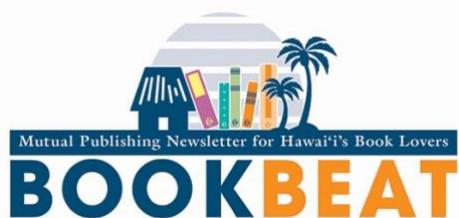


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June 1, 2020

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **BOOKBEAT** a bi-monthly newsletter about Hawai'i books, particularly Mutual titles. Here is a quick, easy-to-read digest of latest happenings at Mutual and in publishing. It will feature, among other things, new and upcoming releases, recipes and cooking tips, sales trends, special offers, author interviews, and nostalgic moments in Hawai'i's history.

**While the book world changes almost daily, one thing remains the same—
nothing is as rewarding as a good book.**

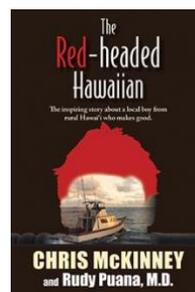
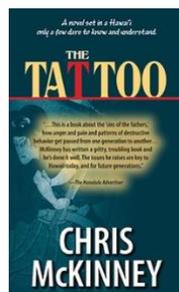
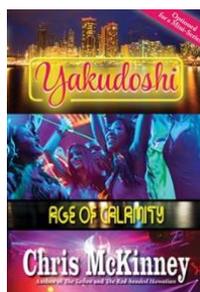
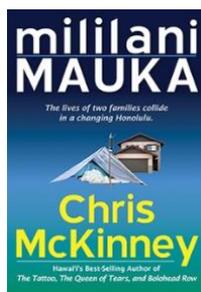
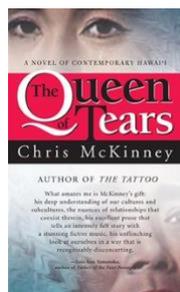
FEATURED AUTHOR

Chris McKinney

All his novels available through the month of June at special prices!

Chris McKinney, Hawai'i's premiere modern-day novelist, portrays the island experience from the inside, where children of mixed ethnicity grow up far from the clear water and pristine beaches of the rich visitors' resorts.

"Yakudoshi holds up a mirror to all of us, whatever our walk of life. It's a must-read revelation."
—Mindy Pennybacker, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*



Interview with Chris McKinney:

If you were going to set a story in the coronavirus world, what features, elements would you include?

One of the things that I've observed through this experience is how panic destroys common sense. For example, I remember early on during the stay at home/essential worker only order that I went to get a blood test. The lab was closed. Non-essential? Okay, I guess. However, as I exited, the parking attendant was still there taking tickets and payment. It was strange. I also

remember when Target Ala Moana only kept their top floor entrance open and made people stand in line. In the early days, there was no tape on the ground to space people six feet apart. So, basically, Target created long, packed lines during a pandemic scare. When people/organizations are rushed, they screw up. I would try to capture this. It's kind of darkly funny.

There are probably at this very moment, people thinking of writing a coronavirus story or may have actually begun one. What advice would you give them?

Don't do it. I have this good friend who is a criminal defense attorney. During his downtime, he tends to enjoy reading fantasy and science fiction. The last thing he wants to read is crime because he deals with it every day. Why would people want to read about a fictional pandemic when they are experiencing a real one? Also, it's tough dig up research on something that's fluid. This isn't over yet. At least wait until it's over and the data/results/analysis are available. Reality may throw a curveball and make your story look tame and silly in comparison. I'd wait. Remember what I said about rushing in the first question.

Any changes in stories being written about Hawai'i that you notice?

Not really. Honestly, though, I have not been keeping up as much as I used to. I'm working on a sci-fi book series, so I've been immersing myself in speculative fiction and science non-fiction. Did I miss anything groundbreaking?

Has the growth of ebooks and readers using internet more often affected or influenced your writing?

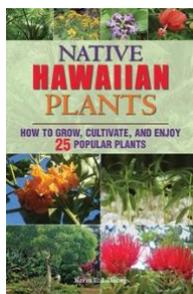
Not so much ebooks and readers, but audiobooks have. I have become more conscious of what a narrative sounds like if read out loud.

RECENT RELEASE

Native Hawaiian Plants

How to Grow, Cultivate, and Enjoy 25 Popular Plants

by Kerin E. Lilleeng



Now it's easy to grow native Hawaiian plants in your backyard or include in your landscaping. Here are species that propagate, bloom, and flower in accordance with Hawai'i's natural climate and on their own schedules.

Native Hawaiian Plants: How to Grow, Cultivate, and Enjoy 25 Popular Plants has all the knowledge necessary to grow and care for these special plants—few found elsewhere in the world. For each entry, there is a species description, information on provenance, growing methods, germination rates, pest and disease control, and most importantly, directions for outplanting.

Native Hawaiian Plants is a one-stop reference work for backyard gardeners as well as nursery owners and conservationists alike. Tropical gardeners around the world will also find this volume a valuable addition to the comparatively small literature on tropical plant propagation and conservation.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON



We're excited about our new vegan cookbook by Lillian Cumic. *Hawai'i: A Vegan Paradise*—a collection of all your favorite Hawai'i recipes veganized.

Vegan or not, kitchen newbie or five-star chef, this is a cookbook for any household looking to eat more

healthfully and for the average home cook (don't let your partner fool you into believing they can't cook so they can escape kitchen duty). A tribute to traditional Hawaiian food, there is something for everyone in this family-friendly book featuring plant-based recipes that will satisfy everyone at the table, both vegans and omnivores. Spoiler alert—you don't have to be vegan to enjoy vegan food!



Look for this new title this fall!

Curry Udon Soup

NOTABLE LINKS



FROM THE *HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER'S CRAVE*

Maximize Veggie Value with Boxes from Hawai'i Farms

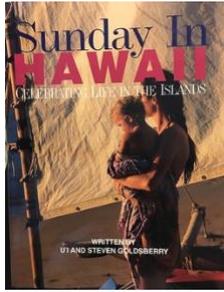
by Joleen Oshiro

Hands down, the largest selection of locally sourced food available to the public comes in the fruit-and-veggie category. Produce has long been available via farmers markets and community-supported agriculture boxes—preordered, subscription-style purchases. With the current surge of interest in local food, more farms are creating their own produce boxes. Here are a couple, with a recipe utilizing a crop (or two or three) grown on the farms. [\(MORE\)](#)

SALES OF BOOKS

Book sales increased nationally in May after being flat all year. In Hawai'i, while limited shopping curbed sales sharply, internet and Amazon sales for local books were up.

HALL OF FAME



Every issue we will visit an out-of-print title that has become a publishing classic and can be viewed when you visit the Mutual bookstore. This issue we salute *Sunday in Hawaii* when in 1997 Hawai'i's top photographers captured Hawai'i at play, at work, and at worship, on a typical Sunday in May. A timeless portrait of Hawai'i enjoying and living life in the Aloha State.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

June 4, 1971—The \$62 million Sheraton Waikiki opens.

June 11, 1871—A holiday in the memory of Kamehameha I is proclaimed by his grandson, Kamehameha V.

June 13, 1884—Smooth Cayenne pineapple plants are introduced from Madeira.

June 14, 1900—The Territory of Hawai'i, headed by Sanford B. Dole as its first governor, is inaugurated.