address. To get started go to kp.org/wellnesswebinar and enter the sign-up code “HGEA” under the “New users” heading, then click on the submit button. Provide the requested information to create your account. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with the link to access the webinar. The webinar is open to all city, state and county employees and retirees.

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As you already know, since we need to continue staying safe through the COVID-19 pandemic, all retiree activities have been cancelled. That will unfortunately include the cancellation of the Oahu and Kauai Chapter Christmas parties. Kauai is planning for an April 12, 2021 celebration and Maui Chapter is considering a January New Year party. Information will be provided at a later date. Big island party is set for January, 2021.

All is not lost as we plan for activities in the comfort of your home. Zoom meetings are happening everywhere and the Retirees Unit is no exception. State Board of Directors has held this year’s two quarterly meetings via Zoom as well as the Chapter Board meetings this quarter. As of this writing, we have scheduled two statewide zoom “Planning for Retirement” seminars and will be hosting a general membership meeting for Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. All you need is a smartphone, laptop or computer, download the Zoom app, and you will get the link to join the meeting. Contact Tammy or Mahie in the HGEA Retirees office for assistance. Don’t forget to log in to the HGEA app, and you will get the link to join the meeting. Contact Tammy or Mahie in the HGEA Retirees office for assistance.

Chapter board elections will be conducted at the March 2021 membership meeting. Please call or email the Retirees Unit if you would like to serve on your chapter board. The Biennial Assembly will be held in June 2021 on Hawaii Island. Delegates are determined by your district’s quarterly meetings via Zoom as well as the Chapter Board meetings this quarter. As of this writing, we have scheduled two statewide zoom “Planning for Retirement” seminars and will be hosting a general membership meeting for Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. All you need is a smartphone, laptop or computer, download the Zoom app, and you will get the link to join the meeting. Contact Tammy or Mahie in the HGEA Retirees office for assistance. Don’t forget to log in to the HGEA app, and you will get the link to join the meeting. Contact Tammy or Mahie in the HGEA Retirees office for assistance.

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