







Board of Directors and Volunteers: Biographies

<p>Jim McAluney</p> 	<p>Raised in Pennsylvania, Southern California and New England, Jim received his BA in Business Administration from Pepperdine University in 1987 & moved to Hawaii in 1990. As a commercial insurance agent since 1996 Jim has specialized helping companies and organizations in industries such as, Environmental, Specialty Contractors, Healthcare, Tourist Related attractions, Non profits, Commercial property owners and other hard to place risks. He is a father of 3, has been a member FOISH for 5 years, works daily on his Italian language studies, expects to be back in Italy early & often.</p>
<p>Katey Dallosto</p> 	<p>As a national trainer, business coach and sales consultant, with over 25 years of business, sales and leadership experience, Katey has a wide range of skills and resources to build great partnerships. building, productivity training, personality profiling, recruiting, lead generation, relationship Her areas of expertise include:sales training, public speaking and business planning. Katey is half Irish and half Italian. She travels to Italy often and speaks basic Italian. Katey will find any opportunity to practice speaking Italian with others. This is her second time living in Honolulu. She is excited to be back home on island again! Katey has a degree in Marketing and a minor in Italian, from Santar on the Santa Clara University where she also serves as a Directo Clara University's Silicon Valley Executive Center. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, she currently resides in Honolulu, she is an active member of the Waikiki Elks Lodge Katey and is an avid baseball fan. She is the mother of three adult children and can be seen keeping score while watching her son plays college baseball at San Francisco State University.</p>
<p>Nancy Miwa, D.Litt.</p> 	<p>Nancy began her professional career in the national political arena of Washington, DC working in campaign finance on behalf of two U.S. presidents and then in development for the international think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies. Upon moving to the NYC area, she worked on a U.S. presidential campaign and for a former U.S. president. She is currently a real estate agent in Hawaii and a docent at the Honolulu Museum of Art where she also serves on the docent council. She holds a doctorate in medieval and Renaissance history, iconography, and theology from Drew University. Nancy's travels have taken her all over the world, but she particularly enjoys returning home to Italy to rediscover her roots in Emilia-Romagna. She loves reading and discussing all things Dante, hiking, gardening, and swimming every day in her pool.</p>
<p>Elisabeth Case</p> 	<p>Elisabeth Case is 3rd generation born & raised in Hawaii and got her Associate of Arts in European Studies from Franklin University, in Lugano, Switzerland where she lived for 2 years with an italian family and fell in love with all things Italy. She received her B.A. in Italian Studies from Boston University, and her Master of International Management from Thunderbird Global School of Management in Arizona. After living and working in Washington D.C, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and San Francisco, CA, she returned home to raise her 2 girls who are now in college. She has over 30 years of experience in marketing and non-profit development, and is Senior Development Manager for American Cancer Society. Elisabeth got involved with FOISH years ago volunteering to help launch Cinema Italiano & Eurocinema, Festa Italiana, and the Hawai'i premiere of "Arrangiarsi" movie at HOMA. She loves all arts and culture, Italian film and Netflix, opera, cooking, reading, hiking in her Tantalus neighborhood, and is looking forward to planning some wonderful events to celebrate Italy in Hawaii.</p>

Carmen Garcia



Carmen moved to Honolulu in late 2019 to open the Hawai'i office of the Attorneys for Freedom Law Firm. After a long and interesting career as a criminal defense trial attorney, Carmen shifted to a less demanding position as Chief Paralegal for the firm. Carmen received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting with honors, Magna Cum Laude from California State University, Northridge. Carmen received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California Law School. While in law school, Carmen passed the examination to be a Certified Public Accountant but has never worked as a CPA because she started practicing law upon graduation from U.S.C. Carmen joined the Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii shortly after her arrival in Hawaii and especially enjoys the social events. Carmen tries to learn Italian in the language classes. Carmen looks forward to using her accounting skills to assist FOISH as Treasurer. It is a refreshing change because, in accounting, there is always an answer, while in law there is almost never an answer because "it depends."

Tiziana Cherubini, Ph.D.



Tiziana was born in a small village in the Italian countryside near Rome. She studied Physics at the University of Rome, La Sapienza, and specialized in atmospheric physics during her Ph.D. at the University of Genoa. After working for half a year in the Operations Department of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, in Reading, UK, she joined the University of Hawaii, Manoa, as Post-Doctoral fellow. In 2003 she was hired as Research Meteorologist and Lead Modeler for the then recently founded Mauna Kea Weather Center. She is currently active in this position, while is also appointed with the title of affiliate Associate Researcher for the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Raymond L. (Mike) Cote', III



Originally from California, Mike has lived in Honolulu since 1978, is an architect, and has two children and four grandchildren. He's a former professional volleyball player for the US National Team as well as La Libertas team in Parma, Italy. His wonderful experience in Italy built friendships that last a lifetime and inspired him to become an architect. He has been a licensed architect since 1987, as a sole proprietor. He holds a BS in Biology from San Diego State University and a graduate degree in Architecture from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. When he isn't working, he loves to fish, surf, paddleboard and cook. In addition, he has volunteered to teach math at Halawa prison—he has a five-year stint, it was scary at first but very fulfilling.

Lisa Van Den Heuvel



Lisa hails from Trinidad, the beautiful sunny island in the Caribbean known for its friendly and helpful people. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She is a Realtor Associate with business experience in marketing, advertising, sales, and hospitality. In the past, she has worked as a group sales manager with Hotel Intercontinental Miami, Castle Resorts and Hotels, and Halekulani. As an engaged Hawaii resident, she has also been involved in a wide variety of community activities, such as the President of the Hawaii Kai Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chair for the East Oahu Regional Meeting, and board member of the Asian Real Estate Association among many others. She is fluent in Spanish and French, and speaks conversational German, Portuguese and Italian. Her hobbies include tennis, hiking, yoga, wine tasting, culinary adventures, photography and of course traveling.

Kina Knisley



After growing up in Washington State, I earned my teaching degree in Tennessee. I then set off for a European adventure, teaching and living in Heidelberg, Germany while supporting military families for 13 years. I made Hawaii home 6 years ago, living Aloha while trying to give back to the island through beach cleanups and volunteering in the community. This experience helped me understand the needs of homeowners, as well as the diverse cultures of Hawaii. I believe strongly in giving back to the community. Every month, my real estate team (Team K2) serves our community in outreach programs. In 2020, we grew to love our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We had the opportunity to deliver much needed groceries to public housing and hosted a BBQ for sixty individuals in Nanakuli. We familiarized ourselves with the needs of women recovering from domestic violence at Women in Need and enjoyed spending time with our youth from RYSE. We challenged ourselves to sell 50 homes in 2020. We then celebrated by giving away the commission from the 50th house sold on our Facebook page, we listed 6 worthy causes that followers could vote on. The nonprofit with the most "likes" won the donation. The winner for 2020 was Oahu SPCA. The winner in 2021 of our 50th commission donation was the Aloha Animal Sanctuary. I would not be where I am today without the loving support of my husband and our family. Our children live all over the mainland and Europe. It is very gratifying to see them take chances, excel at what they do, and make their own way in this world. I am blessed.

Stacey Thomas



Stacey is a local girl from Mililani. Although her main interests have been French-related with a degree in French Language and Literature and serving on the board of the Alliance Française as newsletter editor and events planner, she has always had an admiration and appreciation for all things Italian; food, culture, language. Along with her husband Mike Dalesandro she has traveled to Italy several times and always wants to go back. If she's not off exploring some other part of the world, you can usually find her hiking, reading, or enjoying fun times with friends

Stephanie Mele



Originally from New York, Stephanie has a passion for travel and culture. This desire led her to follow her lifelong dream of moving to Hawaii in 2018. With a B.A in Recreation and Communication studies, she prioritizes delivering a message with meaning. Leading a career in the non-profit sector, her experience includes events, travel coordination and media communication. With her warm personality and skills of creativity, connecting the community to a mission and teamwork, she has a variety of amazing experiences.

In 2016, Stephanie studied abroad for 5 months in Sorrento, Italy. While taking courses and completing an internship- she also lived with a host family and traveled all around. This sparked her joy of sharing her culture and love for Italy to everyone throughout the years. In her free time, you can find Steph in the ocean, taking photos, listening to music, and always laughing with friends.