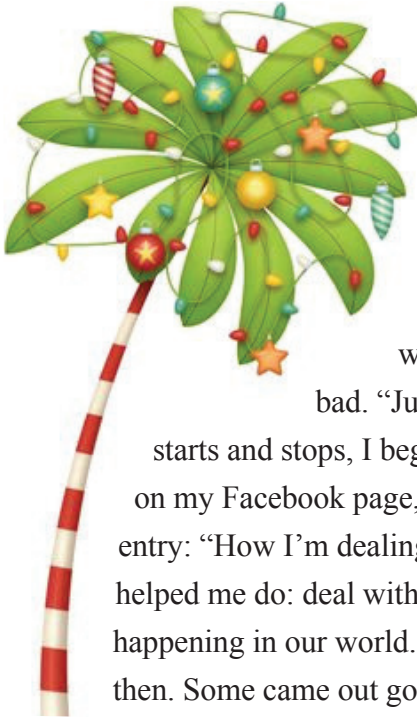


Aloha Aloha



Dear friends, I hope this letter finds you well.

It's hard to believe we're all still suffering through a pandemic. Where do you find sanctuary? In what do you find solace and a chance to get away from it all?

Let me share with you one of the things I do. Someone once advised me to write a poem a day, no matter how good, how bad. "Just write," he said. After many decades of starts and stops, I began on March 28, 2020 to post a poem a day on my Facebook page, a page I started that very day. I called that entry: "How I'm dealing with the pandemic." That's what writing has helped me do: deal with the pandemic and all the rest of the turmoil happening in our world. I've posted something almost every day since then. Some came out good, others not so. Here's one I kind of like:

**I read somewhere that
life is a day-old mushroom,
meaning it goes as fast
as it comes. Better believe
it. Find that story that makes
you totally alive, that almost
writes itself. Help keep
Bamboo Ridge alive.**

I have also returned to old issues of *Bamboo Ridge*. One I recently looked through was *The Best of Bamboo Ridge* (1986.) I really just wanted to see my poem about eating fish heads. I also re-read Eric Chock's essay "On Local Literature." We sometimes forget how Hawai'i writers were dismissed back then, how Bamboo Ridge Press challenged the notion that there was no such thing as local literature. Find your old issues or visit our digital archive; then pick up one of our recent issues. See what BRP has done for nearly 45 years creating space for writers like myself and all the emerging ones excited for their first publication.

Even after all this time BRP stays alive from grant to grant and through the efforts of volunteers possessed of dogged determination. But we can't do it alone. Won't you help to keep Hawai'i voices thriving? Your donation

is very important and will help BRP continue to give Hawai'i writers a place to share their work. You will also be giving readers a place to shelter and return to over and over again to experience Hawai'i writing.

Mahalo for your generosity and support.

**If I could make music
that bores holes in the sky,
write words that rope rainbows.
If I could make you taste
with a verb
smell with a noun.
If I could turn tears
into dance
yes, wouldn't it be great,
if I could.**



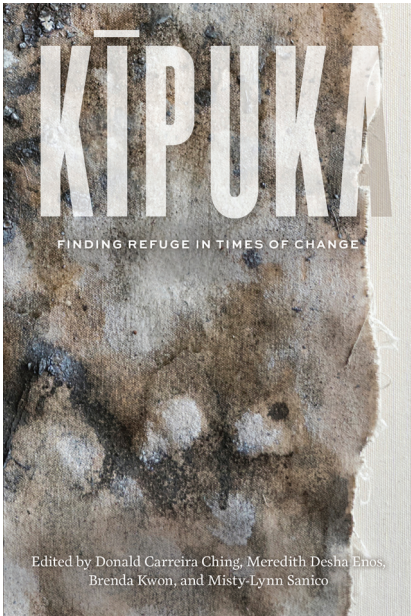
Sincerely,
Jean Yamasaki Toyama

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December 2021 – BRP is 43!

~Mahalo for your continued support~

NEW TITLES

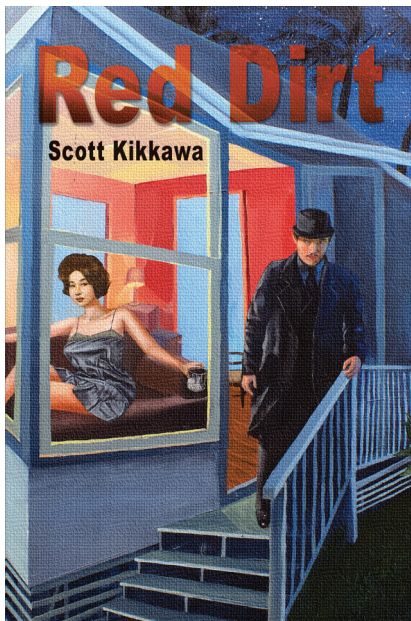


Kīpuka: Finding Refuge in Times of Change

(*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #119)

Edited by Donald Carreira Ching, Meredith Desha Enos, Brenda Kwon, and Misty-Lynn Sanico

This special issue of *Bamboo Ridge* is a sampling of local literature two decades into the 21st century, during a period of unprecedented economic stress, pervasive uncertainty, natural disasters, and climate change, added to sociopolitical upheaval—and a pandemic. The call for submissions to this anthology referenced Kīlauea’s 2018 eruption, a reminder that renewal and erasure are natural law. Work on this book progressed while a global health crisis burgeoned. The collection includes pandemic writing by established local favorites Darrell H. Y. Lum, Juliet S. Kono, R. Zamora Linmark, and award-winning poet and critical care nurse Christy Passion. It also embraces emerging writers, such as Kaua‘i High English teacher Jonathon Medeiros, who, when schools closed during the 2020 lockdown, started writing poetry every night with his wife and young daughters. Interspersed with writing by almost forty authors are color images of artwork by four Native Hawaiian artists whose creations range from sculpture and collage to murals and painted trees. *Kīpuka* explores the challenges of growing up and living in contemporary Hawai‘i and chronicles historic times.



Red Dirt

(*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #120) by Scott Kikkawa

Following on the heels of his critically acclaimed debut noir novel, *Kona Winds*, Scott Kikkawa resumes his depiction of 1950s Honolulu Police Department Detective Sergeant Francis “Sheik” Yoshikawa, a Japanese American Nisei veteran of World War II. Handsome, street smart, literate, and haunted by memories of his military service in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Sheik must solve a murder case that begins with the discovery of a burned and dismembered body found in a sugarcane field. Investigating the victim’s life to see who would have wanted him dead leads to a local communist study group that’s being hunted down by the federal government. A compelling mystery with a breathtaking, unexpected ending.

A product of Hawai‘i Kai in East Honolulu, **Scott Kikkawa** writes noir detective stories set in postwar Honolulu. His first book, *Kona Winds*, was released at the end of 2019 and spent six months on the Small Press Distribution Fiction Bestsellers List. He serves as a columnist and an Associate Editor for *The Hawai‘i Review of Books*. *Red Dirt* is his second full-length novel and a third is scheduled for release in 2023. Winner of an Elliot Cades Award for Literature, the New York University alumnus is currently a federal law enforcement officer and lives with his family in Honolulu.

Available online at www.BambooRidge.org

Congratulations!

Recognized this year by the Hawai'i Literary Arts Council:



Elmer Omar Bascos Pizo
author of the poetry collection
Leaving Our Shadows Behind Us
(*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #114),
received the Elliot Cades Award for Literature for established writer.



Gail N. Harada
author of *Beyond Green Tea and Grapefruit*
(*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #103),
received the Loretta D. Petrie Award recognizing her
contributions to the local literary community
over the last four decades.

Upcoming

2022



*Flowers of Hawai'i and Other Plays**
(*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #121) by Lee Cataluna

*Includes *Aloha Attire*, *The Great Kaua'i Train Robbery*, and
Uncle's Regularly Scheduled Garage Party is Cancelled Tonight



Snaring the Sun
(*Bamboo Ridge* Issue #122),
a special anthology of
speculative writing,
edited by Tom Gammarino,
Bryan Kamaole Kuwada,
D. Keali'i MacKenzie,
and Lyz Soto



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