

**The Church of the Apology  
Hawaii UCC Visitors in Buffalo April 27**

by Rev. Linda Harle-Mould,  
Campus Church ConneXion, UB & BSC

*"I belong to the Church of the Apology."* That has been my foremost description of the United Church of Christ since January of 1993...a great Church with enough Christ-like humility to admit to past wrongs to a present generation. That was the time that then-President Paul Sherry stood on the grounds of Iolani Palace and offered apology to the indigenous Hawaiian people, not for the bringing of the gospel, but for the destruction of a culture and the greedy involvement of some of its early missionary families in Hawaiian economics and politics.

One year later, in 1994, I went to Hawaii as chair of the American Missionary Assn. to work together with colleagues from the UCBHM to offer reparation and begin restoration. We heard the stories of the illegal and unjust overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani, member and musician of the Congregational Church—all sparked by the lies of James Blount, an American diplomat. Our work that week funded a foundation, but the stories kept ringing in my heart.

This past year, 2007, I returned to the Islands as part of a Sabbatical journey. I had to see what had happened in the intervening years. And while there, I learned a new story, one that reached directly back to my birthplace: Buffalo Mayor, Erie County Sheriff and, in 1894, President of the United States Grover Cleveland heard of the deceit involved in the overthrow of the Queen and made the request that Hawaii be returned to its rightful monarch and that *"April 30<sup>th</sup> [of every year] be set aside as a day of solemn fasting, and prayer for the injustice to me [President Grover Cleveland] and my great good sister [Queen Liliuokalani] for her speedy return to the throne."*

And this year that is exactly what we will do.

Western NY will be honored by the presence of a delegation from Hawaii led by Rev. Kaleo Patterson and Dr. Ha'aheo Guanson, both UCC. They will come to participate in four days of education, worship, fellowship and celebration of Grover Cleveland and Queen Liliuokalani. There will be meetings with government officials, visits to schools, and many other programs that all are invited to attend.

Questions? Call me at 480-3343 or St. Peter's UCC (West Seneca) at 674-1233.

**Sun. April 27 at St. Peter's UCC (West Seneca)**

10:00 AM Worship: Hawaiian UCC visitors preach

3:00 PM Presentation for Association, Conference, and community.

**Tue. April 29 at Buffalo State College**

12:15 – 1:15 Presentation in Bulgar Auditorium

**Wed. April 30 with Buffalo city officials**

Queen Liliuokalani – Grover Cleveland Day