



ha (1963 - 2013)



50th Anniversary...

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off-and-on rain, interspersed with bright sunlight and clear skies. Even so, the 50th Anniversary community parade was on, and people lined the streets, some with umbrellas, while the marchers and other units kept coming.

There was plenty to please them in this Laie-style parade: dignitaries, marching bands, horse units, floats, free candy, Latter-day Saint wards, labor missionaries, and so forth. One local electrical contractor even featured a piglet being roasted over live coals on the back of his truck: And in typical Polynesian style, they presented the well-done piglet to Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve, who was sitting in the VIP viewing stand at the end of the parade.

That afternoon, the Mormon Pacific Historical Society continued its annual conference, focusing on the Cultural Center; and other PCC anniversary activities this day included an evening social for PCC alumni and BYU–Hawaii students, as well as a special performance of the Center’s current night show, *Ha: Breath of Life* for the alumni.

Day 8, September 8, 2013

The second Sunday of the PCC’s 50th anniversary celebration included several Church-related activities: A CES Broadcast in the BYUH Cannon Activities Center, and Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Twelve



The Laie Community Association put on a hukilau “down in old Laie Bay” for all those at the PCC 50th Anniversary celebration, similar to the one Laie residents used to do for tourists starting in 1948.

dedicating the new Heber J. Grant multi-use building on campus, that includes classrooms and the BYUH YSA Stake Center.

Later that afternoon, PCC alumni and friends still in Laie, as well as interested community residents, congregated once again in the Cannon Activities Center to conclude the wonderful eight-day celebration with a special testimony meeting.

Most spoke of the feeling of coming home to the Polynesian Cultural Center. Some said the PCC was the best job they’ve ever had, while others told of meeting their future spouses on the job.

Sione Feinga, one of the labor missionar-

ies who helped build the PCC, recalled they were each paid \$10 a month back then, and considered it a “great honor” to be part of the work.

Oliana Tapusoa Tautu, an original Samoan villager whose father and mother also worked there, Mauga and Fa’ane’e Tapusoa, called the PCC “my second family.” Indeed, fourth-generation members of the Tapusoa family have or are currently working at the Center.

Sophia Turaga, one of a tiny number of Polynesians from the small island of Rotuma, which is a political dependency of Fiji, came to Laie in 1965 and said the Center is where “we learned to serve and love each other,” and that it was “not a sacrifice.”

Sisi Muti said she and her sister alumnae cried as they came through the night show tunnel onto the PCC stage for the alumni show; and on a more practical note, delighted the audience when she recalled she first learned how to “walk in high heels” and “eat with a knife and fork” when she came to Laie 50 years ago.

At the end, PCC President, CEO and student alumna Alfred Grace thanked everyone (read his comments starting on page 1). Then everyone sang Hawaii Aloha and going outside for refreshments and final farewells.

The PCC’s golden anniversary celebration, marking 50 years of achievements, was a truly wonderful event.



A little rain couldn’t dampen the spirits of all the PCC alumni, community residents and others who participated in the 50th Anniversary parade on Saturday, September 7, 2013.

Imua Polenisia



Iona Teriipaia leads "gold" alumni (1963-87) in the Tahitian section on Friday evening, September 6, 2013.



Tongan "gold" alumni perform a spirited mauuluu.



(Above): Fijian "gold" alumni Etu Baravilala, Jack Damuni and So'o Tufaga
(Below): Alumna night show dancer Valerie Grace (front row, left), wife of PCC President & CEO Alfred Grace, joins the Samoan "silver" section



(Above): Larry Cookson, Maori "silver"
(Below): Penny (left) and Vili Toilolo, Hawaiian "Silver"



PCC honors “Living Treasures” during 50th Anniversary

The Center honored 18 alumni during the Golden Jubilee celebration for their cultural contributions, remarkable service to the PCC and their lives of aloha: 17 of them received the 50th Anniversary Lei Pulama Aloha — Lei of a Living Treasure Award, and the last recipient, a special service award.

With Cy Bridges as emcee, PCC President & CEO Alfred Grace and Board Chairman Fraser Bullock presented the “Living Treasure” awards to:

■ *Kumu hula, kahu and alaka’i kaubale* **Kamaki Kanahele**, Hawaii: Kanahele, an early PCC employee, earned degrees from CCH and BYU Provo, taught school and hula and operated an import-export business in Utah, and was then appointed U.S. Director of the Department for the Endowment of Arts from the Ford-to-Reagan administrations. Back in Hawaii, Kanahele worked as an administrator and then trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and is currently Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Healing Center and State Chairman, Sovereign Hawaiian Affairs.

■ *Loea Kalakalai* **David “Kawika” H. Eskaran**, Hawaii: Eskaran, one of the master carvers of the BYUH sailing canoe Iosepa, worked at the PCC for 13 years during which time many of his creations were presented to

VIPs around the world. He is currently the Director of Special Projects for Ka Halau Nui A Hawaii Loa in the BYUH Jonathan Napela Center for Hawaiian Language and Cultural Studies and also oversees Kahua Ola, the Hawaiian Studies *malama aina* garden.

■ *Loea hana kapa* **Dalani Kay Tanahy**, Hawaii: Tanahy, who now lives in San Diego, California, worked at the PCC from 1979–80. Her continuing quest for Hawaiian knowledge ever since has brought her renown in making and teaching others how to make *kapa* — Hawaiian bark cloth. Her skill has taken her throughout Hawaii as well as to Japan, Samoa, Washington DC, and Berlin, Germany; and she recently created a number of pieces for Disney’s Aulani Resort and Spa.

■ *Tohunga whakairo* **Takaputai “Taka” Mete Walker**, QSM, Aotearoa: Walker, a renowned master carver in New Zealand, was the youngest of the eight carvers — and the last surviving one — who worked on the original PCC Whare Tipuna panels. He came to Laie in 1963 as a member of Te Aroha Nui Maori Company, and to help install the panels. Since then, Walker has completed many Maori carved houses and canoes, and he recently replaced the aging panels at the PCC.

■ Creative director and Maoritanga cultural expert **Tommy Taurima**, Aotearoa: Taurima first came to Laie as one of the early PCC employees, and came again in the 1980s-90s as a cultural expert in the PCC’s Islands of Aotearoa. Since returning to New Zealand, “Uncle Tommy” has been heavily involved in teaching Maori culture to youth.

■ Maori cultural expert Auntie **Valetta Nepia Jeremiah**: Originally from the Gisborne area of New Zealand, Auntie Val first came to the PCC as a member of Te Aroha Nui Maori Company in 1963, and returned a few months later to work full time in the Maori Village as a musician, singer, choreographer and also a night show instructor. Auntie Val retired from the Center two years ago, but she continues to share her love of Maoritanga with youth and others in

the community.

■ Samoan World Fireknife Championships founder and Samoan cultural expert **Pulefano Galea’i**: The Galea’i family moved from American Samoa to Laie in the 1950s, and have made a powerful cultural impact ever since. Pulefano soon became a famous knife dancer, then spent 37 as an entertainer on the East Coast. Returning to Laie, he worked over 20 more years as a PCC senior manager. Though he’s now retired, he still consults at the PCC and is involved in many other cultural activities.

■ Original PCC employee **Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin**, Samoa: Hunkin spent part of his youth growing up in Laie. He eventually graduated from BYU and earned a J.D. degree from the University of Houston and a Master of Law degree from UC Berkeley. In addition to serving as staff counsel to the late Congressman Phillip Burton of California and chief of staff for the late Congressman Fuimaono, Hunkin also served the Government of American Samoa as Deputy Attorney General and Lt. Governor; and for the past 24 years has been the elected American Samoa congressman in Washington D.C.

■ Original PCC employee **Vatau Galea’i Neria**, Samoa: Vatau, Pulefano’s sister, danced in all the night show sections at the PCC, and eventually became the Samoan dance instructor, program coordinator and theater manager. She eventually left the PCC to pursue a career in education in American Samoa, where she was a teacher, counselor, vice principal and principal . . . before returning to Laie. She is now retired, but she is still active in cultural events.

■ Tahitian cultural expert **Iona Teriipaia** and his family came from to Laie in the early 1970s and have shared their cultural knowledge and talents ever since. Not only a popular entertainer, he and his family revitalized the Tahitian Village and Tahitian culture at the PCC for many years.

■ Multi-talented **Raymond Mariteragi**, Tahiti: Mariteragi came to the PCC in the mid-1960s and worked as a student in the Tahitian Village and night show. He also worked as a lead guitarist and entertainer in Tahiti, other parts of Hawaii and Orlando, Florida, later rejoining the Center as a manager in Maintenance and the Theater. He then served as cultural islands director and recently retired as the Village Operations



PCC alumnus Tevita Toafa prepares to lead a Tongan community choir in the closing song of the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Continued on the next page

Director. To show the depth of his talent, he also spent six years coaching the Kahuku High varsity boys basketball team and is known for his Tahitian cooking skills.

■ Tahitian dancer extraordinaire **Erena Mapuhi Pito**: She came in the earliest days of the PCC to add her beauty and flair to Tahitian culture at the Center, where she also served as the dance instructor. Now living in Tahiti but unable to attend the reunion, she wrote: "...I reminisce on my time there and my heart is full. My memories are so vivid as I recall ALL the joy, laughter and tears we shared. I am especially grateful for the friendships I made with so many of you. How blessed I am to have been part of the Center, this beautiful place that I called home."

■ Labor missionary, original PCC performer and former PCC Board member **Kalolaine Mataele Soukop**, Tonga: Kalo was one of the earliest Tongan students at CCH, where she joined Polynesian Panorama and performed in Waikiki before the Center opened. After leaving Laie, she established a number of businesses, including her own Waikiki show, became involved in civic and Tongan cultural organizations, and served on the PCC Board for many years.

■ Labor missionary and master carver **Sione Tuione Pulotu**, Tonga: He originally helped build the Cultural Center and stayed on to work. Later, after starting his own business, he installed numerous cultural refinements at the Center. His many carvings include BYUH's 57-foot traditional twin-hulled Hawaiian sailing canoe, Iosepa (with Kawika Eskaran), and the 105-foot Tongan kalia-style sailing canoe, Mileniume.

■ Multi-talented **Melenaite "Mele" Mala'e-fo'ou Tovo**, Tonga: Mele came to the Cultural Center over 30 years ago where she has danced in the shows, assisted six Tongan Village chiefs, composed and choreographed the Tongan sections in both canoe pageants and night shows. She is currently a handicraft artisan at the Mission Settlement.

■ Fijian cultural expert **Sereima (Nana) Damuni**: Nana came with her husband, the late Emosi Damuni, and young family, who literally grew up at the PCC to the delight of many thousands of visitors to the Fijian Village. Years later she joined the Wardrobe team in the Theater Department where her cultural skills further contributed to costuming and she became one of the "mamas" to several generations of PCC performers.

■ **Sophia Akanisi Turaga**, Fiji: Sophia, who is originally from Rotuma — a separate island culture that is part of Fiji, came to Laie in 1965. Since then she worked in the Fijian and other villages, and distinguished herself as an exceptional weaver and handicrafter — even traveling on promo tours in that capacity — until she retired as the weavers supervisor in 1998.

■ The PCC President's Special Golden Anniversary Service Award went to **Tausilinu'u David Hannemann**, who is originally from Samoa. After serving a mission in Hawaii, Hannemann established a luau business in Los Angeles, from where he was recruited to work at the Center in 1963 as one of the first paid employees. In those early years, he was responsible for creating the PCC luau, fashion show, canoe pageant and implementing many other innovations.

Hannemann returned to California in 1968 to refocus on his business, but came back in 1982 as a senior executive in operations, food services and maintenance. After he retired in 1995, he was called as president of the Laie Hawaii Temple. Having been here from the beginning, Uncle David still serves voluntarily as the unofficial PCC historian.

President's Message...

Continued from page 1

important things in our lives happened in this special place.

For many of us, we gained an education here. Many of us fell in love with co-workers and married in the nearby House of the Lord, and we started families with children who were born here. I can't tell you how many people told me that during the reunion. These and many more are the lifetime memories that continue to make this place sacred for we who have been so greatly blessed to be a part of the PCC.

Mahalo to all who worked hard to make this grand reunion a success — especially our COO, Logo Apelu and his steering com-

mittee, as well as all those who supported us with their time, talents and resources, and our sister institution, BYU-Hawaii, for graciously allowing us to use the Cannon Activities Center and other facilities.

Mahalo nui to all of you who could join us in Laie. It was wonderful to see you again. We realize many more wanted to come, but couldn't at this time; and we're always mindful that many other alumni who helped the Center reach this milestone are no longer with us.

This brings to mind the saying, we've all drunk from wells we did not dig, and warmed ourselves by fires we did not kindle; or in our case, we are all the benefactors of those who went before us, and we are grateful for all they did. Likewise, we are as links in a chain leading into the future.

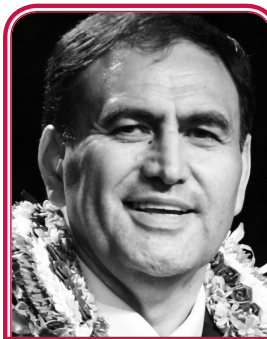
I'm reminded of the *keiki* who sang during our 50th Anniversary musical fireside the first night in the Koolauloa Children's Choir: They represent a promise that the future can be radiant and glorious, but we must do our part that the future generations who come after us will continue to forge their own special memories and share in the same blessings we have enjoyed in the PCC's first 50 years. That's how we show our true thanks to our Father in Heaven.

Thank you again for all that you've done during your respective times at the Center, and for coming to the 50th Anniversary celebration or participating online. Know that we love and appreciate every one of you, and that you will always be welcome here.

With best regards,



P. Alfred Grace
President & CEO



President Grace

MAHALO NUI

In January 2011 the PCC appointed Logo-
itino Apelu, now Chief Operations Officer,
as chairman of the 50th Anniversary steering
committee, setting in motion the Center's
Golden Anniversary celebration throughout
2013 — highlighted by the eight-day alumni
reunion from Sept. 1–8.

Apelu quickly pulled together a broad-
based steering committee, who began
meeting regularly.



COO Apelu

“Fifty years is such
a significant mile-
stone for all of us,
and I can’t thank
our committee
and so many oth-
ers enough for all
of their efforts in
making the Gold-
en Anniversary
such a memorable
event. It has truly
been a voyage of faith,” he said, referring to
the theme the committee selected.

“I hesitate to list anyone, for fear of inad-
vertently leaving someone out. For example,
most of the steering committee members had
sub-committees,” Apelu continued, “but I
must acknowledge the committee and a few
others,” including:

Delsa Moe, 50th Anniversary celebration
co-chair; **Allen Kroff**, alumni directory;
Les Steward and **Dan Briskin**, Physical
Facilities; **David Ralph**, Finance; **Fifita
Unga** and **Losa Moors**, Food Services; **John
Muaina**, **Logo Apelu** and **Wilda Paalua**,
housing and VIPs; **Raymond Magalei**, PR,
marketing and graphics; **Tali Galea’i** and
Anetta Taufa, registration; **Ellen Gay Dela
Rosa** and **Taofi Magalei**, tech services; **Al-
len Walker** and **Francis Ho Ching**, trans-
portation; **Kealii Haverly**, merchandising
and DVDs; **John Muaina**, temple sessions;

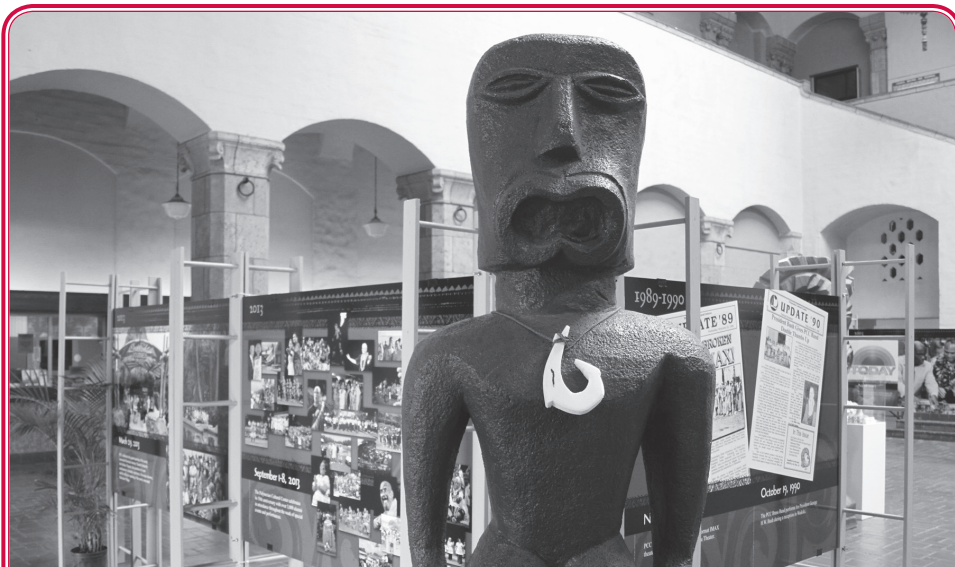
Kathy Tolleson, employee recognition;
Les Steward and **Tevita Toafa**, testimony
meeting; **Raymond Mokiao**, alumni recep-
tion; **John Muaina** and **David Hannemann**,
educational panels; **Seamus Fitzgerald**,
island cultural welcomes; **Ellen Gay Dela
Rosa** and **David Tiave**, talent show; **Fi-
fita Unga** and **Kela Miller**, hukilau; **Sonne
Campbell** and **Lanae Ngatuvai**, island ball;
and **Tipa Galea’i**, anniversary parade;

Pane Meatoga and **Mike Foley**, pcc50.
com; **Fred Camit**, golf tournament; **Jimmy**

Mapu and **Steve Laulu**, Polynesian olympics;
Seth Casey, concert series; **Bobby Akoi** and
Esther Macy, musical fireside; **Cy Bridges**,
special events and “Living Treasures”; **Inoke
Suguturaga**, daily flagraising; **David Kam-
merer** and **Darren Duerden**, alumni brass
band; **Riley Moffat**, MPHS historical pre-
sentations; **Tema Hunkin Laussen** and **Lei
Cummings**, Philanthropies; and **Michael
Johanson**, BYUH liaison.

Ellen Gay Dela Rosa, alumni “gold” show
coordinator; **Sunday Mariteragi**, Hawaii;
Inoke and **Malia Funaki**, Tonga; **Vatau
Neria** and **Steve Laulu**, Samoa; **Valetta
Jeremiah**, Maori; **Bale Tuisavura**, Fiji; and
Rose Perreira, Tahiti;

Delsa Moe, alumni “silver” show co-
ordinator; **Keith Awai**, Hawaii; **Fasi** and
Mele Tovo, Tonga; **Nephi Setoki** and **Peka
Tapusoa**, Samoa; **Jerusha Magalei**, Maori;
Api Tora and **Joe Tulele**, Fiji; **Regina Pasi**,
Tahiti; **David Galea’i**, fire knife section;
David Tiave, director; **Jon-Raymond
Mariteragi**, stage manager; and **Raymond
Magalei**, video effects.



The City and County of Honolulu featured a PCC 50th Anniversary display in Honolulu Hale in October; and both Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie also honored the Center.



PCC President & CEO Alfred Grace (right) and his wife, Valerie, in the 50th Anniversary parade. Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Twelve also rode in the parade. Others who came for the week included PCC Board of Directors, Presidents Council members, several past PCC presidents and family representatives, and others.
(PCC photos by Mike Foley)



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