

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On September 12, 2009 I was elected to serve as the President of the Friends of the Zoo. We were gathered to recognize our friend and leader, Jean Curtis; to honor her, as our outgoing president, to elect a new board of directors, and officers, and celebrate Jean's long overdue and well deserved retirement. Instead, it was a day of sadness and reflection as we tried to reconcile the events of the recent weeks. I offer my condolences to George Curtis and the entire Curtis ohana as we mourn the loss of our dear friend and long standing FOZ President, Jean Curtis.

With a special thank you to the incoming board, I look forward to working with you, serving the Friends of the Zoo membership and working with the community in support of the zoo. Together, we can make the Friends of the Zoo organization stronger than ever.

When Jean asked me to become President this year, she said that she would be here to "mentor" me as I learned to do all the things that she knew about being President of FOZ. She said that I would have an advantage that she didn't have when she took over. She said that she had to learn everything on her own "the hard way". She started from scratch, learning as things came up.

Fortunately, Jean left an amazing legacy ... and a great deal of history ... and most of all she left a wonderful team, willing to keep moving forward in her honor. I will be looking to all of you for help and guidance in the upcoming year. I am humbled and honored to serve as your president.

--*Karla Cook*, President, Friends of the Zoo

You will find the park bench donated by the Curtis family overlooking Namaste's pond. It bears this inscription:

**"Dear Jean, you will be truly missed but never forgotten.  
Love, Namaste & Others you have touched throughout your life."**

## THE “ZOOOPER” NEWS REPORT

Happy Holidays! The days are getting shorter and rainy season is upon us but the botanical garden plants don't seem to mind at all as the blooms have not skipped a beat! Max doesn't seem to mind the almost daily rains as he enjoys bathing as the clouds unleash their fortifying qualities.

Fall has blessed us not only with the rain but with the birth of two new “bintlets” on November 7, 2009. Lucille and Ricky Ricardo are the proud parents once again. The “bintlets” have begun to explore their new surroundings under the watchful eye of mom and zoo staff. Lucy, as we affectionately call her, was separated from Ricky about two months before she gave birth and seems very calm and relaxed with her second set of offspring. Keoki-Ann, daughter of Lucy who was born back in February 2009 continues to mature and now weighs over twenty pounds!

We have also recently acquired a male Asian Forest Tortoise on loan from the Honolulu Zoo to keep Ms. Jolene company. “Brownie”, was born in July of 1993. The next time you stroll past the Asian Forest Tortoise enclosure stop by and visit with “Brownie.” We have just begun to introduce them to each other under the watchful eye of our Fall intern, **Carissa Miller**.

Carissa comes to us from Evergreen College in Western Washington State. She began her internship in late September and will be with us until mid December. Carissa has done volunteer work at the world renowned Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. Her program here at the zoo has exposed her to the daily duties of our zookeepers, guiding school tours, information booth duties, working with animal enrichment and event planning.

The annual docent (volunteer zoo guide) training will be taking place at the zoo for six consecutive Thursdays from February 4 through March 11, 2010 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Registration forms will be available soon. For more information contact Terry Moniz at 959-7224 or email [tmoniz@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:tmoniz@co.hawaii.hi.us).

**We have had two school groups provide community service to the Pana'ewa Zoo & Gardens since our last report. Students and teachers from the Hawaii Academy of Arts & Sciences with the help of members of the Vireya club helped with landscape maintenance of the Vireya garden while Boy Scouts of America Troop 49 assisted with landscape maintenance of our zoo entrance. We are thankful for the continued assistance from groups like these that help keep our zoo well manicured.**

We would like to take this time to welcome our new Senior Enrollee, **James**, who along with Nancy has been hard at work maintaining the grounds.

Stop by the zoo this Holiday season and treat yourself to all the splendor that the zoo has to offer. If you're lucky, Max may sing in the rain for you as he enjoys his daily bath in our liquid sunshine!

--Terry Moniz, Education Specialist,  
Pana'ewa Zoo and Rainforest Gardens

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS AT THE ZOO

You are invited to attend FOZ's annual Christmas Party for the zoo animals on Dec. 12, starting at 9:30 when Namaste gets his favorite toy, a pumpkin. Each animal will get a special treat but watching the primates with their presents is a real treat for visitors. Come by the primadome at 9:45 to watch the Spider Monkeys tear into their packages.

Christmas 2008



Photos courtesy of Lanaya Deily

Pana'ewa Stampede Rodeo -  
Pana'ewa Equestrian Center -  
Feb 13-14, 2009 -  
Sponsored by: -  
The Hawaii Horse Owners Association -

### SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS

Enjoy a leisurely visit to the zoo and do some Christmas shopping at the same time what could be better!

The gift shop offers an array of items including T-shirts (with designs exclusive to the zoo) in toddler through adult 2X size, award winning hand puppets, books, puzzles, handmade pillows and totes, plus animals, toys, replicas and more.

Find some unique gifts and remember, as a member, you will receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

All profits from the Friends of the Zoo Gift Shop as well as all other donations help FOZ build and upgrade animal exhibits, provide public education, animal acquisitions and enrichment.

**MAHALO AND MELE KALIKIMAKA**

- Pat Larson, FOZ Gift Shop manager

## NEWS FLASH .... ZOO SUPER HERO

Kenneth Ikeda may seem like a polite, mild mannered 6<sup>th</sup> grader who enjoys



Kenneth Ikeda, photo courtesy of Dan Lloyd - social studies, swimming on the NAS team (county's aquatic novice program), boogie boarding and making robotics, but Friends of the Pana'ewa Zoo along with Max and all our other wild friends here at the zoo think of Kenneth as a super hero!

That's right. He's a true super hero but without the cape and mask. I bet you're wondering, what could a young man of 11 could do that

would elevate him to super hero status? Well you see, Kenneth has been coming to the Pana'ewa Zoo every other Sunday with his grandmother, Lea, since he was a toddler. These were not just ordinary walk around visits, although Kenneth always goes to visit Namaste and to say hello to Max.

For the last 4 years, Kenneth has collected spare change from his grandpa, mom, dad and grandmother and has brought it to Patsy Tamashiro at the Zoo Gift Shop for donation to FOZ. Over the course of these years, Kenneth has donated nearly \$500 to FOZ for the benefit of the animals!

So you see, Kenneth truly is a super hero. Just ask Max next time you visit the zoo.

**Mahalo Nui Loa to Kenneth from all of us at FOZ for his continued contributions to help improve the Pana'ewa Zoo!!**

--Patty Anger, FOZ Newsletter

## MEMBERSHIP

FOZ would like to thank all of our members who have signed up to receive their copy of the newsletter via email. We had a few problems sending the last newsletter, due to some invalid email addresses. If you have changed your email address OR have not already signed up and would like to start receiving your copy of the newsletter via email, please let us know by sending a note to [panaewazoo@aol.com](mailto:panaewazoo@aol.com).

We currently have 95 members who receive the newsletter via email (MAHALO!) and would like to increase that number. Please consider getting your newsletter electronically.

We added eleven new members at Namaste's birthday. **We appreciate the support Friends of Pana'ewa Zoo provide and thank you for your continued support.**

--Judy Bevington, Membership -

## ZOO BORN

Binturongs Lucille and Ricky Ricardo are proud to announce the birth of two bouncing, baby bear cats! Born October 7, 2009, they have not yet been named nor have their sexes been determined. They are, however, out and about from their cozy nest in the maternity ward right next to daddy Ricky. Mom Lucille is still nursing, though both babies have been seen tasting the tempting fruits and vegetables with an occasional mouse, which their keeper Roger Simons prepares for the family.



Lucille Ricardo and unnamed bintlets



Photos courtesy of Pana'ewa Zoo and Rainforest Gardens

Although they are neither bear, nor cat, except for a distant relationship to Civets, Binturongs (*Binturong Arctictis*) have an amazing identity all their own. They are one of only two carnivores with a prehensile (grasping) tail, the other being the Kinkajou. They are found in the tree tops of tropical rain forests in Southeast Asia, and are considered nocturnal. However, Lucille & the Bintlets can be seen lounging on their log in the sun.

Be sure to stop by and visit, as the little ones will quickly grow up to (and maybe over) 30 pounds. Seeing these animals, which are at risk in their native lands, is a rare privilege. The Pana'ewa Zoo is the only zoo in Hawaii which has binturongs. Besides, they are cute beyond belief!

--Renee Kama, FOZ Director



### FRIENDS OF THE ZOO BOARD MEMBERS 2009 – 2010

OFFICERS		DIRECTORS	
<b>President</b>	Karla Cook	Patricia Anger	Dawn Hawkins
<b>Co-Vice-Pres.</b>	Barbara Thomason	Carol Babineaux	Renee Kama
	Devin Magallanes	Dan Beer	Pat Larson
<b>Co-Secretary</b>	Lisa Nelms	Judy Bevington	Ron Phillips
	Barbra Green	Nina Bremer	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gretchen Klungness	Pat Engelhard	



## MAHALO FOR HELPING ME CELEBRATE MY 11TH BIRTHDAY. LOVE, NAMASTE

Namaste and the Friends of the Zoo would like to thank you for your contributions and support in making his 11th birthday party such a big success. Without you, it would not have been a party.

On September 26, 2009 friends, guests, volunteers, vendors and entertainers joined us in celebrating Namaste's big day. We also dedicated a mural in honor of Jean Curtis, our long time president of FOZ, for her years of dedication and commitment to Namaste and the community. Thank you for the part you played on this special day.

Mahalo for your dedication and contribution to this event,

--*Karla Cook*, Event Chairperson and President, Friends of the Zoo



Namaste celebrates his 11th birthday with bone and ice cake, photo courtesy of Lanaya Deily -



## THE SCARSY PROJECT

Did you ever want to know how you could help the Zoo? Scouts, hobbyists & carpenters wanted:

These are pictures of a Parrot house that was built for a beautiful Scarlet Macaw named Scarsy. We are using this wonderful bird house as a sample and have named this ongoing project after this special bird.

You have an opportunity to build one or more of the following:

Large Parrot House  
Rabbit AND/OR Guinea Pig Hutch

All wood used in the fabrication must be untreated pine. The Houses may be "painted" with food coloring like the one in the picture. If you have access to wood burning equipment, lines and or designs may be burnt into the exterior sides and colored with food coloring. If you are interested, please send a request for plans to [FOZ@hilozoo.com](mailto:FOZ@hilozoo.com).



Barbara Thomason with Zoey Manu, photo - courtesy of Karla Cook -

--Karla Cook, FOZ President

## The Information Booth

Volunteering as a Docent at the Pana'ewe Zoo has many rewarding jobs and one of them is working in the Information Booth at the entrance to the zoo. We are the Ambassadors of the zoo as we greet our visitors who are a mixture of local people, Mainland and world travelers. All of us that donate our time in working this booth want to make sure that our visitors enjoy the wonderful mostly Rainforest animals and the beautiful gardens with its diverse plant life. I personally like to highlight the Binturongs and ask the keikis to see if they can smell popcorn, which is their skunking scent as they approach their enclosure.

During the slow periods when there aren't many visitors most of us have bonded with our 'official' greeter Max, our resident Catalina Macaw who has his enclosure across the path from the Information Booth. His whispers of 'do you have a cookie?' always bring a chuckle and a smile to everyone within listening distance.

Getting all of the positive feedback as our visitors leave is very rewarding in that it reinforces what everyone has worked so hard to accomplish, making this a great zoo and fabulous gardens from both zoo staff and our many volunteers.

--Lisa Matlage, FOZ Docent

## Honoring Jean Curtis President of Friends of the Zoo 2001 – 2009

On October 3, 2009 we said farewell to our friend Jean Curtis at the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens. A tribute to Jean's life and service to the community was attended by family, friends, and colleagues alike. We joined together to share how much she was loved and appreciated as a President, friend and mentor. We met to comfort one another, talk story, exchange memories and wish our Friends of the Zoo President a fond "a hui ho".

Quoting from Jean's farewell message to the Friends of the Zoo, "I served as your president for eight and a half years. I first became involved with the zoo in 1992 after we moved to Hilo from Honolulu. Suky Byrne trained me as a docent, and as they say, the rest is history!"

With 17 years of service to FOZ, the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo, and the educational community, we have collectively suffered a tremendous loss. Jean had very tiny feet, but her shoes will be hard to fill. It will take all of us working in a focused manner, to keep her dream alive, and honor her "life's work".

As Faith Elarinoff said when notifying the FOZ board members of Jean's passing: "Our recognition of Jean's life and contributions will be to continue and improve upon her legacy. I ask all of you join me in this mission as we hold her forever close in our hearts and memories."

Jean concluded her letter to us, "I am not really leaving --- my heart will always be at the zoo" and I believe her.

**One person, one educator, can truly make a difference.  
Jean Curtis – (1947-2009)**



ABOVE: Dr. Marlene Hapai and Jean's hanai grandson, Adam, giving the blessing. UPPER RIGHT: Ron Phillips, Lisa Matlage, Karla Cook, Mayor Billy Kenoi, the Mayor's son, Renee Kama and Donna Phillips, plaque presentation. RIGHT: Memorial plaque, photos courtesy of Karla Cook



# **FRIENDS OF THE PANA'EWA ZOO**

**P.O. Box 738**

**Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749**



## **Friends of the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo - 2010 Events**

<b>Feb. 04 – March 11</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Docent Training Course (6 wks), Thurs. 9am-12 noon Zoo Sponsored Event/T. Moniz, Chairperson Potluck lunch, March 11-FOZ</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Jean Curtis Day</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Exposition</b>
<b>July 31</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Family Fun Day - 32<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party, Hawaii County Band Concert</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Annual Membership meeting and elections</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Namaste's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday party Hawaii County Band Concert</b>
<b>October 31</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>ZooBoo – Zoo Sponsored Event /T. Moniz Chairperson</b>
<b>December 04</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Christmas party for animals, volunteers and staff</b>
<b>Evening Event</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Date and Speaker to be determined</b>