



# Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

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November 2015

*"Generous Heart;  
Compassionate Spirit"*



*Jolene Kim Gerell*

*July 29, 1946 – June 21, 2015*

Jolene Gerell was a most amazing and admirable woman. She focused all her energy into people and organizations she loved, and among them was the Samaritan Counseling Center. She completely embraced the inter-faith foundations of our counseling center from its beginnings. She welcomed input from a diverse Board of Directors, soliciting new ideas from our Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, Christian sisters and brothers for guidance and support.

I can still feel Jolene's captivating energy and husky, contagious laugh when she gave leadership to our Financial Campaigns. She energized us all to go and tell the community about our professional counseling services and to guide those in need to receive professional treatment.

She was like the energizer bunny. Persuasive? Yes! Friendly? Yes! Loving and Giving? Yes! Her gracious spirit and commitment to her family, her church, and SCCH were boundless.

Thank you, Jolene, for your loving personal friendship and your deep commitment to the vision of the Samaritan Center.

You truly fulfilled the mission to be in God's service to others.

*Terry Fisher, Founder, Samaritan Counseling Center*

**Celebrating over 25 Years of Service**

1020 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: (808) 545-2740 Fax: (808) 545-2852 [info@samaritanhawaii.org](mailto:info@samaritanhawaii.org)

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## IMUA!

### Andy Bates, President



The Center had an eventful 2015 with changes in the leadership, new Board members coming aboard and a new Strategic Plan approved after much thought and work on the part of many people.

One of the wishes our past Board President, Jolene Gerell had was to shape the way ahead for the Center before her passing from a long struggle with cancer. The Plan was vetted through the Board and staff over an eight month period and finally voted on three months before Jolene passed. Her memorial service was a true celebration of the interfaith ethic the Center has had since its inception, including speaker clergy from the Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian faiths.

We all miss Jolene's infectious laugh and positive leadership. She kept the Center going through hard times and was always generous in times of need. The Board has dedicated itself to fulfilling her wish to implement a strategic plan that will stabilize the Center financially and provide a greater breadth of interfaith services to the community.

In conclusion I would like to say a **Great Big "Thank-you"** to the dedicated clinical and administrative staff for staying the course during a year of change at the Center. The quality of the administrative and clinical services remained at its traditional high level throughout the year.

Mahalo nui loa, *Andy*

## Convivial

*Executive Director, Gary Augustin, PhD, LMFT*



I was listening to NPR coming to town one morning when a spritely advertisement was played about musical program that would be a convivial companion to its listeners. So I ran the word by my wife and daughter and decided that convivial would be the word of the day.

Convivial captures the spirit of Jolene Gerell. She was bright and lively and helped those around her to transcend to levels of performance that would not otherwise be attained. The Center is here because of her conviviality and it was and is infectious. Both the Board and Staff experience and exude this life breathing spirit. It is what propels me to give my time and energy to the center.

This also reminds me that there have been many spirits who created the pulse of the Center. Terry Fisher and Judy Hormel who's vision brought together a founding board with strong individuals Bob Hughes, Father Larry Fisher, and Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani bring the vision into fruition. To maintain and strengthen our Center we will need to infect this convivial spirit with the larger community through our Ho'omenemene Awards banquet and the direct services that we provide in and for the community. We are thankful to have this tradition of leadership to follow and uphold.



As a Friends of Hawaii Charities charitable grant recipient, we are honored to participate in this annual fund-raising opportunity, called "Aloha for Hawaii Charities," offered in conjunction with the Sony Open PGA TOUR tournament.

**Support Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii today and give us a boost!**

Visit [friendsofhawaii.org](http://friendsofhawaii.org)

Click on the **Aloha for Hawaii Charities** icon

Select our charity from the list of participants

Make your tax-deductible contribution to **Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc.**

Our charity will then receive **100% of your donation plus** a bonus boost from Friends of Hawaii Charities. Donations up to \$3,000 will be eligible for the bonus funds.

**Donation Period:**

**November 9, 2015 – January 17, 2016**

*For more info see the flyer enclosed*

## Please Hold the Date Ho'omenemene Awards



**Sunday, May 1, 2016**



## Suicide Prevention

*Darcy Ing, PsyD*

*Learn the Signs—"Suicide can be prevented by knowing how to start the conversation and where to turn for help."*

Suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's own death. It is the 10th leading cause of death worldwide. Participants in the recent event at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin were offered the opportunity to learn about suicide and prevention strategies. Together they looked at how to relieve suffering by breaking the silence on this significant social and mental health issue.

Samaritan Center speakers Rev. Drs. Gary Augustin and Darcy Ing described the global, national, and local demographics on suicide, reviewed risk factors and predictors, and cultural and religious perspectives. The latter included statistics on Asian and Pacific Islander suicide rates, cultural attitude towards suicide, the effect of culturally sanctioned stoicism (such as the Japanese concept of *gaman*) on asking for help, and preventive factors such as religious faith and effective family support. The importance of supporting involved family and friends and the role of faith-based and other communities/Ohana in prevention were also included, and a list of local suicide prevention resources was distributed.

The workshop also offered an open discussion resulting in sharing of experiences. Participants were reminded of the importance of human connection and sincerity when talking to people who are depressed, and that professional assistance is available 24/7.

In the beginning of 2016, the Center will be offering additional sessions for interfaith training for lay people (those who are not mental health professionals) on how to talk to depressed and suicidal people.

For more information please contact the Samaritan Counseling Center at 808-545-2740 or [info@samaritanhawaii.org](mailto:info@samaritanhawaii.org).







Samaritan  
Counseling Center  
Hawaii

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### **E KOMO MAI to our newest Therapist:**

#### ***Hitomi "MIMI" Demura-Devore, LCSW***

Born and raised in Japan, Mimi provides counseling in both English and Japanese. With her background in caring for people with medical conditions, including hospice care, she believes in the importance of holistic care—wellness of body, mind, emotion, spirit and relationship with others. She wants to help people cope with life transitions, find wholeness and meaning in their lives.

Now accepting most forms of insurance. For *appointments* call 545-2740.

#### **Samaritan Counseling Center Locations:**

##### **Main Office:**

First United Methodist Church  
1020 S. Beretania St. Honolulu

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church  
1403 California Ave. , Wahiawa

Waikeola Congregational Church  
4705 Kilauea Ave. Honolulu

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin  
1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu

Windward United Church of Christ  
38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kailua