

Imua Polenisia

A Bimonthly Newsletter from the
Polynesian Cultural Center

President Orgill: Heroes, Then and Now

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Honolulu recently presented the Polynesian Cultural Center and the Church with a unique certificate of appreciation (see the related story) recognizing the collaboration of Jonathan Napela and Father Damien — now Saint Damien of Molokai — in serving the patients at Kalaupapa in the 1870s. He also shared some poignant remarks I would like to pass along.

First, for those of you who may not be aware, since Napela's time at the isolated Hansen's Disease confinement settlement, Mormons and Catholics have a tradition extending to this day of working together on values-related and family-oriented issues. This prompted Bishop Silva to explain the following:

He said in a meticulous process the Catholic Church designates certain individuals as saints "so that they can inspire us, so that they can teach us something about service and the devotion to God that is so important in our lives."

Then, focusing on Napela and St. Damien, Bishop Silva said, "They chose to go where others did not want to go. They went there to serve. They brought hope where there was little hope, and light where there was great darkness; and so, they are our heroes."

The presiding Catholic officer for Hawaii went on to share another perspective on Hansen's Disease, or leprosy as it was historically called:

"Leprosy is not a big disease in our

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President Orgill (with certificate) and Elder Scott D. Whiting flank Bishop Silva (with paddle), and others from the PCC, BYU-Hawaii, HRI and the diocese who attended the special presentation ceremony on May 7, 2010 (photos by Monique Saenz).

Catholic diocese 'appreciates' PCC, Church

When Elder Marshall and Sister Jolene Ogden were wondering how to incorporate the October 2009 canonization of St. Damien of Molokai into the display at the Hawaii Mission Settlement chapel, they had no idea they would soon receive a special certificate from the Roman Catholic bishop of Hawaii.

The service missionary couple was part of a small group in a special ceremony — including a lei greeting and welcoming chant by Cy Bridges — in the PCC Boardroom on May 7, 2010, when the Most Reverend Clarence "Larry" Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu, presented a Certificate of Appreciation "in gratitude for the collaboration" of Jonathan Napela and Father Damien in serving the Hansen's Disease patients at Kalaupapa in the 1870s.

Bishop Silva explained that though the two men belonged to different churches,

they worked closely together at Kalaupapa in selfless service. In fact, Father Damien once described Napela as his "yoke mate" in the work.

Father Damien arrived in Hawaii in 1864 from his native Belgium, and nine years later volunteered to serve at Kalaupapa. Largely for his well-known efforts there from 1873-1889, Pope Benedict XVI enrolled Father

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Appreciation for Napela, Damien collaboration...

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Damien in the canon of Roman Catholic Saints on October 11, 2009, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Napela's story is less known: The Hawaiian ali'i and magistrate in Wailuku, Maui, was one of the earliest converts to the Church in these islands. Soon after with Elder George Q. Cannon he co-translated the Book of Mormon into Hawaiian. He also served as a missionary and important

Heroes...

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country, but there are leprosy in our culture: Attacks against marriage and the family, attacks against children, the dissolution of our school and educational system...attacks in our home or the leprosy of domestic violence, the leprosy of homelessness and the hungry among us."

"We are still called to be there, where maybe we would rather not go, where we might be a little more uncomfortable, where we might have to get a little dirty, or beat up ourselves. So, we thank God that He has given us these examples in following people who were so dedicated to God and service to neighbors. Nothing could hold them back from whatever needed to be done."

That's very well said, and we should take Bishop Silva's words to heart. Jonathan Napela and St. Damien united themselves in difficult circumstances to serve and help the suffering of others; and while we are not called upon to endure the hardships of nineteenth century Kalaupapa, we have the great opportunity to share our time and talents in one of the most beautiful and unique places in the world. At the Polynesian Cultural Center, we share our aloha spirit with millions of people.

Our guests feel that spirit of aloha, which is really the Spirit of the Lord shining through our lives as we follow the Savior's example and teachings. As we continue to do so, we become the heroes of today.

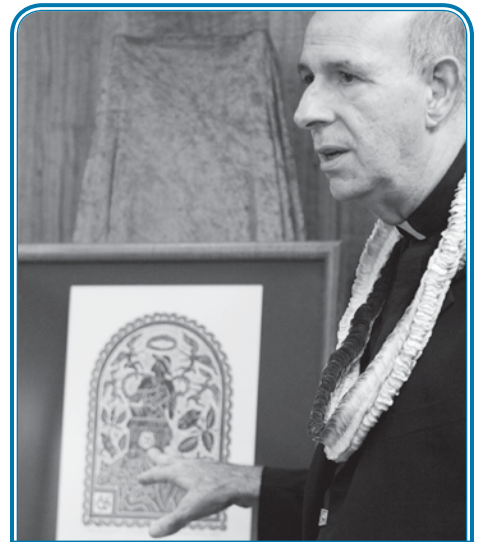
Von D. Orgill
President & CEO

leader who helped establish the Latter-day Saint settlements at Palawai, Lanai, and Laie Plantation. In 1869 he traveled to Utah and became the first known Hawaiian to receive his temple endowments and be ordained a Seventy.

But in 1873 when his wife, Kitty — once described as the most beautiful woman in Hawaii, was diagnosed with Hansen's Disease and ordered confined at Kalaupapa, he volunteer to accompany her as a non-patient kokua or helper. Typically, he quickly loaned his talents to the entire colony, but within a year of arriving he contracted the disease and died in 1879. Kitty also soon died, as did Father Damien at age 49 in 1889. All were buried on the isolated peninsula.

Responding on behalf of the Church, Area Seventy Elder Scott D. Whiting thanked Bishop Silva and the diocese for the certificate, which includes an original print by Hawaii artist Dietrich Varez. He added that he was struck by the "great and abiding faith" all the Kalaupapa patients had.

PCC President & CEO Von D. Orgill also thanked Bishop Silva and, in typical Polynesian fashion, presented him in turn with a Hawaiian koa wood paddle, which represents that "we're all on a journey, and hopefully, we're much more often paddling together, trying to make good things happen, to preserve if you will the things that are



Bishop Silva explains the symbolism behind the Dietrich Varez print on the certificate.

worth preserving, and to share those things with everyone that we know, love, care about and associate with."

Of Napela and St. Damien, President Orgill said "the lives that they lived and how selflessly they gave themselves and everything that they had to live for, love and care for others...are marvelous examples. I don't know if there have been better examples that we could emulate or that we could honor on such an occasion, and every day."

Elder and Sister Ogden have indicated they are working with Maintenance and others to come up with an appropriate way to display and preserve the certificate.



LEI DAY: Several thousand residents and students from the community recently enjoyed Kahuku High's "May Night" and Laie Elementary School's May Day program in the Pacific Theater. PCC's talent pool is strong and very talented (photos and montage by Mike Foley).

18th annual Fireknife Competition burns brightly



Mikaele Oloa gets the royal treatment from Ha Breath of Life cast members after winning his fourth PCC World Fireknife Championship on May 15.

Mikaele Oloa of Waialua, Oahu, won his unprecedented fourth champion during the Polynesian Cultural Center's 18th annual World Fireknife competition. Indeed, at one point on the last night of competition he was spinning four knives. It was, in a word, awesome!

Oloa won his first championship five years ago when, as a 15-year-old then living in Orlando, Florida, he took a big chance and jumped from the junior to the senior division, then out-warriored all the competition. He won again the next year and then, according to competition rules, had to sit out for a year. Now he's come back and won two more consecutive titles, and once again must sit out next year. By the way, Oloa is only 20 and now lives in Waialua, Oahu.

The other senior top-finishers were Joseph Cadousteau of Papeete, Tahiti — who has been performing knife dance at the Hong Kong Disneyland for the past two years, 2nd place; and Fili Mafiti of Apia, Samoa, 3rd place. Mafiti's a newcomer to the competition, but Cadousteau has placed in the top three for the past five years. Next year might be his.

Each received a ceremonial knife designed and created by event founder Pulefano Galea'i, who has retired from the Center but still participates, as well as a cash

prize donated by Henry S. Matalii family, formerly of Laie.

"It's always nice to be able to contribute to something that's of great importance and value to our roots," said family representative John Matalii, who danced here when the PCC first opened but moved to California in 1967. "We all used to work at the Hukilau, too. It's always nice to come home and see Laie; it always brings us a lot of memories. This is a very special place to our family, and we always remember where we're from."

Rex Tiumalu, 16 and also of Orlando, won his second consecutive championship in the intermediate division (ages 12-17), and said he'll probably follow Oloa's example and take a shot at the senior title next year. He also said his brother, former junior and senior World Fireknife Champion V.J. Tiumalu, sat out this year because he'd been sick and also wanted to attend his high school graduation.

But the most amazing story in the championships this year was first-place junior finisher Louis Preston, 11, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida: He taught himself how to do the Samoan fireknife dance by watching YouTube™. For more results, go to <http://www.polynesia.com/fireknife/fire.html>.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann came out for the finals on Saturday night and helped present the awards. "It was fantastic being here tonight and to see the

great fire knife dancers in the world, as well as the world-class production of Ha," he said. "Others have told me this is the best show that's ever been produced here, and I can see why. It's fantastic."

"Being of Polynesian ancestry, every time I come here I'm so proud of my roots, my culture and my heritage," said Mayor Hannemann, who has extensive Samoan family ties in the area.

Delsa Moe, PCC Director of Cultural Presentations, described the competition as "amazing. We saw a lot of new moves this year, and everybody was so good." Pulefano Galea'i agreed: "The three finalists were the greatest we've ever had, but I was a little upset with tonight's performance because I know they can perform a lot better."

Former PCC vice president Reg Schwenke, visiting from Shanghai, China, where he now lives, also saw the finals and was "impressed with the quality of motions the fire knife dancers have added. The degree of difficulty is much higher than it was in the beginning."

Schwenke was referring to the time 18

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Intermediate Winners: (Left-right) Keenan Chung, 2nd place; PCC Senior V.P. of Operations Leilua Logo Apelu; Rex Tiumalu, champion; PCC Board member Kalo Mataele Soukop; and Malo "MJ" Mata'u, 3rd place (winners group photos by Mark Holladay Lee)



Junior Winners: (Left-right) Achilles Tafiti, 2nd place; PCC Senior V.P. Leilua Logo Apelu; champion Preston Weber; PCC Board member Kalo Mataele Soukop; and Hale Motu'apuaka, 3rd place

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years ago when he, Pulefano Galea'i and a small committee started the first World Fireknife Championship, with the first event held on a specially constructed stage in the middle of the Samoan village.

"Everyone has obviously spent a lot of time, dedication and effort into the event," Schwenke added.

Following a patriotic flag-raising that included the anthems of the U.S., Samoa and American Samoa, emcees Delsa Moe and Samoa Islands Manager Matuauto Steve Laulu, explained this year instead of a lauga or oratory contest, the students from Oahu high schools incorporated that into a sua or the traditional presentation of food and gifts



High school students from all over Oahu joined the PCC's Samoan Arts Festival on May 15.

to important visitors, acted out by Chief Operating Officer Alfred Grace, with Kap Te'o Tafiti — who recently accepted the chiefly title Pipi from Salelologa, Savaii — handling the fa'aSamoa.

Then the fun began as the students raced to husk coconuts, peel green bananas with a bamboo knife, weave coconut-leaf baskets and start a fire like the Samoan villagers do — but they make it look so easy.

The fa'afafiaga or entertainment part of the program featured Kahuku, Radford and Kapolei High schools — plus students from other schools who joined those groups — as well as the BYU-Hawaii Samoan Club, the Sacred Hearts Catholic choir from Waianae, and a Methodist Church group from Nanakuli.

Later that evening, Grace said, "I would like to thank everyone who participated in these stellar events, and congratulations to the champions who did such a fabulous job."

Upcoming special events

• **"Mormon Night":** The PCC will host a special "Mormon Night" on July 7, including a Gateway buffet dinner and Ha Breath of Life for only \$25 each. Years ago the PCC used to hold similar events that were usually well attended; and more recently PCC's Hukilau Theater used to screen the large format Latter-day Saint film "The Testaments." Call Larie Manutai at 293-3068 for more details.

• **Tahiti:** The children's solo Tahitian dancing competition will be held on July 17. Raymond Mariteragi, PCC Director of Cultural Islands, said he expects over 100 tamari'i to participate. He added that the committee is also tentatively considering including groups, if there's sufficient interest.

• **Maori:** Te Manahua 2010, featuring senior groups in kapa haka or traditional song and dance competition, will be held on August 14. Aotearoa Islands Manager Seamus Fitzgerald said the committee is also tentatively thinking of holding a Haka Hard event on the preceding Friday evening, with high school football teams who perform the Maori posture dance before games.

New people join In-Center sales areas

PCC In-Center Marketing Director Kealii Haverly reported there are two new people and a recent promotion in the Concessions Department, as well as a new senior manager for Event Network, which manages all the PCC gift shops:

Brandon Vendiola of Kahuku now oversees the Concessions Department.

Vendiola, who used to work for PCC Catering around the time he graduated from Kahuku High, went on to work for a Hawaiian restaurant, Jamba Juice, and most recently jeans store in Waikiki. "I'm glad to be back," he said. "When I'm not here, I hang out with my friends and family."



Vendiola



Cook

Rachael Cook of Kaa-awa, the new Banyan Tree Snack Bar supervisor, is new to the PCC but not the food service industry. She previously worked at Kua-

loa Ranch. "I really enjoy it here," she said.

Tasi Galea'i from Laie was recently promoted to Concessions stands supervisor. She started working for PCC Food & Beverage when she was a freshman at Kahuku High (hint, her daughter just graduated from Kahuku). "When I'm not working, I'm spending time with my kids," she said.



Galea'i

Event Network has recently appointed Shelly Easton from Kailua, Oahu, as its new Area Director at the Cultural Center. Easton has worked in travel retail for 10 years.



Easton

"I worked at Hilo Hattie's with customers very similar to the ones we have out here. I oversaw the Nimitz Highway flagship store as well as the one at Ala Moana," she said, adding that the Center "is honestly the most pleasant place I've ever worked. There's a sense of urgency, but it's done in a very kind way. I enjoy being here and working with the team."

Easton also worked 14 years for Laura Ashley, which brought her to Hawaii from the Bay Area of California. When she's not working, she spends time with her two teenage sons "who are both very active in paddling."

PCC Promo Team on Ala Moana stage

The PCC Promo Team is taking parts of Ha Breath of Life to the Ala Moana center stage every other Saturday this summer.

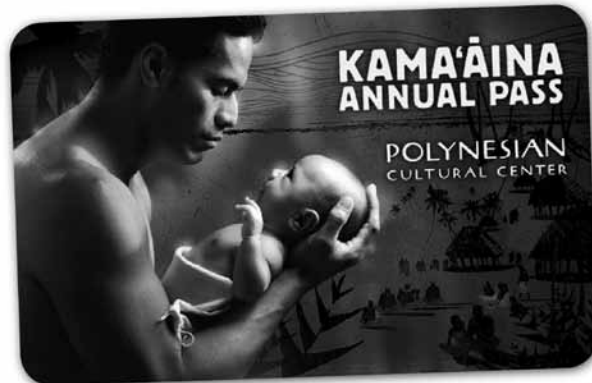
More specifically, they'll perform there free show on June 5 and 19; July 3, 17 and 31; and August 14 and 28.

Kamaaina Pass reflects Ha imagery

PCC Marketing recently changed the design on our Kamaaina Annual Pass card to a series of images reflecting the appeal and popularity of Ha Breath of Life.

"The Kamaaina Annual Pass is a great deal for Hawaii residents," said PCC Hawaii Sales Manager Larie Manutai. "Pass holders get unlimited admission and all activities in the villages, the canoe and Hukilau Theater shows, space-available seating at Ha Breath of Life, free admission to selected special events and concerts — with discounted rates at other events, and additional special promotions from time to time. This is a great bargain."

Manutai pointed out that from now until July 31, 2010, Hawaii residents can purchase



the PCC Kamaaina Annual Pass at 50 percent off the regular price of \$50 for adults (ages 16-and-up), and \$25 for children (ages 5-15).

Meet the New Service Missionaries

Several new senior service missionary couples have recently arrived at the Center:

ELDER DON AND SISTER JOAN GLASGOW

The Glasgows, who have lived in St. George, Utah, for the past 12 years but came from Littleton, Colorado, arrived on April 24 and are serving in the Hawaii Mission Settlement for 18 months.

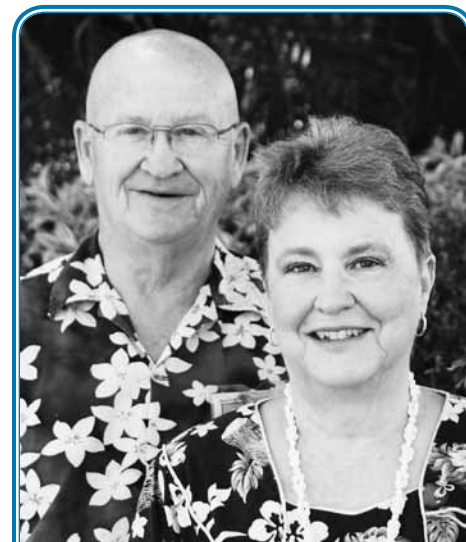
Both are retired: Elder Glasgow, a landscape watercolor artist, was a public school art teacher in Littleton for 27 years. Sister Glasgow, who has a real estate license, explained she and her husband also operated a side business as potters. Based on a dream she had, they started putting his watercolor designs on the pottery. "It became

quite unique, and we have pottery all over the world," she said.

"I personally am so impressed with the people and the level of spirituality here," she continued. "They have the image of Christ on their countenances, like in Alma Chapter 5."

"Having been a school teacher, I'm really

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The Glasgows

The Promo team recently completed appearances in San Francisco and Salt Lake City, also promoting Ha. "We're going to be going to The Grove in Los Angeles on June 5 and 19," said Ellen Gay Dela Rosa, PCC Theater Director.

"We've gotten quite a few requests for other performances," she added. "I think that's because of the success of Ha and our recent appearances with Marriott."

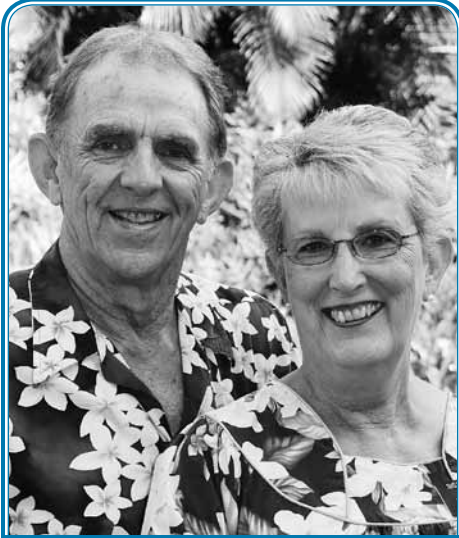
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impressed with the youth that are here,” Elder Glasgow added. “They are very kind, loving and hard-working. This is a beautiful place to be.”

The Glasgows have five children and 11 grandchildren. They first came to the PCC as tourists about 30 years ago, but their call here was “a surprise.”

ELDER NORM AND SISTER LYNETTE HAUGEN

The Haugens arrived May 8 from West Point, Utah (near Ogden), to start serving their



The Haugens

18-month mission. They are assigned to the Hawaii Mission Settlement.

Both retired from The Boeing Company, working out of Hill Air Force Base near their home. Elder Haugen, who was born in Norway and moved to the U.S. when he was 8, worked there for 27 years, in testing of missile chambers, quality control, and shipping and receiving; and she spent 20 years providing technical data support to the engineering group.

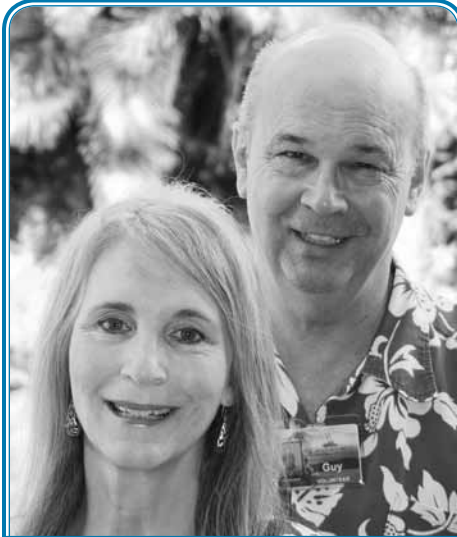
The couple, who has four children and 12 grandchildren, first visited the PCC just this past January as tourists, having no idea they would soon return as missionaries.

“We love it here,” Elder Haugen said. “Actually, I was a student for one semester at Church College of Hawaii in 1961 and played on the basketball team. I liked it a lot and met many of the labor missionaries back then, people from all the different islands. They were wonderful.”

“I love the aloha feeling that I feel here,” Sister Haugen added. “We’re happy to

ELDER GUY AND SISTER CAROLEE NEWGREN

Elder and Sister Newgren, who come from Canby, Oregon (near Portland) but spent most



The Newgrens

of their lives in San Jose, California, arrived on May 8 to serve a two-year mission. He is assigned as the PCC safety officer, and she works in the Islands Office. This is their first full-time mission, but they originally moved to Oregon to serve concurrent part-time missions with LDS Family Services and then as coordinators for all the Church service missionaries in Oregon and part of Washington.

Elder Newgren retired in 1998 after 33 years with the San Jose Fire Department, starting out as a firefighter and ending as a battalion chief. Sister Newgren operated her own ballet school for 14 years.

The Newgrens have three living daughters and a living foster son, several other Indian Placement foster kids, and nine grandchildren.

“We’re delighted with the friendly reception we’ve received from everybody “Everyone has been very welcoming,” he said of his early impressions. “I feel it’s a very spiritual place to work,” she added. “I’ve already been brought to tears many times by the stories I’ve heard and the atmosphere here.”

“We’re delighted to be here and feel this is where Heavenly Father wants us to serve,” Sister Newgren said.

ELDER BOB AND SISTER SANDY SANGSTER

The Sangsters, who live in Stevensville, Montana (near Missoula), arrived January 27 as volunteers for 12 months. He is assigned to work in electrical maintenance, and Sister Sangster is in the Hawaii Mission Settlement.

Elder Sangster worked as an electrical contractor in California and Montana, and then bought a cattle ranch in Montana. “We have five sons and three girls who were a big help,” he said. “When the kids grew up, we sold the cattle and went on a senior mission in Armenia for four



The Sangsters

years, 1997-2001. We started as humanitarian missionaries, and spent the last year as the new mission president.”

Sister Sangster has been a homemaker for the couple’s children, 37 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren — with two more on the way. She also recalled they first came to the PCC 30 years ago, “but the trees weren’t as big and it wasn’t as shady,” she said.

“I’ve been doing electrical work since I was 18, and it’s very comfortable here. I enjoy being here,” Elder Sangster said. “The people I work with are wonderful women,” she added, “and I just love working with the students. We just love them. We also meet a lot of wonderful people from all over the world.”



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