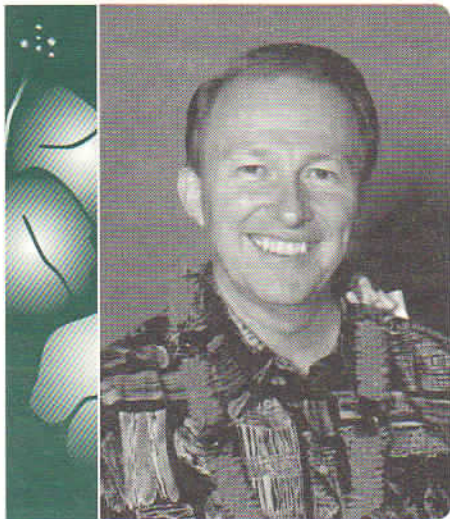


Imua Polenisia

*A Bimonthly Newsletter from the
Polynesian Cultural Center*

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Message from President Orgill

Aloha!

The Center has definitely been jumping with activity during these first few months of the year. I'm always delighted at the outpouring of Aloha and dedication to service I witness on a daily basis here at the Center.

It was truly my pleasure to be involved in the exciting events that took place to honor our employees for all they do to help make the Center such a blessed place to visit. The Poe Rava theme perfectly describes each of you, our rare and treasured gems. I continually amazed at the level of creativity and hard work each of you contributes to make events like Employee Recognition Week such a success. And this is also evident in the special events planned throughout the year to educate and entertain Center visitors.

We've been concentrating our marketing efforts more on bringing in visitors from the local market and I'd like to touch on a few of our efforts. Examples include the recently concluded 2nd Annual Aotearoa Whakataetae Festival in March and the upcoming 9th Annual World Fire Knife Dance Competition in May, as well as many other cultural events scheduled to take place throughout the remainder of the year. By showcasing the beauty and excitement of each of our Polynesian island communities, through festivals where visitors can learn and participate, we are helping to further the Center's mission of sharing Polynesia with the world.

This outreach has always included maintaining ties with our neighbors and friends throughout Hawai'i. The kama'aina market is an important part of our customer base and a renewed effort to reach them is underway. Through the promotion of the kama'aina Annual Pass program, as well as promo team appearances and special offers to gain local interest in the Center, we hope to build an even stronger rapport and generate more lifetime friends of the Center.

And renewing ties must include looking at ways to bring the visitors back. This includes making changes to the existing programs and facilities to better represent the cultures and give a new, exciting experience for the guests. The re-opening of the Tahitian island village marks the continued efforts to create an authentic, enjoyable experience. Visitors are treated

to the excitement of the new canoe pageant and we will begin construction on a new front entrance that will update the

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look of the Center, while keeping the Polynesian feel and traditions we hold so dear.

I'm anxious to see what I've heard so much about in regards to the Fire Knife Dance Competition. The competitors that come from around the world to join us for this event are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our people in producing quality experiences.

Thank you again for your efforts. As always, it is an honor to be working among such dedicated and committed people.

Sincerely,

Von D. Orgill
President/CEO



TOP: ELDER JONES, ELDER WATSON, ELDER ALLEN, ELDER MORRISON, ELDER JENSEN, ELDER PRICE, ELDER JENKINS. BOTTOM: SISTER CLAWSON, SISTER JONES, SISTER WATSON, SISTER ALLEN, SISTER MORRISON, SISTER JENSEN, SISTER PRICE, SISTER JENKINS. ELDER & SISTER BAUGH NOT PICTURED.

Service Missionaries Share Their Hearts and Minds

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways," — Psalm 91:11.

Throughout our lives, we come across special angels who make eternal impressions on our hearts and souls. Nonetheless, there are those that soar far beyond their calling to help us in our daily lives.

A handful of them have made their way into our family here at the center. In the past few months, 17 missionaries with different professional backgrounds from all different parts of the nation have come to the Center for their service missions to unselfishly give us spiritual and professional insight.

"We are certainly blessed and privileged to have our brothers and sisters, servants of God with us," President Von Orgill said. "Not only have we much to learn from them, they give us more amity as a family to take on the daily tasks of the Lord and here at the Center."

"Being able to share in people's love for and special feelings for PCC makes my mission wonderful," exclaims Sister Nadine Allen. "It also affords us the opportunity to set a good example for our children, grandchildren and other seniors who may be considering such service."

Sister Eileen Clawson echoed Sister Allen's sentiments. "The daily devotionals are something I

treasure," she added. "The sharing of spiritual and uplifting thought, sharing of the feeling of family and love for the PCC is remarkable."

They are true servants of God by heart yet talented professionals and educators by trade; our missionaries have unselfishly contributed to the Center.

"I have found that when you serve in a calling in the Church, if you do what you are called to do, there is a very worthwhile feeling that comes with that service," Elder Morrison describes. "It is the same with being a Service Missionary here at the PCC."

Although she misses her grandkids, Sister Loraine Price says serving a mission allows her to gain more spiritually and become a more humble servant of the Lord. "It's great serving a mission for the church," she said. "It helps us grow in ways that are innumerable."

The following couples are currently serving the PCC through their efforts as service missionaries:

Terry and Nadine Allen – Phoenix, Arizona
They were married Feb. 6, 1999 in the Las Vegas Temple. They have a combined family of 9 children and 19 grandchildren. He was an engineer for Honeywell. She had a variety of jobs including assistant promotion director for KSL-TV, director of sales and marketing for CDS and

Peregrine-Smith Books, and is a paralegal. He is serving in Physical Facilities. She assists David Hannemann writing the PCC history and the Human Resources department by drafting responses to complaint letters, among other duties. Both assist Food & Beverage by taking tickets in the Gateway Restaurant.

Joseph and Beth Baugh – Murray, Utah
Elder Baugh is a retired orthodontist. This is the Baugh's first mission together. Elder Baugh says his favorite aspect of his mission is the people. He and Sister Baugh are serving the Center in the Mission Complex.

Byron and Marianne Jensen - Yakima, WA
Elder Jensen worked as a newspaper pressman and owned his own home repair business. Sister Jensen served as Relief Society President before being called to serve at the Polynesian Cultural Center. They are the proud parents of 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Elder Jensen is serving his mission in the maintenance department. Sister Jensen serves as the receptionist for the business office.

Eileen Clawson – Provo, Utah
Sister Clawson enjoys her service at the Reception Desk of the PCC Executive Offices. Prior to her calling, Sister Clawson has been a full-time mother of 11 children and proud grandmother of 35 grandchildren. This is her first mission and she feels truly blessed to serve here at the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Wayne and Ardith Peterson – Ephraim, Utah
Elder Peterson worked for 20 years as a milkman and 20 years at the Moroni Processing Plant primarily as a truck driver and plant mechanic prior to his retirement. Sister Peterson was a private piano and organ teacher, as well as working for 19 years in various administrative positions at Snow College. They are using their talents to serve the Center. Wayne is serving in the nursery with the primary responsibility of keeping the plants green at the Pacific Theater. Ardith is serving in the Guest Services Office helping with the lost and found. You will also find her helping out in the Mission Complex on Fridays. They both agree that learning about the different cultures and meeting all kinds of people are the highlights of their mission.

Clifford and Olive Price – Deweyville, Utah
Elder Price owned and operated a heavy equipment business for 20 years at Bear Lake, as well as some ranching and farming. Sister Price was a home health nurse for more than 20 years and also sold Tupperware for a short time. They have 6 children and 30 grandchildren.

(continued on next page)

Service Missionaries (continued)

She enjoys making homemade rolls, pies and breads for employees at the Center and is serving her missionary in the Mission Complex. Elder Price is serving as a mechanic for the Center. They are both enjoying the wonderful people they are meeting as part of their service.

Robert and Carole Jones – Ninilchik, Alaska
Elder Jones served as an Air Force officer, a high school teacher, guide business operator and Inn owner/manager among other jobs. He and Sister Jones currently operate a small business selling fishing weights and some jewelry. Sister Jones also helped to run their Inn. They are proud parents of 4 children and grandparents to 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Elder and Sister Jones are serving in the PCC retail sales department. They enjoy being able to interact with the students at the Center.

Robert and Joan Watson – Twin Falls, Idaho
Elder Watson is using his talents as a landscaper to help in his service to the maintenance department. Sister Watson is serving in the human resources department. They are the proud parents of 7 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Elder and Sister Watson are thankful to be able to serve the Lord through their mission. They are also serving as teachers in the Laie 2nd Ward.

Reed and June Morrison – Terreton, Idaho
Elder Morrison is retired from the Union Pacific Railroad and Sister Morrison is retired from the Pocatello Railroad Credit Union. They are the proud parents of four children, grandparents to 17 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Currently, they are serving in the Mission Complex as well as officiators at the Temple on Tuesday and Friday. They also teach the Marriage and Family Relations class in the Laie 4th Ward. This is Elder and Sister Morrison's third

mission. They believe each mission they've served has given them blessings to continue their work on behalf of the Church.

Karl and Marge Jenkins – Meadow, Utah and Syracuse, New York

Elder Jenkins was a U.S. Marine for 21 years, and then served as an employment specialist for 20 years for the New York State Department of Labor. Sister Jenkins began her professional career as a legal secretary, but then became a foster mother to many different children and helped tutor slow-learning elementary students. Since Elder Jenkins' retirement in 1987, the Jenkins have served missions in South Africa, New Guinea and New Zealand. They are serving the Lord here as part of the PCC's human resources department. They first visited the Center when it opened in 1963 while living in Kaneohe and were called by the Temple and the Center to join the Church in 1970.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE

Annual Pass

FROM THE


Polynesian Cultural Center

WHEN YOUR FRIENDS purchase an Annual Pass, the doors are always open to "Hawaii's Favorite Visitor Attraction." Enjoy unlimited entrance to 42 tropical acres of authentic villages, unique presentations and spectacular shows.

ANNUAL PASS BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Admission to Seven Authentic Island Villages
- IMAX Film Presentation ("Dolphins" coming soon)
- NEW Tahitian Village
- "Horizons" Evening Show (based on space availability)

Must be a Hawaii resident. Proof of Hawaii residency required. Identification required upon check-in. Valid for pass holder only.

 **POLYNESIAN**
CULTURAL CENTER

For more information or to purchase your Annual Pass, please call 293-3333 or visit our website at polynsia.com.

"WE ARE SAMOA"

Festival

MAY 16-19, 2001



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

6:30pm Pacific Junior Fire Knife
Dance Competition
HALE ALOHA THEATER

THURSDAY, MAY 17

6:30pm World Fire Knife
Dance Competition Preliminaries
HALE ALOHA THEATER

FRIDAY, MAY 18

6:30pm World Fire Knife
Dance Competition Semi-Finals
HALE ALOHA THEATER

SATURDAY, MAY 19

9:30am High School Arts Festival
• Cultural Games
• Speech Competition
• Song & Dance Competition

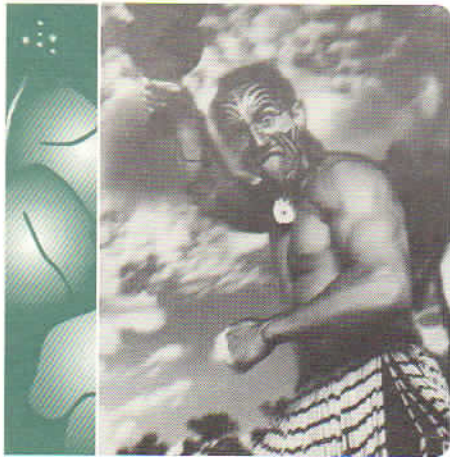
6:00pm & 8:00pm World Fire Knife
Championships during the Night Show
PACIFIC THEATER

SPONSORS INCLUDE

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HONOLULU, HI
- POLYNESIAN AIRLINE
HONOLULU, HI
- SOUTH SEA FINANCE
HONOLULU, HI
- DOTS MARKET
HONOLULU, HI
- POLYNESIAN MARKET &
TRAVEL AGENT
KAUAI, HI
- JAHIN SALES
HONOLULU, HI



FOR RESERVATIONS CALL **293-3333**



Whakataetae Festival Features Competitions and Fun for Guests and Staff

It was an Aotearoa festival at its best.

On Saturday, March 31, cultural enthusiasts, both visitors and locals alike, gathered at the Center's New Zealand island to participate in the Center's 2nd annual Aotearoa Cultural Day, "Whakataetae Festival."

"This was a lot of fun," said George Kaka, assistant manager for the Aotearoa New Zealand village. "Some of the best performers were the general public. We all had a great time."

Through festive song, dance and game activities, participants went through friendly competition "New Zealand style." Participants competed in four festival activities: Poi Ball, Tititorea, Action Song and Haka. Two panels of judges decided which competitors took home cash prizes totaling almost \$1200.

Competition winners were:

Poi Ball (group): Teranga Tahī

Poi Ball (single 17 & older): Rangī Wai

Poi Ball (single 10-12): Zoey Wineera

Tititorea: Teranga Tahī

Action Song: Na Opio O Ko'olau

Haka: Maka Clawson & Group

Congratulations to our winners!



Employee Recognition Week Recognizes Treasured Gems

It was a week of activities made to order – all in honor of the tireless efforts of the Polynesian Cultural Center's staff. The festivities began with the delivery of Imua Polenisia featuring highlights from the 37th Anniversary Celebration and a schedule of upcoming events for the week. The president's message spoke of Poe Rava, the Tahitian Pearl, and likened it to the treasured gems among the Center's employees. This set the tone for the entire week of exciting activities planned in honor of the PCC's people for their continued service and dedication.

"You are Special" was the theme of Tuesday's activities in honor of the special people who help the Center fulfill its promise to share Polynesia with the world. Employees were recognized within their departments through a thank you letter and a pair of movie tickets presented by the department managers.

Thursday played host to the Team Meeting, where employees who have reached milestones in their careers with the Center were honored. Special recognition was given to So'o Tufaga and Silina 'Aina for their 25 years of service with the Center. A touching video, set to the song "Reach" by Gloria Estefan from the 1996 Summer Olympic games, was shown highlighting employees from the Center's various departments. The Tahitian Island performers also joined in the fun by doing a song and dance presentation to honor the staff. Door prizes were awarded including a bicycle, DVD player, t-shirts, coolers and more. But the fun didn't stop there...

Part-timers ruled Friday with a talent show and a dance at Hale Aloha. The winners of the talent

show were given cash prizes, and each department recognized their outstanding part-timers for their contributions with special thanks and door prize giveaways. Prizes included one semester of tuition at BYU-Hawai'i won by Jarrah Ka'anga.

On Saturday, the celebration shifted to honoring the full-time employees with a dinner held at the Cannon Activities Center. It was fun "under the sea" as the room was decorated with an ocean full of images to help set the mood. Touch of Gold was the featured performer after dinner, and a medley of songs shifted attention to the management team as they showed off their lip sync skills, Jamoa Jams and Taebo moves to the choreography of David Tiave. Then the stage filled with entertainment to rival the Horizons evening show with President Orgill and the officer team "dressed to impress" in gold satin shirts and sunglasses giving their rendition of Stayin' Alive.

Special presentations were also made, including an honor for Stewart Medeiros for the unique and beautiful sculpture he so generously donated to the Center. In addition, door prizes were awarded, including a trip for two to San Francisco that went to Kim Nae'ole in Guest Services, as well as a DVD player, bicycle, and gift certificates to Wal-Mart and Foodland.

The planning committee consisted of chairperson Kathy Tolleson, Sonne Campbell, Ellen Gay Dela Rosa, Carol Feinga, Tali Galeai, Raymond Magalei, Janice Morgan, Maka Obina, David Tiave, Kamaka Tuia, Chawna Moala, Rainie Robinson and Leyah Valgardson.

Tahiti Reopens to Dazzle Visitors with New Activities and Additional Buildings

The rhythmic sounds of Tahitian drumming are heard once more through the Tahiti Village at the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC). A fresh round of renovations accents the successful reopening of the Tahitian village.

The first phase included renewal of the entrance grounds, an entirely new kitchen and exhibit house, or Fare Heiva, to showcase artifact displays representative of the 5 groups of islands comprising French Polynesia. The 60' x 42' structure also features a large stage and houses the daily main cultural presentations of the island to guests.

"We are truly excited to provide the visitors with a more authentic representation of a Tahitian village," said Raymond Mariteragi,

Islands Director. "Hopefully people will leave feeling they've really been to Tahiti."

The grounds have also received a gracious, towering, and ultimately musical gift. A rare large trunk of coconut tree, donated by BYU-Hawaii President Eric Shumway, will eventually be carved into a hand drum, known as a "Pahu rima." Beginning in May, Master carver Etua Tahauri will expertly sculpt the 9-foot trunk as a labor of love. The drum, a possible candidate for the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest Tahitian drum, will be located at the villages entrance so visitors can watch and learn about Tahitian carving of drums.

Another artistic addition to the village will get underway in May. A 7' tall and 24' long painted map of the island chain will be featured in the Exhibit hut. This map, also a donation, comes from the BYU-Hawaii Institute of Polynesian Studies, under the guidance of Dr. Vernice

Wineera, its Director. Dr. Lamoyne Garside, a retired BYUH art professor, will paint the representation of the island chain.

The second phase, tentatively scheduled to begin early in 2002, will add a Tahitian Marae, the first to be built outside of French Polynesia. The existing Chief's hut will then be moved and renovated within the village, and two new buildings will be added, including a skirt hut and typical family dwelling. A new main entrance gate will also be built.

Mariteragi, assisted by a local Tahitian Advisory committee and several cultural experts from Tahiti, researched the renovations to assure its authenticity. The guidance of Dr. Yoshiko Sinoto at the Bishop Museum was also valuable.

These renovations are among many ongoing projects the PCC is making to enhance the visitor experience.

High School Students Race Through Polynesia – Higher, Faster and Stronger!

For the past few months the Center has played host to one of Hawaii's newly touted televised high school athletic competition programs, "Higher, Faster, Stronger."

This half-hour program, hosted by radio personality Davey D from KCCN FM100 and musical group Forté's Giselle, features interscholastic competition between public and private high school teams from around the state competing in events at the Center, "Polynesian style."

"We have been delighted to host Hawaii's top high school student athletes and Higher, Faster, Stronger here at the Center for challenging and fun competition," said President Von Orgill. "The kids get the chance to be a part of something to benefit their school, have fun with their teammates while learning about Polynesia, and the PCC gets more exposure in the local marketplace beyond standard advertising. It's a great program."

In the course of competition, teams consisting of eight student-athletes (four boys and girls) score points by performing the Race Through Polynesia, a relay race involving events such as tossing a stick into a circle, canoe paddling down the lagoon and toting coconuts across Aotearoa in the shortest time possible. Then they work together to tame the Team Challenge Obstacle Course and the Polynesian Adventure.

The team that completes the combined tasks in the fastest time moves on to the next level. To encourage teamwork and enhance pride in performance, the students leave at the end of the day not knowing if they won or lost. Instead, they have to tune in to NBC Hawaii News 8 each Saturday at 5:00 p.m. or Sunday at 10:30 p.m. to watch the show and see the final scores.

"Higher, Faster, Stronger is an opportunity for us to teach Hawaii's top high school student athletes about some of the values and principles which will lead them to success both on and off the field through entertaining and challenging events," said Chris Dey, president and co-founder of Hawaii Sports Network.

All high schools have been invited to participate in various challenging and entertaining events that test mind and spirit, as well as teach leadership and team building skills. Recently, Mililani High School was crowned the Oahu Champion. The state tournament will begin in May.

MAINTENANCE EXTRA MILE AWARDS

JANUARY 2001

Elder Watson

Apinesa Tuisavura

Ilaijia Tavaqia

Lorima Nasilasila

FEBRUARY 2001

Elder Peterson (nursery)

Laloata Motu (nursery)

Fasia Mikaele (grounds)

MARCH 2001

Stella Keil (nursery lead)

Elder Price (auto shop)

Elder Watson (safety)



55-370 Kamehameha Highway, Laie, HI 96762
Please visit us at: polynesia.com