



SILVERSWORD

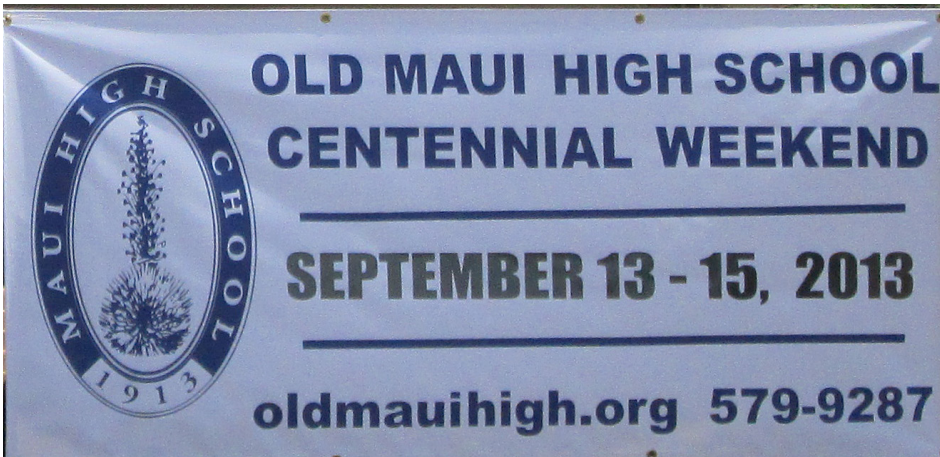
Friends of Old Maui High School

Winter 2013

Celebrating 100 Years of Accomplishment

More than 1000 Saber alumni and their families shared memories of the past and hopes for the future at the Old Maui High School centennial celebration weekend, at the historic Hamakuapoko campus.

The spirit was alive and well as generations mingled, enjoying school memories, tasty luau luncheon, evocative displays from earliest school days, performances, nostalgic moments and ceremonies marking the centennial and the legacy of Maui High School.



Under the large white tents, there was laughter and cheers, classmates and friends met and missed, and many happy hours remembering days gone by at our dear island school.

At the beginning of Maui High's second century, let us all strive to keep the amazing Saber spirit alive and flourishing, continuing to honor the past, plan for the future and leave no task undone.

Ruth Mukai Honored by MHS Foundation

The Hall of Honor Banquet, a benefit for the Maui High Foundation – supporting scholarships for students at the Kahului campus – was held for a third year on October 16. Prominent among the six honorees receiving Awards of Honor was Friends’ founding Board member and MHS alumna, Ruth Okazaki Mukai, MHS Class of 1947.



Her well-deserved Saber Spirit Award recognized her for being “one of the saviors of the H-Poko campus.” Ruth has performed the vital task of maintaining Friends’ mailing list, keeping up with some 4,000 alumni and class representatives, and ensuring every Saber on the list receives the newsletter and other important notices. Without Ruth’s determination and dedication, Friends’ programs and events would not be possible! Mahalo, Ruth Mukai – a super Saber.



Two of the oldest original classrooms at the Old MHS Hamakuapoko campus were treated to much-needed preservation actions recently. Both Classroom C (1928) and the 1927 vocational classroom building were tented for termite control. Then a group of volunteers from Kaunoa Senior Center participated in various preservation tasks, including painting the doors in both historic school buildings. Friends relies on volunteers to assist with our mission to preserve, rehabilitate and reuse the Old MHS campus.



Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa (MHS '69) honored the Centennial by proclaiming Maui High School Centennial Week, in September, at a ceremony in his chambers at the County Building. Attendees included Saber alumni, Friends of Old Maui High School, staff and students from the MHS Kahului campus, Centennial Committee representatives from both old and present schools, Council Chair Gladys Baisa (MHS '58) and the Mayor’s executive assistants. *Ryan Piros Photo*



Hundreds of hours of hard work and planning by dedicated Centennial Committee members resulted in a successful Centennial Celebration. Just a few shown here, include: Bobbie Arita, Richard Higashi, Ed Ichiriu, Judy Lindstrom, Paul Ueoka, Barbara Chong-Kee, Lloyd Inouye, and Marilyn Morikawa.



A Place of Great Learning...

I wandered the grounds of Old Maui High School in Hamakuapoko on Saturday with the scores of alumni in blue T-shirts delighted to be back on campus to celebrate the school's one hundredth anniversary.

One was Mayor Alan Arakawa, Class of '69, who discovered there another world outside of his family's farm in Omaopio. "This is where I learned speech, English," he said. This was where he ran down the tunnel of trees to the beach and never forgot it, "breathtaking every time."

Another alumnus was Charles Gima, Class of '47, whose father worked "kompan" in the fields of HC&S. He became an engineer, and of the family's ten children, one became a doctor, another an architect, another a college professor.

"Oh, we loved it here," said Shirley Choy Perry. "The beauty."

Yes, the beauty.

I enjoyed the performances – the aging cheerleaders, the Elvis impersonator, the humor of master of ceremonies Curtis Lee, the good fun. "Go Sabers!"

But what stole the show for me were the classic bones of the administration building, the preservation of which was the reason Friends of Old Maui High School was founded almost a decade ago.

In 1916, while his cousin, Charles W. Dickey, was on Maui designing the plans for Makawao Union Church and his new home, Kaluanui, Harry Baldwin asked the renowned architect to also design a new classroom and administration building for Maui High School to replace the small, wooden one erected by the county of Maui in 1913.

The following year, according to the Pacific Commercial Advertiser, six members of the Baldwin family pledged \$5,000 each to build the school to Dickey's plans. Territorial law, however, did not allow for legislative

appropriations to be augmented by private resources, and the \$30,000 offered by the Baldwins was turned down.

It was not until 1921, when Maui High School was fully funded, that Dickey's design was built. He lifted the site so the students had a new horizon over the cane fields to the ocean, and endowed the children of plantation workers with a 17,000 -square-foot, architectural feast of a Mediterranean revival villa, all arches and pilasters and proportions based on the golden mean.

Students from the camps had never seen such inspiring architecture, nor spent time in such a sublime setting. Maui High quickly became an idyll, a refuge from the harsh life at home, remembered as a place of great learning and great peace.

These bare walls remind me of the ruins of a Greek temple, I thought, looking up at the makai wing, a temple of learning. No other campus in the territory, Punahou included, and Kamehameha, too, has a more uplifting setting.

So it's a shame that, after almost ten years of effort by the Friends, progress in restoring the building --as a prerequisite to creating a center named for its most famous alumna, the late U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink --has slowed to a crawl.

According to the mayor, a "high level committee" has been convened to explore a direction for the the entire site, but the county is still not clear where it wants to go. "It's going to cost tens of millions of dollars," he said.

Meanwhile, the rebar in the administration building is rusting away after 92 years near the sea, causing deterioration of the concrete, which is fast reaching the point where it cannot be repaired. "If it doesn't happen soon it may never happen," Friends past president Barbara Long told me. "We may lose a true architectural treasure."

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"breathtaking every time..."

OLD MHS CENTENNIAL MONUMENT DEDICATED

A permanent bronze plaque atop a concrete monument will forever mark the historic site of Maui's first co-educational high school. In a ceremony on Sunday, September 15 – just 100 years to the day after the opening of the first school building – Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa and MHS Centennial Committee Co-Chair Ruth Yamamura untied the ti leaf leis and formally dedicated the handsome memorial, as hundreds of proud Saber alumni looked on and applauded.



KEIKI O KA 'AINA -Continued

The problem is, to develop the site, land use changes are needed from the State Land Use Commission and the County Planning Commission. But these can't happen until the county decides on its intended long term use.

The Glenn Mason firm in Honolulu, expert in historical building preservation, has come up with a plan to stabilize the building, that is, put in floors and a roof, and close the window openings. This can be done for less than \$1 million, financially doable.

But a building permit can't be granted until a water system and hydrants for "fire flow" are installed. Friends doesn't have the money to build a new well (the old well serving the campus collapsed.) And the county is reluctant to extend county water lines until a future is determined for the historic campus.

Meanwhile, it's a great place for reunions. What a pity if no other use is found that honors its great past.



Recent Gifts Enhance Old MHS Archive Collection

Many pieces of MHS history have recently been donated to the Archive Collection by descendants of early graduates, assuring that future generations will be able to access and appreciate many facets of the school's earliest decades.

One notable gift is a recently-discovered photograph of the first Maui High graduating Class, taken in 1916 during their Junior year. It shows twins Alice and Annie Walker as well as Rita Rosencrans, Dorothy Lindsay, Herbert Wells and Olive Lindsay.



Members of Hawaii's National Congressional Delegation sent CONGRATULATIONS HONORING THE MHS CENTENNIAL

“Maui High School has a long and vibrant history of achievement and success . . . Congresswoman Patsy Mink is no doubt smiling down on this momentous moment with a heart full of pride.”

U.S. Representative Colleen W. Hanabusa

“Mahalo nui loa to the Friends of Old Maui High School for your great efforts to preserve the important site of the first co-educational high school on Maui, as well as its memories, traditions, and history.”

U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard

“The original MHS site at Hamakuapoko is still brimming with history and nostalgia and serves as a perpetual beacon of pride for MHS Sabers everywhere.”

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz

“Maui High School provided generations of young people with a quality academic and vocational education . . . may your efforts to preserve the enduring legacy of Old Maui High School continue to instill pride and inspiration to the community.”

U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono

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Many Mahalos to those below who have made donations toward support of the
Old MHS Centennial Celebration.

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Recent Gifts Enhance Old MHS Archive Collection

Alice Walker, however, did not officially graduate, as she dropped out of school in her Senior year, to prepare for her wedding to Robert E. Hughes. Alice’s granddaughter, Maui resident Patty Cannon Mazingo, generously donated the photo, one of the MHS Class of 1918, and a copy of the first MHS Annual, 1917-1918.

The family of 1928 graduate Mary Moodie, who later wed Tom Lillie, and went on to teach for many years in Maui schools, gave the Archive handwritten sheet music titled: Maui High Alma Mater. Present MHS Bandmaster Kerry Wasano believes this is the earliest arrangement scored for the Saber Band, from the 1940s or 1950s. The pages are unsigned; any information about these pages would be appreciated!

