

# Imua Polenisia

Celebrating  
Fifty Years

50  
Polynesian  
CULTURAL CENTER

A Newsletter from the Polynesian Cultural Center

## President's Message: Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

First, I want to wish each of our PCC ohana members and special friends a warm Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We're also delighted we can share the joyous messages of Christmas with our guests at this time of the year by acknowledging the birth of the Savior through our annual *Christmas Lagoon* production. It's absolutely delightful, and the best one we've done yet.

Mahalo nui to all of you and the community volunteers who help us make *Christmas Lagoon* a memorable experience for the whole family. Activities like this remind us that it's really a wonderful blessing to come to work, knowing people with the same important values surround us.

Foremost among the former, of course, has been our 50th Anniversary celebration: Our Golden Jubilee turned out to be a wonderful year filled with fantastic events and capped by our reunion celebration. Mahalo nui to all of you who participated and helped make this an unforgettable occasion.

We also made significant progress on improving our facilities with the opening of the new

*Continued on page 5*



Carvers, community members, senior missionaries and PCC island leaders join with the Maori Village on November 30, 2013, to commemorate the new carvings and reopening of the *marae*. — PCC photos by Mike Foley

## Maori Village reopens in pre-sunrise ceremony

Before sunrise, in accordance with Maori custom, carvers, service missionaries, island representatives, other Maoris from the community and special guests waited at the Maori Village gate on November 30 for a special *kawanga* (house-opening) ceremony to mark the reopening of the PCC's Islands of Aotearoa *marae* following extensive renovations and replacing some of the original carvings.

More than 150 people participated in the ceremony that included Seamus Fitzgerald, PCC Director of Cultural Islands and Maori Village manager, and his team inviting the guests onto the *marae* with chants, followed by the entire group symbolically clearing the

three houses for use by everyone in a stately procession.

Speeches and songs in Maori followed, Fitzgerald orating on behalf of the PCC and

*Continued on page 2*

## PCC earns worldwide 'Thea' Award for excellence

The Themed Entertainment Association has awarded its 2014 Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement to the Polynesian Cultural Center's recent revitalization. The annual award, one of only 13 in the world, will be presented during a special awards gala at Disneyland in California on April 5.

The Thea Award, considered the entertainment and attraction industry's highest honor, recognizes excellence in creating outstanding guest experiences, as recently demonstrated by

*Continued on page 2*

## In this Issue

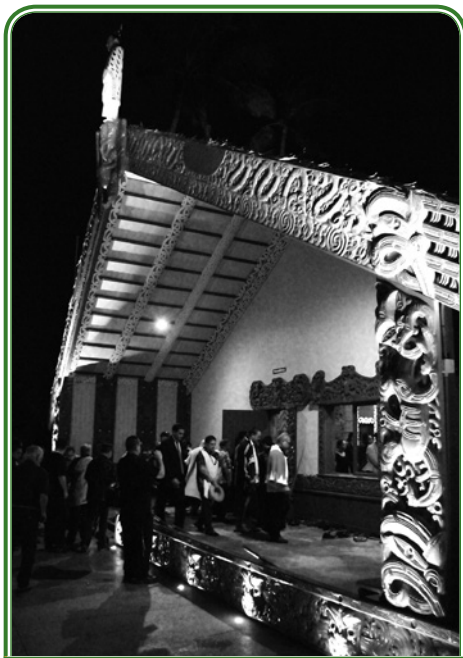
Construction project updates .....	3
Reorganizational changes .....	4
Spirit of Aloha award goes to .....	6
50th Anniversary DVDs on sale .....	8



## Maori Village reopens

*Continued from page 1*

Maori master carver Takaputai “Taka” Mete Walker, QSM, 79, of Havelock North, New Zealand, responding.



The procession respectfully enters the meeting house.

Following the speeches, everyone shared a *hongi* — the traditional Maori pressing of noses. Then Fitzgerald presented *koha* or gifts to several of the carvers and senior missionaries who played key roles on the project: A *toki* or adze head pendant created from the same piece of Maori greenstone in Hokitika, New Zealand.

“All of you who received this are connected through your work here,” Fitzgerald said in bestowing the special gifts. He also noted volunteer labor missionaries built the PCC’s original Maori Village 50 years ago, “and it’s significant that they helped again on this project.”

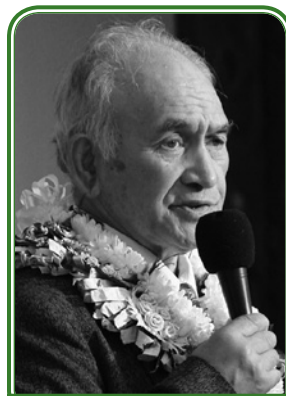
Following that, each of the island representatives presented Walker with a cultural gift. In his remarks, PCC President and CEO Alfred Grace, a New Zealand Maori, said the Center is “very grateful to Uncle Taka” for helping embody Elder Matthew Cowley’s vision of a carved house in Laie.

“We’re also grateful for those who have gone on before us, and we’re grateful for a new day here,” he continued, praising former PCC President Von D. Orgill, “who recognized the importance of making sure that we remain true to who we are” in regards to the renewal of the Maori Village.

“As requested by Seamus, we agreed to do this properly and have Uncle Taka come back,” Grace said. “The first time around we were a little rushed, so he made sure everything was done spot-on this time. Thank you, Uncle. Thank you, Seamus. You make all the Maori people here proud.”

To the Maoris gathered that morning, Grace also said, “I hope this is an experience you’ll always remember. You’ll go back to your own *marae* and your own *hapu* (clan), but you’ll always belong to this one, too.”

Finally, at the end, everyone enjoyed a *kai*, a typical New Zealand breakfast.



Walker

Much of the credit for the new carvings goes to Walker. Fifty years ago he was the youngest — and today the only surviving member — of the eight-man crew from New Zealand who created and

installed the original carvings.

In addition to Walker’s own Havelock North crew, PCC carver Doug Christy — whose father, the late Epanaia “Uncle Barney” Christy, was also one of the original carvers — went to New Zealand twice to participate in the project. “It was a fabulous experience,” Christy said. “It brought back lots of memories and a little bit of a tear to the eye.”

Walker explained the new carvings are patterned after those designed by original master carver, Hone (John) Taiapa, but include more detail. “There just wasn’t time in the schedule before the Center originally opened to include all of them,” he said. He also noted there wasn’t enough time in 1963 to hold a *kawanga* ceremony, “so this is very special to me and a historical moment for this *marae*” [village].

PCC Director of Facilities Dan Briskin reported the Maori Village renovations also include new sidewalks, a much larger version of the structure where guests learn to play the *stic*, and new infrastructure.

“The project expanded into something bigger than we originally thought,” he said, “but we’re very pleased with the results. What we’re getting is almost a brand-new village.”

While the improvement work was underway, visitor activities took place in the May Day area and Tongan Village amphitheater.

### Other project updates

With the end of the Polynesian Cultural Center’s 50th Anniversary year just days away, construction crews have been focusing their efforts on other projects: Some are very visible, and have required both PCC villagers and guests to be flexible, while others are behind the scenes.

Briskin shared the following run-down on some of those projects:

#### The new Market Place

“The Center is still waiting to receive our main building permits for the new Market Place,” Briskin said, “but we’ve already got permission to start on ‘deep underground’ utilities, such as sewer connections for the new bathrooms, while we wait for the rest of the permits to be approved. That could happen any day.”

He explained that soon after the 50th

## Thea Award...

*Continued from page 1*

the PCC’s new *Hawaiian Journey* cinematic presentation and redesign of the Gateway restaurant.

“It’s a tremendous honor to win the Thea Award and see the Polynesian Cultural Center placed alongside some of the biggest names in the global entertainment and attractions industry,” said Alfred Grace, PCC President

and CEO. “We’ve been putting a great deal of energy into revitalizing our guest experiences and facilities to better showcase the diverse cultures and people of Hawaii and the rest of Polynesia.”

A sample of 2014 recipients include Gardens by the Bay in Singapore and *The Song of An Angel* performance at Universal Studios Japan. Other recent recipients include the Aulani Disney Resort in Ko Olina, Oahu; and “The Making of Harry Potter,” Warner Bros. London, England, studio tour.

*Continued on page 3*

## Momentum picks up on other PCC renovations

Anniversary celebration in September, the Pacific Theater bathrooms were demolished and temporary portable facilities installed.

Eric Workman, PCC Executive Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Development, explained that the new Market Place plans call for four buildings to be constructed *makai* [seaward] of the Pacific Theater. “We’ve already had meetings with potential tenants, and we’re beginning to take applications from others who would be interested in being a part of the activities in that area.”

“One of the Center’s overall objectives is to help the community, and the interest level has been high,” he said.

Kea Haverly, PCC Director of In-Center Marketing, who will have responsibility for much of the area, added in a PCC employee meeting on November 21 that the new Market Place will feature a restaurant, shops, kiosks, entertainment, an ukulele factory experience, and French Polynesian *roulottes* or food trucks.

Briskin said the new Market Place has a tentative completion date of December 2014 or January 2015.

### The Hale Aloha

“Except for some technical tweaking, work on the Hale Aloha is essentially complete and our luau theater has reopened,” Briskin said.

### Samoan Village

The new Samoan *maota* (chief’s house) — its significance marked by a *paepae* foundation

that elevates it — is nearing completion.

“This means that all of the concrete we temporarily poured on the village *malae* [common area] to accommodate the Island Feast while the Hale Aloha was closed, has been removed. We are in the process of relandscaping the area, and it’s going to look beautiful.”

### Islands Office

Briskin said that after the PCC receives the appropriate permits, the existing Islands Office — between Samoa and Aotearoa — will be demolished. “We plan to rebuild it about 15 feet *mauka* [inland] of its current location on the service road. While construction is going on,” he said, “the Islands Office will temporarily relocate to the back of the Hale Aloha.”

### Other projects

**Emergency generator:** Briskin said construction work has started on an emergency generator shed to be located near the Maintenance Building.

“This one will power the whole Center in case of an emergency — replacing 12 current generators with one large one,” he said. “It’s also powerful enough to back-up part of BYUH in an emergency: It can run for 10 hours straight at 100 percent power before refueling.”

Briskin stressed that the new generator, which is already on site and basically looks like a 40-foot container, “won’t interrupt the night show with noise, which was an important consideration.”

### Near-future projects

**Maintenance Building:** “We’re going to be doing a lot of painting and other work on the building,” Briskin said, “including ‘reprogramming’ it to make better use of the existing space to accommodate the warehouse needs of the new Market Place.”

**Pacific Theater:** He added that early next year the PCC will begin repair work on “the mountain. That’s going to be a bit of a challenge, because we’re going to do the work without interrupting the night show.”

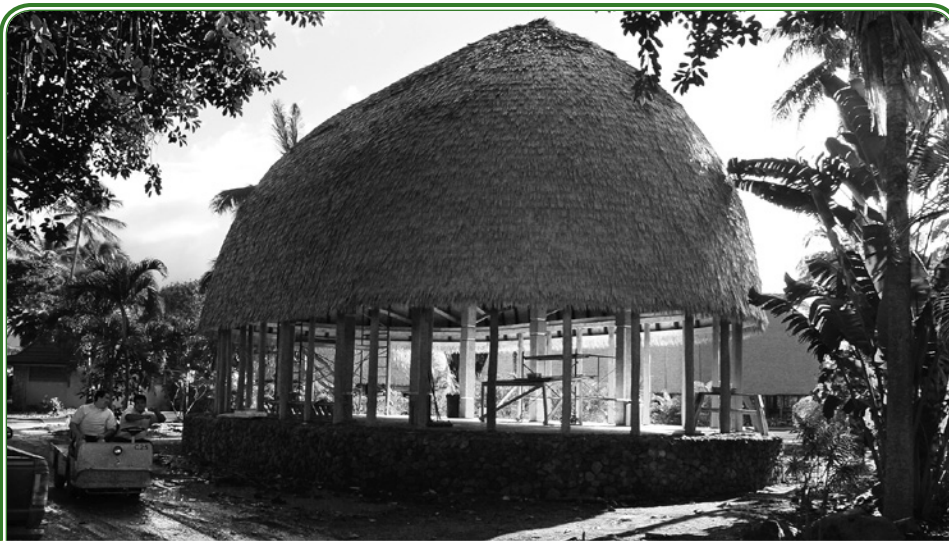
“Our big project next year is to renovate the **Tongan Village**. Historical and cultural overtones make this a very exciting project,” Briskin said, referring to a recent trip PCC Vice President of Facilities Jesse Baer and Tongan master carver Tuione Pulotu made to Tonga.

Baer said in a separate interview he and Pulotu originally intended to explore possible ideas for the renovation, “but we saw very few examples of traditional Tongan architecture there, which made us realize the Center increasingly plays a critical role in helping preserve aspects of Tongan culture.”

“That’s somewhat sad, but it helps increase our commitment to get it right,” Briskin added. “We hope to start construction after the summer of 2014, which gives us time to get the design right, make sure that our Tongan Village gives us lots of input, and that we’re doing it the very best that we can.”

“That’s the approach we’re going to take with all cultural renovations: Spend more time understanding what is required to get it right before starting construction. Of course, it’s a challenge to adapt ancient cultures with modern building codes and requirements. The codes ensure that safety is first and foremost.”

Briskin also said the Center’s **Food & Beverage building** will undergo major renovations in 2014, including reprogramming space to make the building more efficient, “and keep operations going at the same time. We hope to finish that by the end of 2014.”

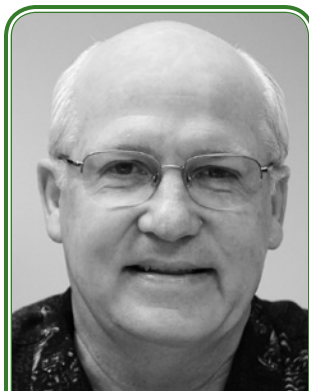


The relative height of the *paepae* (foundation) of the new *maota* or chief’s house in the Samoan Village is an indication of its cultural importance. It faces the newly replanted village green. — PCC photo by Mike Foley



## PCC announces staff organizational changes

With the 50th Anniversary activities now part of the history books, the PCC also recently made several organizational changes.



Baer

P C C Chief Operations Officer Logo Apelu announced **Jesse Baer** as the new Vice President of Physical Facilities.

Baer comes to us from Salt Lake City,

where he worked in Latter-day Saint Church maintenance and facilities management, including overseeing the Joseph Smith Memorial Building for 13 years, the Church Office Building for five years, and most recently the half-million square-foot Bishop's Storehouse commodities warehouse. Prior to that, he worked for 20 years in all phases of construction.

Baer said his new position is a little like "coming home," since as a boy he lived in Samoa from 1970-73 while his father was a construction supervisor. He attended Church College of Western Samoa, and returned to Samoa as a missionary from 1974-76.

"We lived next door to Delsa Moe's family back then, and she was friend's with my younger sister. Kap Tafiti's older brothers also taught me how to make an umu when we lived in their ward," said Baer, who attended school at Pesega with Steve Lauulu, the PCC's Samoan Village manager. He and Lauulu also served together as missionaries.

"Since then, I've stayed in contact with the Samoan community in Salt Lake, but it has been fun to come here and meet a lot of people I grew up with but haven't seen for 40 years. Of course, a lot of my classmates came to school here and I've always had an affinity for Laie, the Polynesian Cultural Center and what goes on here."

"To be associated with you now is an incredible experience. I'm excited to work with the men and women behind the scenes who keep the Center's facilities operational and looking good.

Chief Financial Officer Doug Lyons announced that **Jarod Hester** has succeeded **Larry Yuen** as the Center's new Controller, and that Yuen has been named the Center's Chief Accountant "to focus on all our day-to-day transactions."

Hester, who was born in England, moved to New Zealand as a toddler and lived in the North Shore area of Auckland. He graduated from Auckland University in commerce and accounting, and brings 20 years of financial experience with the Church, including being controller for the Pacific Area for almost nine years.

His work during those years took him to many of the Pacific islands. "One of my favorite places is Vava'u, Tonga, which is gorgeous,



Hester

as are many other places, such as Lalo-manu Beach in Samoa and the Fijian outer islands. Some of the most humble people in the world are in Kiribati, and all the islands have their unique beauty."

"With all the changes going on here, and trying to better utilize some of the Church's financial systems, several people who knew of my Pacific background recommended me for this role," Hester said.

"I've got a real passion for the Polynesian people, and I'm grateful to be here," he continued. "Having spent time at Liahona, Pesega, Vaiola and other Latter-day Saint places in the islands, when they asked me to come here, I was all in."

Hester and his wife, who had not previously been to Hawaii, brought four of their five children with them.

Other recent personnel changes at the PCC include:

### Sales and Marketing

- **J. Alan Walker**, who has been working

out of the Waikiki office for many years, most recently as Director of Eastbound Sales reporting to Raymond Magalei, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, has returned to Laie and now reports to Eric Workman, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Strategic Development, as the new Director of Research and Development.

"He'll help us create deeper insights into the market by consolidating and refining our satisfaction data into a customer relationship database system to focus on repeat visitor business," Workman said. "He'll also help grow our e-marketplace and support us in developing new products and activities at the Center."

Workman stressed that Walker, who is excited about his new challenges, will continue "to support Japanese sales in the interim until a suitable replacement has been found. He has done a tremendous job with the Japanese market over many years, and we're excited to have him in his new role to help us build the PCC product with new offerings."

- Workman noted **Francis Ho Ching**, formerly Senior Manager of Westbound Sales, has been named Director of Sales for the PCC. "That's a redefinition of his former responsibilities," Workman explained. "He still reports to Magalei, but now he and his team are responsible for all sales channels, not just agent sales."

"In the past our sales teams were fairly siloed into market segments and channels," Workman continued. "Now we're taking a more mixed approach. Ho Ching and his team have to look at the whole market, and holistically optimize sales across all the channels."

- Account Executive **Nephi Setoki** has been asked to assume the Direct Sales responsibilities that had previously been part of Pane Meatoga's responsibilities, so Meatoga can "focus more attention on setting up new e-commerce tools and maintaining the systems, while Setoki will focus on the sales and marketing side. We could use five more Pane's because so much is expected of him," Workman said.

- PCC alum **David Betham** has rejoined the Center as the new Reservations Manager. He succeeds **Sally Mapu**, who requested a transition and has been asked to take over sales training responsibilities, and reports to Ho Ching.

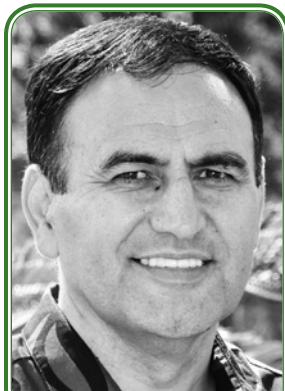
*Continued on page 5*

## President's Message...

*Continued from page 1*

Hawaiian Journey Theater and Hawaiian Village, and the extensive renovations to the Hale Aloha, Samoan and Maori Villages.

During this past year we have also seen tough times in the visitor industry, which brings to mind our goal of being self-reliant. Achieving self-reliance helps us continue to



President Grace

fulfill our objectives related to building the community and the Laie Hawaii Temple, supporting our sister institution of BYU-Hawaii and its students, positively reflecting the Church as we share the aloha spirit, and helping

ing to preserve and portray Polynesian culture.

The late President Gordon B. Hinckley once said, "It is not so much the major events as the small day-to-day decisions that map the course of our living. Our lives are, in reality, the sum total of our seemingly unimportant decisions and of our capacity to live by those decisions."

President Hinckley also counseled us to live honestly every day, so others can trust our words, motives and actions. "Others will remember longer what they saw in us than what they heard from us," he said. "Our attitude and our point of view can make a tremendous difference."

What we do here is important, not just to the job, but to our lives. We need to apply President Hinckley's principles to ourselves, both here at the Center and in our other roles beyond these gates. We need to be excellent examples to all around us. It's more about what we do than what we say.

I would also add one more admonition from President Hinckley: "Get on your knees and pray, then get on your feet and work." That's how we'll get through the challenges and tough times, which will pass.

We have some wonderful activities coming in the new year, with appropriate plans to improve the Polynesian Cultural Center ex-

perience; and I look forward to working with each of you in helping make 2014 another outstanding year.

With best regards,



P. Alfred Grace  
President & CEO

## Staff changes...

*Continued from page 4*

### Operations

- **Seamus Fitzgerald** has been appointed as the new Cultural Islands Director, and will also continue in his role as Maori Village manager. He succeeds Raymond Mariteragi, who recently retired.

- **Cy Bridges** has succeeded Bobby Akoi as PCC Director of Protocol. He will also continue to work with the Moanikeala Hula Festival special event.

John Muaina, PCC Vice President of Human Resource, said that **Bobby Akoi**, meanwhile, is now the Director of Training and Development with responsibilities including the new I-LEAD program.

Muaina explained that "beginning January 1, 2014, all new student hires at the PCC will be required to complete a series of I-LEAD modules. These will help those students who perhaps are not familiar with working in our kind of environment."

"As students are hired, they'll go through our regular new-hire orientation, but we'll pay them for two additional hours to complete the first set of modules," Muaina said. "These basically start off with the new-hires knowing their duties, and the late President Gordon B. Hinckley is the focus of that module. Akoi will follow up with them to make sure they complete the module."

Muaina added there will also be I-LEAD supervisory modules, "so that when any of our students are promoted, there is both a departmental training process and I-LEAD supervisory modules. Upon completion, they'll get a certificate, which can become part of their résumés."

# Imua Polenisia

- With the exception of the hula festival, **William Mahoni** is now director of all the Center's special and major events.

- **Steve Laulu** has been promoted to Senior Island Manager/Luau, and has taken on the new responsibility of supervising all luau performances in addition to continuing to serve as the Samoan Village manager. "He'll work closely with the Food & Beverage and Theater Departments in his new capacity," said Delsa Moe, PCC Director of Cultural Operations. "With Steve's experience, we're going to take our luaus to an all-new level."

- **Talagū Ah Hoy** has transferred from the Theater Department and is now the on-site Guides Coordinator, the position Aliimau Toelupe filled before he recently retired. She's also supervising Chinese and Korean guides.

- **Titi Ha'o** has also transferred from the Theater Department and is now the Guest Services office supervisor, the position previously held by the late Kim Naeole.

- **Jimmy Mapu** has been promoted to Assistant Guest Services Manager.

- Guest Services Manager **Tipa Galea'i** now also has responsibility for the Security and First Aid Departments.

- **Lau Niumatalolo** has succeeded **Liufau Tu'ifua**, who recently retired, as the Security Supervisor. Tu'ifua had almost 38 years of service at the Center.

Other recent retirees include **Nona Warner**, Seamstress; **Felila Liufau**, Banyan Snack Bar; **Pepe Nautu**, Samoan Village; **Sela Feinga**, Handicrafts; and Theater Manager **Taofi Magalei**.

Delsa Moe said many of these personnel changes had been under discussion for several months, "but we felt it was important to wait until after our 50th Anniversary reunion to insure that event went as smoothly as possible."



## 'Spirit of Aloha' Award goes to Seumanutafa

Polynesian Cultural Center President & CEO Alfred Grace presented the 2013 Barbara Velasco Spirit of Aloha Award to **Travis Seumanutafa**, a Samoan who was born and raised in Auckland, New Zealand, during a PCC team meeting on December 19 in the Hawaiian Journey Theater.

Seumanutafa, who graduated in elementary education from BYU-Hawaii the previous Saturday, has been working in Special Events, and also worked in Guest Services.

Grace explained that the "very special" award was established with a generous donation in 2010 from the Keith and Carol Jenkins Foundation to recognize a BYU-Hawaii student working at the Center "who best demonstrates the spirit of aloha personified in the service and in the life of the late Barbara Velasco," an LDS Philanthropies donor liaison who worked with the Jenkins in their role as key members of the BYUH/PCC Presidents Leadership Council. Velasco, who was known as "Mrs. Aloha," passed away in 2010.

Grace also shared several of the comments made in nominating Seumanutafa for the award: "I cannot think of a more deserving recipient. He served extremely well during his years as a Guide leader, trainer and wonderful example. He also served in the bishopric of a campus ward, and is an honorable husband and new father to a beautiful baby boy."

"He's always willing to help where needed, when needed, and makes it fun for all working with him," another senior manager wrote, Grace said. "He can work unsupervised and make good decisions on his own. He's a great team player, and he's very supportive of his leaders and the mission of the Polynesian Cultural Center."

"It was a shock to be recognized like this," Seumanutafa responded. "I'm sure there are a lot of others here who are also sharing the spirit of aloha."

"I love PCC because it's a place where we feel we've known the people we see for a long time, and you can talk to them about anything. It just goes back to the spirit of aloha that shines brightly here."

"I've made a lot of friends here, and I'm go-



**Congratulating the 2013 Spirit of Aloha Award recipient: (left-right) PCC President & CEO Alfred Grace, Director of Cultural Presentations Delsa Moe, awardee Travis Seumanutafa, his wife Cilati and son Deieon, COO Logo Apelu, and Director of Special Events William Mahoni, Seumanutafa's former supervisor. — PCC photo by Mike Foley**

ing to miss them," he said, adding that he met his wife, Cilati Lisati, a Tuvaluan, at the PCC. "She was also born and raised in Auckland, but we never crossed paths there."

Cilati worked as a night show dancer, a marketing intern and as a guide while at the PCC. She graduated from BYUH earlier in 2013, also in elementary education.

"I was also initially surprised at the award," she said, "but then, when I think about Travis and his character, I think it's wonderful that people recognize how hard he works and see him the way I see him."

"We're excited to move on, but it's a bittersweet moment," Cilati continued. "This place has been so special: It's our second home."

"I'm also fortunate to know Cilati," Grace said. "She is a definite example of the saying, 'Behind every good man there's a better woman.'"

Seumanutafa said the couple plans to take a short break from school, then pursue graduate studies, probably on the mainland.

"Being able to work in a nice, clean environment where people have the same values and beliefs, that's something we're really going to miss," he said.

"I want to thank the management and leadership for their examples and kindness, and all that they've done for my wife and I during our three years here."

## Team members share thoughts at Christmas

"It's a great time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior," said COO Logo Apelu at the beginning of the December 19, 2013, PCC Team meeting in the Hawaiian Journey Theater. He announced four employees would share their thoughts about the PCC at Christmas time:



**Kaufusi**

Originally from Navutoka, Tonga, **Kesa Kaufusi** first came to PCC in 2009 as a full-time missionary before returning as a student worker. She thanked those employees who

used to feed her and her companions during those Hawaii Mission days.

"Christmas is about our Savior, Jesus Christ," she continued. "I know that He lives and loves every one of us. The aloha spirit is the best gift we can share with others."

She also thanked all of her leaders "for always keeping up with us, and understanding what we need. I also want to thank the senior missionaries: You guys are the best. I am so grateful for you, and for the Cultural Center."

**Kelela Lombard**, a 31-year veteran, explained she actually came to the PCC when her widowed mother, Ofa Talakai, was hired

*Continued on page 7*





*Christmas Lagoon* is the PCC's unique tribute to the Savior's nativity, along with the other joys of the Christmas season. It draws outstanding responses from visitors, and broad participation from community volunteers. — PCC photo by Mike Foley

## Christmas Lagoon: A unique addition to the season

For eight nights in December, the PCC's special half-hour canoe ride, *Christmas Lagoon: The Light Within*, drew thousands of visitors to this unique combination of the traditional Christian nativity story told in Polynesian overtones as well as more contemporary looks at the holiday's traditions in China, France, Spain, Norway, Russia and, yes, the U.S.A.

"*Christmas Lagoon* shares the familiar nativity story through the eyes of a hula teacher telling her students how Christmas started in Hawaii, and includes other holiday traditions from around the world," said William Mahoni, PCC Director of Special Events.

"We're pleased to remind people of the Savior's birth and the real meaning of Christmas, along with some of the beautiful customs and enjoyable aspects of this special holiday season," he continued, adding that as with several other PCC events, this one involved up to 100 volunteers, including 40–50 schoolchildren from the surrounding communities.



Three Samoan "kings" sing *O Holy Night* during *Christmas Lagoon: The Light Within*

A PCC manager who sat next to a family with a three-year-old son from Honolulu on one of the special canoe rides, said they clapped for everything, said "this is awesome," and the boy "loved all the girls who were dancing, which made his parents laugh."

In addition to the Christmas canoe ride, various musicians and hula halau also shared their talents during the Polynesian Cultural Center's special holiday celebration.

## Christmas thoughts...

*Continued from page 6*

in 1965. She shared several PCC Christmas comments she first wrote in 1985:



Lombard

"You are a child of promise whose birth was foretold and talked about by men of God," she read from a PCC newsletter. She recalled *kupuna* [elders] from those days: Jubilee Logan, the Mapuhis, Ratu

Lowenilovo and Emosi Damuni; and others.

"You are still caring and nurturing, and I am glad to be here in this place of promise in Polynesia... In your veins runs the true aloha, *alofa*, and '*ofa labi* [also meaning aloha] of our people; and the priesthood looks after you."

Playing on words of his village, Mark "Maka" Clawson, a 28-year veteran, said,

"Maori Christmas."

He cited a list of treasures he has shared at the PCC, including "being blessed with the gift of opportunities," in spite of economic and challenges, that enable us "to bless the lives of each other and our guests. Heavenly Father keeps sending them our way."



Clawson

"The memories of you and the experiences you have created are also my gifts," he said. "They make me feel I belong to our PCC family. Directly or indirectly, your gifts make me feel at home and happy."

"But there is one gift greater — the gift of immortality and eternal life. I'm grateful to our Savior," he said.

Outgoing CFO David Ralph said he will miss the people who exemplify the PCC's values and beliefs. "I am grateful to my Heavenly



Ralph

Father for my time here, and for the great blessing I have had to serve with you."

Reflecting on his youthful Spanish-speaking mission in Houston, he said he likes to break the word Christmas into Christ and *mas* — which means more: See how we can put more Christ in our Christmas."

PCC President Alfred Grace concluded with the scripture, *For unto us...a son is given*. How many of us would give our own son or daughter for the good of others?" he asked.

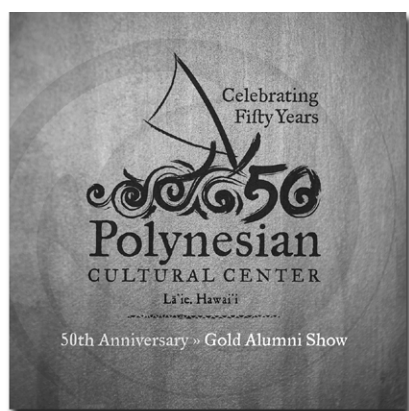
"At this time of the year, may we never forget in whose name we truly celebrate Christmas and be grateful for the blessings that are ours."

## 50th Anniversary DVDs now available

PCC Senior Manager of Marketing Seth Casey has announced that the Center's four-disk 50th Anniversary souvenir DVD set is now available for purchase and can be ordered online at:

<http://shop.polynesia.com/50th-anniversary-combo-4-disc-set.html>

"One disk covers the entire gold alumni show, another disk the silver alumni show, and the other two disks include highlights from other activities during our 50th Anniversary celebration week [in September 2013]," Casey explained.



"We've already had a lot of interest in these DVDs. The video production team of Gary Smith and Travis Cameron did a great job in capturing the emotion and beauty of the events. The images are very sharp, the colors vibrant, and the quality is very high," Casey continued, noting that both he and PCC Vice President of Sales and Marketing Raymond Magalei also assisted with the editing process.

"The DVDs captured as many participants as possible, and they will be a great way to remember and relive all of the fun and aloha we shared during the alumni reunion. They will make a great souvenir of the 50th Anniversary, or a Christmas gift."

rugby team on a two-year deal. Tagaloa had been playing for the USA International Tomahawks, who made it to the recent World Cup quarter-finals.

## Meet the missionaries

Recently arrived PCC service missionaries include:

Elder **Glen** and **Phyllis Andersen** from Nauvoo, Illinois. He is a plumber by trade and worked for the Church in Nauvoo restoring old plumbing. She sews, worked as a secretary, did accounting for school, taught, and loves family history. He will be in Physical Facilities and she is supporting Give and Take.

Elder **Dave** and Sister **Eddie** and Elder **D Bob Bailey** from Moroni, Utah, are assigned to the I-Works program. Elder Dave was a previous CEO for Norbest Turkey and played basketball at BYU. Sister Bailey is a beautician and homemaker. D Bob is their 21-year-old son, who is also serving at PCC. He has a clip on YouTube from Manti basketball.

Elder **Rob** and Sister **Kelly Chalmers** from Orem, Utah. They are assigned to the Mission Settlement and both are very musical. He is a former insurance agent and she was involved in craft boutiques. Their family has Hawaiian roots back to 1800.

Sister **Mary Lou Erickson** from Rainier, Oregon. She worked as a proof spotter at a photo studio and was a teacher's assistant. She previously served in the North British Mission. She has been assigned to Give and Take and helps with crafts in the Island office.

Sister **Linda Fielding**, from Cedar City, Utah, has been assigned to work in Seamstress and in the chapel at the Mission Settlement. She was previously a private school administrator, worked as a secretary, and also worked at Yellowstone National Park.

Elder **James** and Sister **Anne Green** from Grayland, Washington. He is a retired physical therapist. They have served two previous missions to Australia and West Virginia. He is assigned as a painter for Physical Facilities, and she helps as needed as a seamstress or office support.

Elder **Gary** and **Jolene Jaster** from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He is retired military, equipment operator, and a locomotive engineer. She is a homemaker and enjoys writing, journaling and family history. They will be in Maintenance doing the town run.

Sister **Janet Johnson** from Ogden, Utah, spent her last 12-plus years as an events coordinator on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, which included having keys to everything. She has been assigned as office support in HR.

Sister **Lorna Lewis** from Windsor, California. She was an elementary school teacher for 24 years and a probation officer for three years. She enjoys sewing and will serve at the Island Office and in HR as office support.

Sister **Chris Price** from Pleasant View, Utah. She taught school for 25 years and mentored teachers after retiring. She loves to sew, gave tours as part of her Palmyra mission experience, and be with people. Sister Price is assigned to HR as office support and the Mission Settlement.

Sister **Elisabeth Tisdell** from Santa Barbara, California, is assigned to serve in the Mission Settlement chapel. She is a stay-at-home mom, loves reading, fine art, wild flowers, salt water swimming and exercise. She had previous missionary experiences in Europe and in the China Teacher Program.

Sister **Teresa Wang** (pronounced "Wong") from South Jordan, Utah, is also assigned to Mission Home chapel as well as Guest Services. She previously served a mission in Japan, and has three children also currently serving missions, as featured on the news in Utah.

## In world news...

- Congratulations to former Tahitian Village worker and Miss Cook Islands 2012, **Teuira Napa**, who recently won the 2013 Miss South Pacific beauty pageant title in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

- *Malo lava* [congratulations] to former Samoan Villager **Loto Tagaloa**, who was picked up by the Sheffield, England, Eagles



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