



WINTER 2021-22

FRIENDS OF THE EAST-WEST CENTER

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ALOHA & HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!

The passing of the old year and welcoming of a new one always brings about reflections of learning from the past to strive for a brighter future. The Lunar New Year celebrates the arrival of Spring and the auspicious wishes for a year of good luck, prosperity and longevity. Whether making resolutions or initiating a reboot for ourselves to start off fresh, we center it all on one thing: hope.

There's probably no other year than 2021 that we want to put behind us. While the pandemic continued to upend our lives and the Omicron variant curtailed a much anticipated return to normalcy, the Friends of the East-West Center continued to serve as the bridge between the East-West Center and community with virtual events like the China Seminars, May Day Is Lei Day Event, and our Annual Meeting Panel Discussion.

As the East-West Center bid aloha to Dr. Vuylsteke and recognized his distinguished tenure as president, it welcomed in Ms. Suzanne Vares-Lum to steer the Center into a hopeful future. We look forward to working with President Vares-Lum, the East-West Center Participants Association, and our members in this Year of the Tiger to provide meaningful experiences and events that will enrich our understanding of the Asia-Pacific region and Hawai'i.

The Friends of the East-West Center invite you to an online

LUNAR NEW YEAR PAU HANA PARTY

Thursday, February 24, 2022

6:00 PM via Zoom

Join us for a virtual celebration of the Year of the Tiger with some fun activities & prizes! FEWC & EWCPA members are welcome to attend!

Free event!

Scan the QR code to register or visit the FEWC website:
www.friendsofewc.org



WELCOME TO PRESIDENT SUZANNE VARES-LUM



The Friends of the East-West Center would like to welcome the new president of the East-West Center, Suzanne Vares-Lum. The FEWC Board of Directors had the pleasure of meeting President Vares-Lum at our January Board Meeting and extended our best wishes as she ushers in a new era in this new year at the Center.

President Vares-Lum is the first woman and Native Hawaiian to serve as president. She is a retired Army Major General with 34 years of service and most recently served with the US Indo-Pacific Command.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and her Master of Education in Teaching from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. As a graduate of the US Army War College, she earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree. In 2019, she became a National Security Fellow of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is also an alumna of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Keoni Williams



We welcome Keoni Williams as the EWCPA representative to the Friends of the East-West Center. Keoni will be attending our Board of Director meetings and acts as a liaison between the two organizations.

Born and raised in Hawai'i, Keoni Williams is a J.D. candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law and graduate degree fellow at the East-West Center. He currently serves on the EWC Participants Association (EWCPA) Board as the Alumni and Friends Representative. Keoni holds a dual bachelor's degree in Korean and communications from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, having studied for one year at Korea University. His interests lie at the nexus of policy, law, and the Indo-Pacific region.

How will you utilize the knowledge and experience gained at the EWC in your future endeavors?

The East-West Center has offered me unparalleled access to discussions that address an important consideration: What is the role of Hawai'i in the Indo-Pacific region? This is a question that lies at the core of my academic and professional interests. Any experience and knowledge that I can gain in this regard will allow me to be more useful as the next generation of Hawai'i faces multiple global and regional challenges head-on.

What do you enjoy most about being part of the EWC community?

What I enjoy most about being a part of the East-West Center community is living at Hale Mānoa, right at the heart of the EWC campus. Living in a structure envisioned by the renown Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, who also designed the Louvre in Paris, it is clear that this is not just any student dormitory. It was designed to foster a sense of community and a community it has built — even during a pandemic. They say friendships are made in the kitchen and that's been a reality for me since I moved in.

Any movie or TV show you've recently watched that you'd recommend seeing?

I recently watched the documentary film Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority. PBS Hawai'i made it available for online viewing to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, the landmark legislation for gender equity in education spearheaded by Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink. The film is an important reminder of how one person can make a big difference.

Where in the world would you like to travel to and why?

I would like to travel to Chuuk, Micronesia because that's where my mother was born and raised and I've been hoping to travel there one day with her. I admire people who know their roots and I want to seek out the traditional ecological knowledge that is so abundant in the islands. Also, my relatives lament that I still don't know how to fish, so I should probably get down there sooner than later!

What would you name your boat if you had one?

I would name my boat Moen — not to be confused with the faucet brand! My mother gave me my middle name Moen to honor her home island of Weno in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, which was formerly named Moen.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Fumiko Mori Halloran



The Friends of the East-West Center is saddened by the passing of former Friends board member Fumiko Mori Halloran. Fumiko passed away on November 2, 2021 in Niwot, Colorado. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the FEWC extends our deepest condolences to Fumiko's family and are grateful for her many years of support and contributions to our organization.

During her time with the board, Fumiko chaired the Mary Morgan Fund Committee until 2014.

The Mary Morgan Hewett Fund was established in 1987 by the late Robert Hewett, a longtime senior member of the East-West Center staff, in memory of his wife Mary, a well known photo-journalist who encouraged women to advance their journalistic careers. To this day, the fund provides an opportunity to enrich women's journalistic careers in the Asia-Pacific region. As of 2006, it has awarded travel grants to women who participate in the Jefferson Fellows program.

Fumiko was born on January 11, 1944 in Nagasaki, Japan to Masuo and Hisako Mori. She earned a bachelor's degree from Kyoto University with a major in Oriental history. As a Fulbright student, she studied in the School of International Affairs at Columbia University, majoring in international relations and Chinese regional studies. After earning her MA, she was a researcher in US-Japan relations in New York, Tokyo, and Washington D.C. As an author, her early book, *Washington no Machi kara*, [From the City of Washington] won the Oya Soichi Prize for Non-Fiction.

Before becoming a writer, she served as senior political analyst at the Japan Economic Institute in Washington, program officer at the Japan Center for International Exchange in Tokyo, and bibliographer at the Japan Documentation Center of the East Asia Institute at Columbia.

She and her husband, award-winning journalist and foreign correspondent Richard Halloran, were lifelong supporters of both the East-West Center and the Friends of the East-West Center. Her decades of voluntarism with the Friends board led her to receive the Best Friend Award in 2015.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard and step-son, Christopher Halloran. Fumiko is survived by her step-children, Laura Halloran Wilkason and Catherine Halloran Cook, and grandchildren, Colby Wilkason, T.J. Wilkason, Everett Cook, Anderson Cook, and Virginia Cook.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the East-West Center Annual Meeting was held virtually on November 4, 2021. Proceedings began with an oli performed by Alapaki Luke followed by recognizing Apolonia Stice with the FEWC Best Friend Award and presenting out-going EWC President Dr. Richard Vuylsteke with a plaque of recognition for his leadership at the Center and support of our organization.

To be sustainable, the custom-made plaques were crafted from images of the East-West Center printed on recycled aluminum and salvaged mahogany wood sourced from Re-Use Hawai'i.

A panel discussion was held based on the topic of: *"Where Do We Go From Here? Growing A Sustainable Hawai'i Post-Pandemic"*. Moderated by EWC's Director of Alumni Engagement, Christina Monroe, the discussion focused on how the interconnectivity of the following can grow a more sustainable Hawai'i post-pandemic: equity in tourism: how to manage the industry for the benefit of both locals and tourists; economic diversity: what other sectors will help variegate our economy; and environmental responsibility: how to address climate change as a community.

Panelists included: President and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, John de Fries; Founder and Executive Director of MA'O Organic Farms, Kukui Maunakea-Forth; and City & County of Honolulu Senior Policy Director, Joshua Stanbro.



Recognition plaque presented to Dr. Vuylsteke by FEWC President Chad Zane



FEWC Best Friend Award presented to Apolonia Stice (center) by FEWC Vice President Jackie Ho; with Gary Stice



DONATE TO THE TONGA TSUNAMI RECOVERY FUND

On January 15, 2022, the under water Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano off the coast of Tonga erupted, causing ash to cover the islands of the kingdom, sending an atmospheric shockwave around the globe, and Pacific-wide tsunami waves that caused major devastation across country, especially damaging the largest island of Tongatapu.

While aid efforts continue, the people of Tonga will have a long and arduous recovery ahead. The East-West Center has set up the Tonga Tsunami Recovery Fund where donations will be used to support the urgent and long-term needs of those affected.

Visit the EWC website for more information to help Tonga recover from this disaster: www.eastwestcenter.org

BECOME A FRIEND!

Your support through becoming a member or renewing your membership at the *Friend* or *Sustaining* member levels will help to continue the Friends of the East-West Center's rich legacy!



Scan the QR code or visit our website to find out more information about the Friends of the East-West Center and upcoming activities & events.

www.friendsofewc.org/membership

FRIENDS OF THE EAST-WEST CENTER MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

____ FRIEND MEMBER \$50

____ SUSTAINING MEMBER \$100

CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES

____ I would like to donate \$_____ in addition to my Friends of the East-West Center membership

____ I am interested in being contacted about volunteering at FEWC programs and events

____ I would like to sponsor one of the following programs & events with a donation of \$_____

____ Student Welcome Kits ____ Seminar or Guest Speaker Event

____ Student Holiday Party ____ International Education Day

____ Social Events ____ Jefferson Fellowship Reception

PAYMENT OPTIONS

____ Online payment: friendsofewc.org/membership

____ Check payable to: Friends of the East-West Center

____ Charge \$_____ on my MasterCard or Visa

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Friends of the East-West Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Friends@EastWestCenter.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

(Events, dates and venues are subject to change depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation and EWC policies)

FEB. 10

February China Seminar
online session; 12 noon HST

FEB. 17-20

EWC International Graduate Student Conference
online sessions

FEB. 24

FEWC Lunar New Year Pau Hana Party
online; 6 pm HST

MAR. 10

March China Seminar
online session; 12 noon HST

CONTACT US



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