

# Nā Momi Ho‘oheno

PRECIOUS GEMS



EPISODE 2



Mae Kamāmalu Klein

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NĪNAUELE 'IA E HAU'OLI AKAKA

- 0:00** **Nā Momi Ho‘oheno Wehena: Prelude kī ho‘ālu music by Ke‘ala Kwan with opening credits**
- 0:17** **Kēhau:** Aloha and welcome to Nā Momi Ho‘oheno, a Hawaiian oral history series produced by the Ho‘okahua Cultural Vibrancy Division of the Kamehameha Schools. Mae Kamāmalu Klein was born and raised on O‘ahu. She began hula at age seven and continued her studies well into adulthood. She would go on to become a kumu hula, opening her hālau in 1984 and actively teaching for the next three decades. Aunty Mae is well known for the close relationship she shared with the late Aunty Maiki Aiu Lake and for her steadfast perpetuation of the ‘ūniki rituals of their hula lineage. Today, at the age of 90, Aunty Mae is retired from teaching hula, but her hula legacy lives on through the 40 kumu hula she has graduated, many of who have opened their own hālau. We hope you enjoy this conversation between Mae Kamāmalu Klein and Hau‘oli Akaka. Aloha!
- 1:22** **Hau‘oli:** Tell us who you are, where you’re from because that gives us a sense of your identity, that we know you are; who you are because of where you come from. So, can you start with your inoa? Where you was born and raised. A little bit about your ‘ohana. Childhood, your ‘ohana.
- 1:40** **Aunty Mae:** My name is Mae Claire Miller. I was born and raised in Kalihi, May 14, 1932. Number 7 of 8 children. 4 boys and actually 4 girls so there’s actually 8 of us. And long story short, I lived in Kalihi, was raised on Gulick Avenue and back then everybody was Aunty and Uncle. You can go in each other’s houses and like lunch time, as an example, if you were at the Miller home. It’s time for us to have lunch. And if the two are standing outside, don’t stand outside. Come on and join the children for lunch. Then you hear a mother calling and no, I’m gonna stay at Uncle Bill’s house and eat. My dad was a fantastic cook and he worked for Pearl Harbor. He was the leading man in the plumbing department. Yeah, so, December 7th as an example when the planes came into Hawai‘i, the Japanese, we were at Mass. Mass was in Kalihi at St. Anthony’s church and long story short we were sent home, and go straight home, don’t stray on the streets and they said that there was a plane that had dropped a bomb. And everybody’s rushing. Parents are rushing to get their children from the church and getting home into the houses.

And I had the privilege of seeing a plane with a big red sun flying right over us, went up to Nu‘uanu. And we had an aunty that lived right next to Queen Emma Gardens and right in the park there where the first bomb fell. And, of course, the family is all nervous because here’s this aunty. But we didn’t have technology like you folks have nowadays. You have to dial, and if you have a party line, if somebody’s on it, “get off the line, I need to get on” kinda thing. So, anyway, we were born during that time, World War II. And it was a struggle for families because all of the boys that were seniors, there were not enough so they took the seniors from every school. So two of my brothers got caught, was 11 and 12th graders that went off to war. And that time too they have rations to buy food. And like now, right now we’re having problems with food. Yeah. And back then you stood in line for poi and you were only given this one pound of poi. And we as children just obeyed and they sent us to different lines cause you cannot go on the same line. So maybe this line just has potatoes or bread or whatever. At least they got to feed. But Hawaiians were quite, what do you say, capable people, I think. They knew how to...

4:36

**Hau‘oli:** Resourceful.



4:37

**Aunty Mae:** Resourceful, very resourceful. That's the word, in feeding families. But they had big families, you know. Like us we have 8. But my dad was a fantastic cook. My mom didn't know how to cook and I always say this. My mom was a princess. And, by princess I mean now 8 children, she has to be very busy. But she wasn't. My dad had people to come in and take care of us. My mom was just there for him. And to enjoy her children. But my dad also, I used to say, why does he wear this silly red hat? And we found out years later that my dad was a shriner. And once a year they'd have these big parties and all these shriners would come out and then these children came out. Then we saw what the shriner was about, in taking care of these unfortunate, not unfortunate, children that had disabilities, I guess that's what you call it, and the home now that's on Punahou Street, that home originally, I think, belonged to the Dowsett family. Yeah, and why I put that in is because my husband worked for the Dowsett family. Yeah, but going back to my time, the war years and things happened, and my dad, again, a marvelous man because he would have a party one time, Thanksgiving, I think, it was just sailors that were there. Our house because we had 4 girls in the house, were surrounded with SP's.

6:16

**Hau'oli:** What are SP's?

6:18

**Aunty Mae:** SP's are special police. Yeah, so in other words, they're protecting the girls in the house because my dad had a party for about 112 boys, sailors, all sailors. And then he did it again, Christmas, but he brought in soldiers. And we used to say, Why is dad doing this, mom? He says your dad was worried that your brothers are eating turkey and ham for, you know, celebration for the holidays. and I said to myself, of course, I'm an adult now. Military took care of their own, right? They fed their own. But here was my dad and doing these kinds of things, you know, out of the box, you know. He didn't have to. But he did it so the sailors and the soldiers got to eat at the Miller's estate. I called it an estate.



7:05

**Hau'oli:** But, 'anakē, as a child your father probably had such an impression on you. Yeah, the way that he took care of others, cared for your family, firstly, and then as you mentioned him being a shriner and caring for children with disabilities, taking care of the military. We have different perceptions of them today, as well as these many years later, but tell us what happened when your father passed away and how long and how life changed?

7:33

**Aunty Mae:** Ooh, when my dad passed away it was really hard because we were spoiled and we always knew when he was going to have a party because he took all of us to town. And his favorite place was this one chinese store. He always had, it's called the Miller table. And he would sit with all of us to eat. So, we'll have lunch and then he'd take the boys shopping. My mom would take the girls shopping. But my mom's not shopping, the sales clerks are shopping for us. They get to choose what we wear and not my mom. It's privilege.



8:09

**Aunty Mae:** Anyway, then he would say, I'm entertaining tonight. So we know that we have to be quiet and we have quiet games. And we have someone to sit with us and we never knew that this was a cousin of ours. Brought them to our house to babysit with us, to take us to the beach. To just do about everything, you know, do laundry and everything else. So, it kind of made me say, why was my dad like this, you know, to allow my mom to be a princess? But that's his privilege, you know? And then we have mango trees. You name it, we had it, flower trees and flower bushes. And he would make mango chutney and he would give it to the whole neighborhood. And his sons would have to pick it. So there was this one son and I would always have to be the one to catch his mangos, but he would always bite one or two. Take a couple of pieces out. So that's what they call the kolohe one, I said, so maybe I, how would you say? I picked up his genes.

9:06

**Hau'oli:** And what is your ethnicity?

9:08

**Aunty Mae:** I'm German, Hawaiian, Portuguese and my grandpa is Portuguese.

9:16

**Hau'oli:** And you no more Pākē? I'm surprised.



- 9:18**      **Aunty Mae:** No more Pākē. Yeah, and like I said, my grandma and then my dad's side is where the German comes in and long story short, I realize how special my dad was. How he treated us, how he treated people like how he treated the boys and thinking that his sons might not be eating turkey during the war, but life goes on and dad passes away and then we realized how special we were. I remember as a youngster going to my dad's funeral, and people saying, where did Mr. Miller hide all of his children? And I said, hide? He didn't hide us. We were right there while they were having their parties. We were reading our books. Our caretakers would be our cousins, reading stories and kept us quiet. And the thing that I'm really fascinated about till today, how did this man educate all 8 children in a private school? We all went to private schools. And then, of course, when this happened, like I said my mom was his princess, who didn't know how to take care of us. Mom had to find help so, long story short, she was led to QLCC, Queen Lili'uokalani Trust, and it really wasn't her, it was my grandpa who took care of us. So he got to talk to QLCC because my oldest sister took the older ones above us.
- 10:57**      **Hau'oli:** And they would've been teenagers?
- 10:59**      **Aunty Mae:** Teenagers, yeah, and would be easy because she couldn't have children so she took the two and raised them. And so the two younger ones went, ended up with the nuns at Sacred Hearts Convent. And Sacred Hearts Convent had a boarding school and they also had an orphanage in Kalihi Valley. And they took in from babies all the way up.
- 11:23**      **Hau'oli:** And you were one of the two younger ones?
- 11:26**      **Aunty Mae:** Yes, I was one of the two younger ones.
- 11:28**      **Hau'oli:** How old were you at that time?
- 11:29**      **Aunty Mae:** I was 7 years old.
- 11:31**      **Hau'oli:** And your younger sister?

- 11:32**      **Aunty Mae:** My younger sister was 4.
- 11:33**      **Hau'oli:** 4 years old.
- 11:35**      **Aunty Mae:** Like I said, we were brought up by the nuns and I attended Sacred Hearts Convent until the 9th grade. And then 10th grade you go to Sacred Hearts Academy. Now these are French nuns, European nuns, but my friends got into St. Francis and I passed the test too so I said I'm going to St. Francis and so she says, no you're not. You're going to Sacred Hearts. I'm going to St. Francis and if not, I'm going to run away.
- 12:03**      **Hau'oli:** Ahh, there it is the kolohe.
- 12:04**      **Aunty Mae:** And that was where it all began and the nuns did not wanna take a chance so they said, well, we'll let her go to St. Francis so the way the nuns did it, they dropped the Sacred Hearts girls first, and then they dropped me off last. But they would pick me up first and they would pick the girls last because these girls did not get to see St. Francis Convent.
- 12:25**      **Hau'oli:** Now, was St. Francis, did they have a stigma to be a better school?
- 12:30**      **Aunty Mae:** No, it was just a different order, the Franciscan orders and the Franciscan order are American nuns. And they're connected like St. Francis hospital. And I'll share an example. While in the orphanage, well in St. Francis, Sister Bonaventure was my counselor and she gave up, can you imagine, she comes from a billionaire family and she gave it up to become a nun and she always said that my brother said, more for him. Which is true, right?
- 13:06**      **Hau'oli:** More for and who's the him?



- 13:08**      **Aunty Mae:** Her brother. Her brother says, more money for me because his sister is giving up her share. She's going to the convent but not realizing the father tends the money for St. Francis hospital but she has such a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful face and even at my age I said, why is she giving it up for? So anyway, you kind of mold yourself from these types of people. She walks away from money. So not giving money value, I guess. But you're still young and trying to figure it out, you know what I'm saying.
- 13:43**      **Hau'oli:** To live a life of service.
- 13:44**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, service. And so it gives you again, when you look at nuns you say, how many did this? And some go because they have no place else to go, right? So, like it came my senior year. Claire, where are you going? In big, bold letters I put nunnery. Where else was I going?
- 14:05**      **Hau'oli:** What's the official term for a nunnery? What's a nunnery?
- 14:10**      **Aunty Mae:** What's a nunnery? Nunnery is when you go in to become a nun.
- 14:13**      **Hau'oli:** Is that a convent?
- 14:16**      **Aunty Mae:** A convent, yeah. Like Sacred Hearts Convent, they're called. St. Francis is just St. Francis high school. So, that's the difference, already. American and European.
- 14:26**      **Hau'oli:** Well, when I hear nunnery I think of piggery.
- 14:28**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, yeah, exactly. So I got this nunnery thing going. So, but like I said, nunnery. But she took that as, no, you have to go into the world, she said.
- 14:39**      **Hau'oli:** What does that mean to go into the world?

- 14:41**      **Aunty Mae:** Exactly! I said, Where am I going into the world? You know what I'm saying. She said don't worry, we'll work it out. I said, ok. She'll work it out. So long story short, then I found out that we have a social worker and her name was Miss Paris.
- 15:00**      **Hau'oli:** She was a social worker with Queen Lili'uokalani?
- 15:03**      **Aunty Mae:** Yes, with Queen Lili'uokalani Trust and really a nice, soft spoken person and she explained to me that I was going to go to this home on 'Auwaiolimu road. And there was another girl there that was also from the Department of Public Welfare. But she didn't use those terms. But another girl like you that comes from a broken home. I said, ok. And what's the chances of meeting another Mae. Her name was also Mae. So, anyway, but I was using Claire because Mae is not a Catholic name. So I had to go by Claire, as in St. Clare. So I had to study about St. Clare. Ok, so I accepted the name. So then you learn the difference between QLCC, this is Queen Lili'uokalani Trust and the Department of Public Welfare. Cause unknowns to me, this Mae says, how come you have this pretty dress? I'm looking at my dress, well it's a dress! Cause you don't know where your dress comes from. Your social worker does your work for you. Whatever she gives you, you're grateful for. You see, even your shoes. So it taught me and made me think about it. Ok, when I go to school today I'm gonna ask the girl where did you buy your clothes. My mom buys my clothes from Liberty House. So you get to look and observe. Now at that age I'm already looking at clothes and how people are dressing. Then I have to be thankful if I'm dressing the same way that the most of the people are dressing.
- 16:27**      **Hau'oli:** You're noticing the haves and the have-nots.
- 16:29**      **Aunty Mae:** Yes, the haves and the have-nots. And I said, well, my social worker bought. She said, I have a social worker. So she asked her social worker and she said, this is what I have to work with. So, as young as you are you try, you figure it out or you can't figure it out and so you leave it alone. And then you figure it out when you're much older. So, anyway being in the social system, so then I said then I must be very polite with my social worker. Not complain and accept things but be very grateful.

So, already being thankful for things that come to me and not question it. And not saying, well, I don't like this color or I don't like the dress. You know, I'm just wearing it.

**17:10**      **Hau'oli:** You began to develop the attitude of gratitude.

**17:13**      **Aunty Mae:** Yes, yes. Gratitude.

**17:16**      **Hau'oli:** Now, did you have a sense that this social worker, Miss Paris, Paris was her name, as the ward of QLCC, did you get a sense of maybe she was part Hawaiian or was she local?

**17:28**      **Aunty Mae:** She was a local girl but not Hawaiian. Not Hawaiian but lived in, I would say from my time the elite area, which was Nu'uaniu.

**17:38**      **Hau'oli:** Oh, where you now live.

**17:40**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, where I now live. It's very interesting.

**17:44**      **Hau'oli:** But this is Nu'uaniu ma uka.



17:45

**Aunty Mae:** Ma uka, yeah. This is ma kai. But anyway, you know, growing up in that situation, and you make yourself comfortable but being thankful that grandpa had sense enough that knowing that he couldn't take care of two young ones, because you think at first that your family abandoned you. But they didn't, yeah? They had to find help and he was smart enough to find help for me and then you learn about your parents and then knowing that they said your mom was a queen and was trying to figure it out. Because you're young. Now you're older. I got it. And I remember when I got married, my husband said, you know you're not going to be a queen.

18:20

**Hau'oli:** So those were very formative years for you, from the ward, into the ali'i trust. And then here we are, and I thank you again for the years of your service before you retired and just focused on your kumu hula. Then you worked for another ali'i trust. First Pauahi and Kamehameha Schools...

18:44

**Aunty Mae:** And it's really interesting you know. If it wasn't for my oldest sister, if I would've been the person I am today. Because it led me to so many different venues, in other words. Like you say, you start to create your thoughts as to what kind of person you want to be and what your values are, yeah? So when you have your children you're already beginning when they're very young. Be thankful you have this apple on your table. Children, it's not their fault. They're not raised that way. Want, want, want. And rather than share, share, share. But again with this situation with my sister was the one because now I am hāpai with my children and don't know what to do with them. Then she says why don't you send them to hula? I said, hula? And not realizing that my sister said, yes, you should know about hula. I said, maybe a long time ago. Not realizing that my first hula teacher was Louise Beamer and her house. And she had a lānai that overlooked the park at Lanakila in Kalihi and with the lauhala mat and when I saw that as a child I thought, wow how fancy! Like my sister said I took it two years and then when the war broke out we had to stop. And then when things got quiet again and then I went to Aunty Sally Woods, and being Mormon she was teaching in one of the wards, I guess, off Liliha street. So I was with her for a little while and then this was while I was still young.



And then left hula and became a boarder with the nuns forever after that, you know what I'm saying. And long story short, I was having my children. And during this time is when I met up with my mom again because after dad died, everything went (Aunty's hand motion of separating). Then mom had to learn how to work and of course it was very difficult for her. She did marry a Chinese man and I was hearing stories and I said, well, maybe one day I gotta meet him. But it was through my older sister, my brother actually, my youngest brother. He said, I think you better meet your family. And you know, I don't think so. You haven't been around family for so long. And then you realize, wow I do have older siblings but by the time I met my mom, we had already had our first child, we built our home in Kailua, our first home. He says, it's time to meet mom and Dorothy, my oldest sister. And so your mind changes. Your whole body changes. And you have to get rid of, I don't think I carried hate. I carried misunderstanding why this happened. But then you learn why your mother was a princess and when the king is gone, she doesn't know how to take care of her children. It's a whole new fairy tale, I think I called it. You learn to forgive.

**21:54**      **Hau'oli:** Let's talk about forgiveness because you started to get into that.

**21:58**      **Aunty Mae:** So anyway, the day came when my mom and my sister, my brother were bringing them. He called me that morning and I told my husband you have to stay home from work. So he said, why? I said, I just need your support, please. So I explained everything.

**22:14**      **Hau'oli:** Tell everybody your husband's name.

**22:16**      **Aunty Mae:** My husband is Henry Klein. And they had no middle initial. The Kleins, there were ten children. None of them had a middle initial.

**22:24**      **Hau'oli:** And uncle's from here or from somewhere else?

- 22:25 **Aunty Mae:** We're from Honolulu. But his father was right out of Germany, with a Chinese mom.
- 22:33 **Hau'oli:** So you married German too with your German...
- 22:35 **Aunty Mae:** German and Chinese, Hawaiian.
- 22:38 **Hau'oli:** So uncle stayed home that day?
- 22:40 **Aunty Mae:** He stayed home with me to support because I explained to him the night before. He said, how you doing? I said, I'm fine. It's just me. You just gotta be with me. I said, I have something pent up inside. It's not hatred, but it's meeting somebody I haven't seen all this time. I said, she didn't even come to our wedding. So I said, I'm doing it because of my brother. I said, we gave our parents a hard time. We're both two kolohe people. So anyway, my brother said they would arrive at 9:30 and I said, yeah. I needed the time to get the children cleaned up and everything else. When the car parked and my pakalana vine was in full bloom. So I decided that morning to go make a lei for both my sister and my mom.
- 23:28 **Hau'oli:** Is that your favorite flower?
- 23:30 **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, pakalana, because my mom, I had a brother and sister that were asthmatic and what grandpa did. They didn't sleep in the house, their beds were on the porch. You know, Portuguese house you have rocking chairs, but grandpa. No rocking chairs. He made this pūne'e I guess you called it for the two of them. He covered the whole side from the ceiling to the ground, pakalana. So that when during the pakalana season, I wanna sleep outside. Grandpa says no. Go inside.
- 24:01 **Hau'oli:** And no more bees at night, right, cuz pakalana draws the bees.

24:05

**Aunty Mae:** No more bees at night. So that was their bedroom at night. So convert, so taking care of them. So that's how pakalana became my favorite, because we had to go pick it for make leis. And you have to have patience because it's one, you don't pick the whole thing because the buds, yeah? So you just pick the flower. Patience comes into play. But anyway, getting back to this story of meeting my mom and forgiveness. And again I have to thank the nuns because it's implanted in you already. It's just a matter of bringing it up and knowing when to apply it. I even thought about Sis. Bonaventure, you better be with me. Because the baby at that time was Billie, named after her. You know, to really help me through this. Yeah, so anyway, the car parks and I'm nervous. My husband says, just relax and do what comes naturally. So, with those words the body relaxes. And the only thing I could do was when my mom came through the door was to hug her and to tell her that it was ok. I said, I'm not worried about the past, mom. Grandpa put us in good hands. I said, I have so much aloha for this queen. So she says, what queen? So I was going to tell her, me!

25:31

**Hau'oli:** Lili'u, the one that has the QLCC.

25:35

**Aunty Mae:** Yeah, I said, Lili'u. I said Queen Lili'uokalani Trust. I owe so much to the queen, mom. And I said, it begins here with you, with forgiveness. I said everything. I said, please, forgive me too for not being able to cross that bridge, as small as it was. And today I crossed it.

26:01

**Hau'oli:** That's a huge bridge, you know. And it requires humility, like you've shown.

26:09

**Aunty Mae:** At the same time, to embrace my sister and to forgive her as well. And she said, forgive me too and I said no. It wasn't your choice, grandpa gave you the two teenagers. Because she didn't have children and easier to take care of the two. The two younger ones was a little bit harder, yeah? So you learn what the elders do and you kind of take from that, you know?

- 26:33 **Hau'oli:** And that's sort of the cultural 'ohana lolina, yeah? The way of doing, where she is the hiapo. And what's your older sister's name?
- 26:43 **Aunty Mae:** Dorothy.
- 26:44 **Hau'oli:** And she hānai'd her...
- 26:46 **Aunty Mae:** Her two younger siblings. And she played a big role in my life as an adult. Because she was the one that said to me, why don't you take your children to hula? Hula? She said, you were in hula before? You probably don't remember which I didn't remember. Or I chose maybe not to remember. Because when you have those kinds of breakups, you leave them behind and you forget about it. She said, yeah, you danced for Sally Woods and you danced for Louise Beamer, so that kind of sparked something in me. And I said, what if they have two left feet? She said, well, that's why you take them to hula and you have a right foot and a left foot, so I found out that I was kind of getting into jokes a lot, you know, in order to handle situations.
- 27:30 **Hau'oli:** To handle the heaviness of the past, yeah?
- 27:33 **Aunty Mae:** So I said, ok so the girls are going to hula so she talked about Maiki Aiu Lake. She said, you gotta see this teacher. Well they never used the terminology, kumu, before. You have to see her in Waikīkī. I said, why Waikīkī? She said, she takes her babies out there every Sunday with the Royal Hawaiian Band and she said, you have to see her. So, of course I'm so curious, you know. Couldn't wait for Sunday. So the girls, no problem in getting them to Mass, home, then eat breakfast and then going out to Waikīkī. So we made it a family outing day and they used to have lily ponds around...
- 28:08 **Hau'oli:** This is at...
- 28:10 **Aunty Mae:** Kapi'olani Park.
- 28:11 **Hau'oli:** Kapi'olani Bandstand, yeah? Makee 'Ailana?



28:14

**Aunty Mae:** Yeah. Makee 'Ailana. And, of course, the children were busy but I was fascinated with this woman as I'm watching her when she brought, and it's only children and I thought the discipline that's with that, you know, so just watching. She said, just watch the teacher herself. So, we saw the teacher herself and long story short, I was so eager to sign up my daughters so I have two now, not three, two but the younger one wasn't old enough. She takes them from five. Yeah, Billie.

28:48

**Hau'oli:** Now, what year was this?

28:49

**Aunty Mae:** 1959. So she was five at that time. So you go there, the daughter is there and she's taking all the children's names but you won't hear from me until May. They come in June, yeah? But she'll take your name now. This is January. I couldn't wait for May, for the summer, thinking that they were gonna forget, you know. They didn't, so May they called. And just walking into, I don't know what it was walking into that hālau and it was above a chicken store. They sold chicken feed and...

29:26

**Hau'oli:** This was in Waikiki?



29:28

**Aunty Mae:** No, this was on Ke‘eaumoku Street. Ke‘eaumoku and King. And in the front is the deli and the bus stop. Right behind is her hālau, upstairs. But she took them by 5, 7 & 8 & 9, three ages per group. And it’s only Saturdays, the babies only on Saturdays. Teenagers in the afternoon. So anyway, I couldn’t wait so when I got there, I went upstairs and she said, mothers are allowed for the first month or so. Sit against the wall. I was more fascinated with how she talked and spoke to the children and how they greeted her and just the total respect that you’re teaching such young people. Also how to, when they came into the hālau, they had a bench. And under the bench you had another where you can put things so they line up all of their slippers. So, neatness, in other words. So she had two benches: one on this side and one on this side. So the one that’s coming for the next class, they get to put theirs on that side. But then they have to go downstairs, they can’t stay upstairs. Long story short, you’re learning so many things at one time. How to bring the children in. How the children are brought to line up their slippers. How to go to the desk and sign in. The mothers cannot sign in for them. The children have to sign in, so you’re teaching them how to do their initials at home before they go there. And my Billie was so all ears, but she was too young. But I wanna dance so she’s listening and watching so she goes home and she tries to imitate. So she got to get into class before the normal, whatever. And then I said, you shouldn’t do that? And then she says, no this girl, there’s something in her.

31:13

**Hau‘oli:** And when they see that in the children, yeah?

31:21

**Aunty Mae:** Thalia got in, well, my oldest daughter of course was gonna learn something. So she ended up being asthmatic, a real bad asthmatic. But asthma runs in our family. So she had it. So anyway, and here’s my sister, she said take her to hula and I said, hula? She’ll struggle on that floor so I explained to Maiki and by all means bring her in. So she put her on the front line. This is the hālau but two steps up she has a lānai outside and all that air comes in from there. So Thalia gets that fresh air. But at that time I wasn’t thinking why she put Thalia in that one particular spot. So when I stood there, I said, oh my she could get the breeze, you know? So she would struggle but she would encourage her to sing to open up her lungs. Thalia survived. But she still had asthma but not as bad because one pill is 85 cents.



32:17

**Hau'oli:** 'Anakē, if we can step back because I wanted you to. So, your children, you invest them, you trusted them with this teacher of hula, Maiki. There was something about Maiki that as you described already that was special in her relationship with children and I'm not sure if she had any pedagogy, background knowledge in how to teach children. But you know, there's something about her that's similar that you share, that's similar. What was that something before she became your kumu?



32:52

**Aunty Mae:** Well, I myself used to ask the connection, like she has her whole hālau and I'm just the mother here. But she's talking to me as if I'm her student, you know what I'm saying? And I said, there's something special about her. And so long story short, I drop the kids off. She's at Pacific Heights. So I dropped the girls at school. I didn't have to work, you know what I'm saying? Instead of going home I went to Pacific Heights. And there she is. She's sitting with her hāli'i on the floor and she's stringing leis. I said, good morning! She said, good morning! Oh, you're finally coming to Pacific Heights. Yeah, I decided not to go home and see what you're doing, you know what I'm saying? So through her, I started to sense things, you know. And one of those mornings that I went up there and she says, oh Mae, please be careful when you go to the kitchen. Her house had three levels. The top floor is just the kitchen, living room, the expanse of Honolulu. All windows, yeah. Pacific Heights. On the first turn. So you get all of this view. This big living room and she had a piano. But then she said, I have a mother with three children sleeping on the floor. The second floor is all of her bedrooms. The third floor is her play room, laundry, and so...

34:12

**Hau'oli:** Sounds like your house.

34:13

**Aunty Mae:** Yes, sounds like my house, yes. I said, oh ok. You don't ask questions. And then I said, ok so, well I'm not going in there today. I'm going to go through the back door and into the kitchen. And then she said, well, this woman is having problems and I'm having her stay here for the night with the children rather than them sleeping in her car. And I thought to myself, oh that's very odd. Who would do something like that? So from her, you pick up these other kinds of things. And then she started to ask me about my livelihood and my childhood, about my daughters and stuff and I said I was told that I was taking hula from Aunty Sally and Aunty Louise. But war broke out and everything stops. I said, but there's something about you that's special, Maiki. And I didn't know what it is, you know. Why did I come here instead of going home? And then even Hanalei says, oh I notice dinner not ready today.



**35:12**      **Hau'oli:** Is that your husband? You call him Hanalei?

**35:16**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, yeah. So then I said, I went to visit Aunty Maiki. Because now Thalia is in class and how can I help her at home? And without scolding, in other words, yeah? To help her breathe, to help her practice. Just gotta let her do what she can and then the rest I'll take care of. So she helped me to get through this with this daughter and her asthma. And it just told me that she's more than just the hula teacher.

**35:40**      **Hau'oli:** Compassion yeah?

**35:41**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, there's a bigger side to it, you know. And then she started to ask me about my family. She knew I was struggling. I said, well, it was a hard life. Then I told her that I was brought up by nuns and then all of a sudden her face just glowed. So she says, well I have daughters at Sacred Hearts. And I said, yes, I know there's two Aiu girls, one's in the eighth grade and the other was in the sixth grade, I guess. Higher grades than my daughters. And not knowing that those were her daughters. And long story short, I think that's when the bonding started to happen. You know what I'm saying. Henry would say, what did you guys do today? I sewed four leis, believe it or not. My first four leis.

**36:24**      **Hau'oli:** What kind of leis was that?

**36:25**      **Aunty Mae:** She had plumeria leis actually, but that was easy, for hula. And I said, oh, I smell dinner. She said, yes. For me, because I'm a hula instructor, Uncle Bonafice has to take care of the children when he comes home from school. There's a message in here, right? So when she goes, she doesn't have to worry dinner is ready. And her children were old enough I guess to do dishes or whatever. And I was telling Hanalei this, and he says, you're making comparisons. I says, no, I think I'm going to follow her method.

**37:05**      **Hau'oli:** So you gotta learn something, honey!

**37:07**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, so it was my sister who said take the girls to hula ok why not? And so that's how I met her, right? But meeting her you're learning different things. In other words, if you take care of the home, you can have your cake and eat it too. So I was taking the girls and enjoying hula and all of a sudden, Aunty Bina Mossman wanted to do the portraits of Ka'iulani from age 5 to 24, I think, when she died. So she had three hālaus that were sending students for her to select so she says, Mae take Thalia and then take Billie because maybe can play Ka'iulani age ten or whatever. So they didn't pass, ok? Or Billie was maybe too fair and the hair straight, not the curls. Cause you're looking at pictures, yeah? and it doesn't match the picture. And I was happy going back. And Maiki was all smiles because she said, I want you. I said, oh no, I'm sorry. I'm a mother and not a hula dancer, you know.

**38:07**      **Hau'oli:** At what age did she envision you?

**38:10**      **Aunty Mae:** Well, I had no idea at the time, when I got back to the hālau, I said, the girls did not get in. And then aunty says, April, will you take class? I have to go get something I forgot in my car. So April takes class and ok so. Then you learn that's why the girls are sitting at their desk, in case she has to leave and so April takes over and she goes downstairs and I'm watching Billie because Billie is in class ok now under April. You gotta give her the same respect you gave Maiki. I'm watching her, my daughter, and not everybody. So long story short, but the 4-year old is in the car. And I think Maiki is talking to him and Aunty Bina wants to use your wife as a model. I don't have a problem. This is what he tells her she can. And then the young one is reading her book. You mean she can model for Aunty Bina, oh yeah! By all means. We get down and Saturday the girls get to pick where they're having lunch and the little one said, Dad, are you going to tell mom what Mrs. Aiu said? You notice how she said, Mrs. Aiu said. And so the two sisters said, what did Mrs. Aiu say? They want Mom as a model. So, he gives permission that Aunty Bina. And I said, of course not, hun. He says, why not, Mae? I said, you're gonna put your foot in your mouth. He said, what? I said, if you're going to say yes, you cannot tell me no for what's going to follow.

Because you know you're watching her, you're watching your children grow up and you know her method. You know how she deals with children, right? And she's always telling the older girls, always take care of your home, you can do anything, yeah? And that's where I got that. You take care of your home, your husband going let you do everything. In other words, when you get home tired, don't say, I'm tired. And everybody didn't get the message, yeah. I said, you went to work. You had dinner ready, you're exhausted. You also went to hula seven o'clock. Came home at nine. I'm tired. Then my husband goes like this, don't you dare say you're tired. You take care of the house, you can do anything. So when the girls got that message, aunty Mae. So he became a hula dad from that day. Hula husband. Hula daddy. We can go anywhere.

school her mother founded 54 years ago. "Many people now know my mother only through their kumu," she continued, referring to the graduates her mother pro-



PHOTO COURTESY: MAE KLEIN

Mae Kamāmalu Klein as a Ma'iki Alu dancer poses at Hānalakamalama in Nu'uano.

Princess Kai'ulani, among other select venues. The hālau was especially noted for the taste and elegance of its costuming. "Your wardrobe built up with every show," Klein recalled. "We ended up with more than 50 outfits. The first one you owned was a blue and white Alfred Shaheen holomu'u; if you didn't continue, you could always use it. That was very akamai on her part. Her gift was combining colors. For one show she had us do a rose pink gown with red carnation leis. Pink and red. Who ever heard of that? But under the light it was magic."

Aiu wanted to retire when she married musician Kahuanu Lake in 1972, but her elders directed her to first pass her knowledge of ancient hula to a new generation. "There was this ad in the papers calling the students back, the 14 girls dancing together in 1963," Klein recalled. "But because she couldn't get all of us, she opened the class to the public, and that's when Robert (Cazimero)

Klein said. Children, for example, make leis. lei, she was so special, precious gift. ho'oponopop into her lives

After of k reso out thro firmed Vi ated with known as to her for she would kumu's u heart atta teaches i graduate whom ar

- 40:28**      **Hau'oli:** That's something that I've always known and had admired as one of your students. By the time I came into your life and in your hālau, uncle had passed. But you know, you would say and this is something that I would always remember. Hula is like a jealous lover. I think that's the word you used. Because it does have an impact on your marriage, your family. Especially when you're established. So Uncle Henry, however, learned to be a part of your life and helping your haumāna in making the implements. Who was his teacher again that had taught him? You said, Uncle Howard.
- 41:07**      **Aunty Mae:** Uncle Howard Kamau'u.
- 41:08**      **Hau'oli:** Hoakalei's husband who had learned over these years how to work with his wife.
- 41:15**      **Aunty Mae:** When you buy one 'ulī'ulī, you gatta buy for three.
- 41:19**      **Hau'oli:** And then you learn how to make it and the pahu and all of those adornments, beautiful so, that relationship, the pilina, going again back with Maiki started first as a parent and your children who were her students, and then you've come to learn more of her intimate life. She too, was like you, I think. Wasn't she a ward.
- 41:39**      **Aunty Mae:** Yes, she was a ward. Yes.
- 41:41**      **Hau'oli:** Was she at QLT too? With Lili'uokalani Children's Trust as well? And I remember hearing stories of her own relationships with her kumu. So that would be your kumu kumu. Lokalia Montgomery. Was pretty much the same. Lokalia was a... what was she? Her profession? She was a warden...
- 42:01**      **Aunty Mae:** She was the head of a detention home, yeah detention home.
- 42:06**      **Hau'oli:** And Aunty Maiki was at some time in the detention home.
- 42:09**      **Aunty Mae:** No, not that I know of. She went with Lokalia, but that's what you would end up, if you didn't behave. She was using that as an example.



- 42:20**      **Hau'oli:** What we call that? Scared straight.
- 42:22**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, she was doing that with her students. The children that were under her, yeah. You get the message better, yeah. Yeah, so there's a different connection.
- 42:33**      **Hau'oli:** And that really starts to formulate her establishment as the kumu she became. The kumu of all of you. Can we fast forward to, so my question when we talked about this earlier, so, when did you know that hula chose you? So here you are the hula parent, but now the realm is open once you've said yes, or uncle said yes and have become the model. And then what took place after all of that?
- 43:02**      **Aunty Mae:** All of that, that's history, but it started with being a model, right. And the thing I learned about her too was she wasn't afraid of anything because she's the only one that ever took her whole, you know the royal court? Francis Holt and Carl Hanohano? She took the whole court to Kalaupapa. The whole court. All of us went, hula dancers and all.
- 43:27**      **Hau'oli:** And what year was this? Do you remember?
- 43:29**      **Aunty Mae:** I can't remember the year. That's the article that I showed you. But anyway, we all went. Was awesome and the only thing we found out that we had to have Board of Health clear the teens, and we went. And it just gives you a better picture of this woman. So I said if I ever became a kumu hula, you know, I would follow that pattern. If the home is cared for, then you're my student. If you don't take care of your home, and I did that in hālau. You have something going on. Take care of the house first, then you can come back. Aunty, how do you know? I said, I know just by your behavior. I said, your clothes smell like shaving lotion. This nose was so sharp. She said, oh aunty!
- 44:16**      **Hau'oli:** You develop the intuition.

- 44:18** **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, the intuition. I said, but you know, really she helped me to shape my family as well, you know. Always first when you wake up you thank that man upstairs that you woke up. Because otherwise, they take you in your sleep as well. So you always be grateful from the beginning and then at the end of the day. It never leaves you.
- 44:41** **Hau'oli:** So that reminds me of having our conversation, learning about spirituality. What you say in Hawaiian, pili 'uhane and how you cannot separate that from hula. Hula is spiritual and it's not just the physical. It comes from a deeper place. And you have taught us that as our kumu hula, as your kumu has taught you that there's a spiritual realm and I remember you always said in hālau and sometimes the old lives. So you have to be prayerful and everything and be mindful of where you walk because the old lives and the 'uhane are always around us. And some of that came from your upbringing too, not only with the nuns and the nunneries. But also, from your mother after you folks reconciled, yeah? And then you would go to church, māmā's church. Tell us a bit about māmā's church because I think some of those loina, those kinds of values and the things that you cherish plays into your hālau and your family.
- 45:48** **Aunty Mae:** I think I am privileged to have both religions in my life. Like dad said, you go to church first. You come home, you eat, change clothes and now you go to mom's church.
- 45:58** **Hau'oli:** What's the two religions? There's Catholicism and then māmā's church was Hawaiian protestant, kalawina.
- 46:06** **Aunty Mae:** Kalawina, yeah. They used to use that word, Kalawina. And then you learn that your mom has gifts that was wehe paipala, yeah. But what I liked about my mom's church was, it was so open, everybody sang, everybody hugged.
- 46:20** **Hau'oli:** What church was this?

**46:21**      **Aunty Mae:** Ka Makua Mau Loa, yeah. And I, of all of the children in the house, I was always ready for mom's church and plus you got to eat. But more than that, I got to color my bible. So I have two bibles. One with the Catholic church and one with my mom's church. I always go to this one 'cause it's colorful.

**46:42**      **Hau'oli:** It's not coincidental that people who come into our lives...

**46:46**      **Aunty Mae:** And obviously, you're praying to the same man, just different clothes, you know. And be respectful. But Aunty Maiki was the one that really. I don't know, I don't know how to explain it, that opened our doors and then the question you had asked, when did you know? Well that was a hard one to think about but I showed you the picture of when we did her very last concert and I'm trying to think when that was. She did the dressing of the hula dancer and she did it behind a scrim and we only had a light on the top. So the girls you see in those pictures, silhouette, got to see it. You know I said, we're in the newspaper, you guys. Aunty says, wow, this is the go look at the paper. But anyway, long story short, in 1970, I think she wanted to retire. So, long story short, we were in all the hotels and no matter where it was she always opened with prayer. She decided that she was going to close her school, get married and just settle down. And long story short, the elders told her, Maiki before you do that, why don't you bring back the rituals of 'ūniki. Now you're hearing it for the first time.

**48:12**      **Hau'oli:** Who are the elders that you refer to?

**48:14**      **Aunty Mae:** Kawena, Lokalia, Aunty 'Io, Aunty Bina Mossman, Aunty Sally. All five of them were there. When aunty was going to talk to Aunty Maiki. Because she was going to close her school and they felt no. And that's how it began. Anyway, you have to remember now that with the picture of the hula dancer. This is 1970 when they told her now to bring back the old, the rituals of 'ūniki. And not knowing that we are the part of this old.

**48:55**      **Hau'oli:** Which was the five of them.

- 48:56**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, the five in the picture. So I said, Ok, so I explained to Uncle Henry. And so now, I'm going to do some other stuff like all hula kahiko. And he says, and what? You're in? And I said, Yes, I'm so in it's not funny. Cause I said my sister led me to Maiki. She was a dancer from Joseph 'Īlālā'ole.
- 49:13**      **Hau'oli:** Now let's fast forward to the point where in 1970, so you left, yeah.
- 49:18**      **Aunty Mae:** I left in 1970.
- 49:20**      **Hau'oli:** And what happened to you? Where did you go?
- 49:22**      **Aunty Mae:** I stayed home and just helped my daughters with their hula, you know, and all that kind of stuff.
- 49:26**      **Hau'oli:** Who are the kumu that are influential in your life besides Maiki?









- 49:30**      **Aunty Mae:** I think it was only her and Aunty Sally and Aunty Nana, you know. I didn't mingle. Well, Hoakalei had a big, big part in it because of the implements and because taking it out into the public. And I said when I have hula, I have to look at the child that's there. I have to look how many children and people didn't know, none of their business, right. So you have one but you have three sisters that are free, you know what I'm saying. But they're cleaning up, throwing rubbish away. Line up the slippers, you know. They're doing something to earn their tuition. So that's what I did when I started my hālau.
- 50:08**      **Hau'oli:** Oh yeah? You had those kind service, scholarship?
- 50:10**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, like one mother would say, I can only take one. I said, no, bring three. She said, but Mae. I said, don't question. Just bring, you know. I said, I'll find something for them to do. You know, so they learn to pick up flowers to bring inside so the baby class can sew leis. You find things for them to do.
- 50:28**      **Hau'oli:** And a lot of that comes from your upbringing, right? Growing up in the life in which you were accustomed to.
- 50:33**      **Aunty Mae:** Exactly. But I allow mines to pick flowers.
- 50:37**      **Hau'oli:** You allow them to pick the flowers, yeah, without worry...
- 50:41**      **Aunty Mae:** But that took me right back to Sister Bonaventure, she said, well that could've fallen. Well, then you have lots of things dirty.
- 50:49**      **Hau'oli:** It reminds me of the imagery of chrysanthemums. What Maiki said about the chrysanthemums in her hālau.
- 50:56**      **Aunty Mae:** Oh, I can't remember the chrysanthemums. No it's the marigolds. Because you always have marigolds. And these are students that just can't achieve. But you have a place in the garden for them.

- 51:10**      **Hau‘oli:** Even the marigolds, the stinky flowers. They have a place, yeah?
- 51:15**      **Aunty Mae:** They have a place in your garden. Yeah, they are pretty.
- 51:17**      **Hau‘oli:** I love that imagery, I’ve never forgotten.
- 51:19**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, it was the marigold. Don’t forget the marigolds in your garden. Because when she came to my house I said, yes I have marigolds.
- 51:25**      **Hau‘oli:** So aunty, how many haumāna? How many of us have been blessed to have ‘uniki?
- 51:34**      **Aunty Mae:** I have ying yang. I have twenty-two hālaus that are in existence, yeah. And some teach just children. Some only men, some have the combination. Whatever you choose, you know what I’m saying. But I have twenty-two schools. But I have forty kumu hula. So, you don’t have to have a hālau to be a kumu hula but you can go help the kumu hula, you know what I’m saying? But know your place. Maybe you can share a hula with them or whatever. And I said, where am I going with this? I said, well, where is hula going in the new one hundred years?
- 52:11**      **Hau‘oli:** Yes, and that’s the question that I’ve heard you asked before you served as the judge in some of our most prominent hula festivals here and abroad, yeah away. You’ve been as far as Japan. Of course, the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival in recent years. You’ve also had friendships and affiliations with those whom we’ve considered to be, I going use the term, loea, yeah, you know, who have recently passed. Mainly Aunty Nāmaka Bacon, for example.
- 52:42**      **Aunty Mae:** Oh yeah, she was number one with me.

- 52:44**      **Hau‘oli:** And now, we just celebrated your 90th birthday in May. And so ho‘omaika‘i and hau‘oli lā hānau, we just praise God again for a good long life, lō‘ihi. Besides all of your childhood experiences, raising a family, establishing a hālau and teaching so many of us and sharing a legacy with us. You also were, you know as we are celebrating in this oral history project that we are doing right now looking at some of our kūpuna, our eldest kūpuna who are alumni of the schools. Although you are not an alumnus of Kamehameha Schools, you were an employee for many years.
- 53:25**      **Aunty Mae:** Twenty-two years.
- 53:28**      **Hau‘oli:** Yeah, and in fact one of our colleagues, Ke‘ala Kwan, worked closely with you in those years. And so today, Kamehameha Schools, we have this thing called E Ola! It’s sort of our Hawaiian Cultural Based Education, what we envision to be the outcome for every graduating student, that they ola, they thrive. But more importantly, that they too, each student would come, like all of your mo‘opuna would graduate and become ‘ōiwi leaders, as servant leaders as Pauahi was. So with that in mind, and in thinking about the years that you worked here at Kamehameha Schools. You’re a kumu hula, known and loved by the world outside. You’re a mother and tell us what you did at Kamehameha Schools when you worked here for twenty-two years.
- 54:17**      **Aunty Mae:** Twenty-two years. Well, you know, all the boys, I said, these are my sons. I have three daughters, I never had any sons. These are my boys and you kind of think about them when they’re there at the time and these kids that come to the office, they’re working for scholarship. I said, I can handle four. Four? I said, you’d be surprised. ROTC is so busy. I said, go down and help Sargeant Hirada. Count bullets and whatever. Count uniforms, you know, all that kind of stuff. Rather than them working, you get into their personal lives, yeah. What is life like? What is going on at home?
- 54:57**      **Hau‘oli:** So you’re ministering, yeah? You’re social working.



55:01

**Aunty Mae:** Yeah, social working. Exactly and kinda getting nīele. How many can you save? How many can you help? You know what I'm saying. And I didn't realize I was doing these kinds of things. You know what I'm saying. But just from my own experience and with my daughters. My daughters would, oh mom, can we take so-and-so some place? I said, what is her family like? I said, you know, you have to be careful. You cannot just say she can go. She has to have permission and all this kind of stuff. So my daughters are learning it's just not free like you. I know who you are. You have to know your limits. But with Kamehameha Schools, just being able to touch our children. When I say our children, kanaka Hawai'i, ea. Because not all of us are fortunate enough to have money in our pocket, yeah? So how do you help? Like I always tell them. If you help mom around the house you'd be surprised how the door opens where you can do things, you know what I'm saying? And always go to prayer first when you wake up in the morning, be thankful that you wake up, yeah? So I use this example sometimes people die in their sleep, to use language like that. Maybe they had arguments before and if you don't forgive, you're gonna live with that forever. Like when mom scolds you there's a reason and forgive yourself and forgive her. But learn a lesson with every scolding. Wow, aunty. We came here for school. Yeah, I'm school too. Different kind of school. Because sometime they give me some kolohe ones, you know, that need direction. But they let me know which ones and so we played games. Hina was one of mine. I hate ROTC. I said I'm sorry you gotta carry that weapon to get the grade to get out of school. It was four years, yeah?

56:44

**Hau'oli:** You're talking about Kumu Hina Wong?

56:47

**Aunty Mae:** (Nodding yes) And I said senior year. I said, something's different. You get to know the child. I said, you only have one more year. Go get through it and then you handle it after you're outside. But when you think about it. Did you folks go see that Māhū at the Bishop Museum? Oh, you got to go. They played a very important role in the past. I said, if not for that, you know, we judge them. But you have the ones that belong there, but they had a reason...

- 57:24**      **Hau'oli:** And what was one of their big roles you learned as a māhū? What was their role?
- 57:29**      **Aunty Mae:** Well, that was a thing I was trying to figure out. She was trying to talk to me at the same time while I was trying to see what they were doing. I didn't get to see what they were doing. But they have a very special place in the world. But when did they lose it? Because they had flames and all kinds of stuff that were going on. And I said, I wanna watch that and then you tell me after. But she was so willing to share everything, so better to listen, you know what I'm saying, yeah.
- 58:04**      **Hau'oli:** So again you see the fruits of someone who was touched by Pauahi's trust, ali'i trust.
- 58:11**      **Aunty Mae:** I said, the queen had something for you to do and we don't know. We're judging from the outside.
- 58:18**      **Hau'oli:** Would you say that someone like Kumu Hina is considered what we look to be an 'ōiwi leader?
- 58:25**      **Aunty Mae:** There you go. And the whole thing is in Ni'ihau language. And you hear them talk, it's so different. It's so beautiful.
- 58:34**      **Hau'oli:** So if our 'ōiwi leader, our students graduating from Kamehameha has a good firm understanding of their identity, and which might include 'ōlelo and 'ike Hawai'i, then we're in good shape.
- 58:47**      **Aunty Mae:** No, that's true. And that's why I said I'm asking people like you folks, you folks should go see that. It just blew me away when they came up with that, for the māhū. I would never think that it would be coming. You know, you're walking through this thing. I was just blown, because you're judging without knowing.
- 59:11**      **Hau'oli:** So you know, that's another thing about Kamehameha Schools today, so different, and now we're a little bit more embracing too of those who may have discovered themselves, maybe they are māhū. How do we, like you shared about the marigolds in the garden, so do we consider them marigolds or...

59:32

**Aunty Mae:** You gotta have compassion. Because they didn't choose this. I don't think they chose it. It's in them. It's in the DNA, I think.

59:41

**Hau'oli:** So we have to love and embrace them and... I wanna ask you, pose one last question. Maybe you've already answered it for us but it'll leave us with one real precious gem. That if you could give sound advice, you know, and you have been already, or some words of inspiration to us this generation, and your own mo'opuna and those to come, you know on where is the direction of our lāhui, our people is headed? What is it that you could offer us as words of inspiration with all your life experiences?

1:00:19

**Aunty Mae:** For me, I think that everything it belongs in every household. It goes within the fathers and mothers. Who am I? Am I a forgiving person? It's like in our house. We never go to bed without honi. We never go to bed without forgiving each other because sometimes you get angry, you know, during the day. And I always say never go to bed tired and say I'm tired. And this has to do with husbands and wives. We're so busy we're out entertaining, having a good time and then we go home, we're tired, right? I'm tired, not tonight. To me, that's where a lot of problems start, in the bedroom, for me. Those that are married. That's where it starts, in the bedroom. Because when you go to bed at night, I am tired. But the husbands have to think too. Wives taking care of babies running around. For me it's forgiveness, number one. But always go to God in the morning and in the night. And never go to bed angry. Never, never go to bed. Even if you're right, 'cause I used to do this, ok, I gotta give in. Then tomorrow I wake up. Guess what? I was right and then you start laughing about it. Then you realized you argued over something so silly. Yeah, you humble yourself before anything and you'll never get into trouble. Because it begins home, yeah, with who you are. And even to judge people, never judge people. Accept them for who they are. And like mähū, like you say. I had the privilege of having so many young men come through me. These are my sons. I said, maybe that's why God didn't give me sons. But you know, the thing is because I didn't have boys, but through these boys I learned about men. Well, you learn with your brothers and what have you. But some would come with problems. Girlfriend problems and what have you. I said, kinda young to have a girlfriend.

Don't waste your time. I said, very seldom you're gonna end up with it. Have fun, just have fun. Enjoy each other's company and save that for later. But like you said, I think it was my fourth year in school with the boys and I started to notice something. But it took in senior year when I realized, but Hina was very outstanding. Every morning. Mrs. Klein I hate. I said, do you wanna pass Kamehameha Schools? You're gonna have to carry that weapon. Not realizing, you know what I'm saying.

**1:02:54**      **Hau'oli:** I'm sure she was relieved when they did away with ROTC.

**1:02:56**      **Aunty Mae:** Yes...

**1:03:02**      **Hau'oli:** Mahalo e 'anakē and likewise there's so much other beautiful gems of advice and inspiration that you've shared with us and that we get to do the same with...

**1:03:13**      **Aunty Mae:** And don't forget, yeah, forgiveness, then you get to sleep real well because some people die after arguments, you know?

**1:03:20**      **Hau'oli:** Like mihi and hui kala.

**1:03:22**      **Aunty Mae:** Yeah, so important.

**1:03:24**      **Hau'oli:** I remember you talking about your māmā and I'm not sure what you call it in the society of wāhine and the elders of that church...

**1:03:32**      **Aunty Mae:** Oh my mom. For us in our family, the eight of us. We had to go, my father was Catholic, all baptized. We had no choice. Mom had no choice. We came home after church we had breakfast. And then we all had to go to mom's church. I loved my mother's church. They sang. And the best part was when I got to color my bible whereas in the Catholic church I couldn't. So I had two. My dad said, talk about split personality. I didn't know what that meant, you know what I'm saying? But I looked forward to my mother's church.

**1:04:07**      **Hau'oli:** And then saying that in your experience that you're hearing 'ōlelo Hawai'i too in song or praise and even in your home too, right when māmā and all those wāhine would come to Mass.



1:04:16

**Aunty Mae:** Oh yes, because my job was to polish the koa table. That had to be the best polished koa table in Hawai'i, I think. 'Cause the legs and everything. And then in would come five other women and they'd open their bibles. Or they'd read passages and I guess they'd kūkākūkā all in Hawaiian and then maybe which one they're gonna help. And then my Aunty her... there were only two. My grandpa only had two girls, two daughters. Anyway, she had polio and her gift was. You ever heard of 'ōpū huli? That was her gift. And the Portuguese called it busche. Yeah, busche. And my aunty, every Saturday, because there was always Portuguese women that would come. But my aunty used to do it for us whenever we'd. Because babies jump off of chairs and what have you, then the stomach twist or whatever they called it, the 'ōpū moves, I think. So aunty would lomi and then tie. And they had three days that they had to come. So Portuguese people called that busche. And the end of the massage and everything, she would pa'ipa'i the bottom of the baby's feet, to push back whatever is in the 'ōpū, to go back in place. Yeah, so my mom had the wehe paipala and aunty had the gift of putting babies, so whenever babies threw up, babies came to aunty before they went to the doctor. But by the time they left the baby was running around and not crying anymore. But she had to leave that kaiapa on so they put plastic when they bathed them. So three days, yeah. But by the time the parents pau talk, the child is already running around. Pau cry.

1:06:02

**Hau'oli:** Maybe that's why you were so moved by that presentation of the mähū because they were healers in that same sense, right? They're so spiritual.

1:06:10

**Aunty Mae:** Yeah, I think so, yeah. And that really opened my brain even bigger, oh my God, they have a place, but maybe lost where their place was supposed to be. And maybe Hina is the one who's gonna bring it back, I don't know, for this new generation.

1:06:25

**Hau'oli:** But thank you so much, aunty, for opening up and being so transparent with us.

1:06:28

**Aunty Mae:** You know something that hālau just can't know.

- 1:06:31**      **Hau'oli:** Yeah, cause no more time. Hālau they come for hula, but there's lessons...
- 1:06:35**      **Aunty Mae:** No, I would never share those things. That's why I had to think about it when you said to come and share and I think maybe I needed to do something just to lighten the load.
- 1:06:45**      **Hau'oli:** Thank you so much for allowing us to be nīele with you today.
- 1:06:48**      **Aunty Mae:** I think they learned something too. So you have to have a different respect when you look at māhū but go see this exhibit first. But I think they had a place and it was destroyed with war or whether it became a sex thing. Maybe it wasn't meant for that. I think all of us should go see that. You come away different. Think differently now, you know?
- 1:07:14**      **Hau'oli:** Mahalo, yeah.
- 1:07:16**      **Nā Momi Ho'oheno Panina:** Postlude kī ho'ālu music by Ke'ala Kwan with closing credits





**Mahalo for joining us!**



**Nā Momi Ho‘oheno**

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