OCT. 2012

Imua Polenisia

A Newsletter from the Polynesian Cultural Center

A Message From President Orgill

Our greatest assets are the gospel, the spirit, and the wonderful people who work and serve here. Thank you for all of the incredible things you do each day, and the marvelous way you treat our guests and one another. So often it is through you that the Lord works his miracles at the PCC.

The students, of course, are as much a part of this miracle story as anyone. In many ways, they are the story. I want to share with you some of what we are doing

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Joseph Cadousteau took home his first World Fireknife Championship title

20th Annual World Fireknife Championship

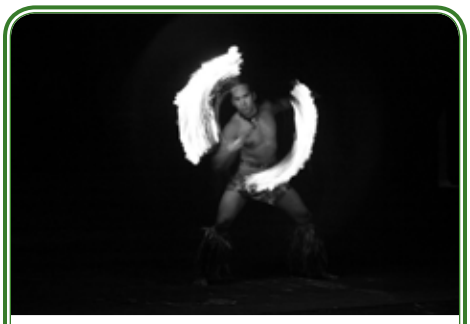
The 20th Anniversary of the World Fireknife Championship turned out to be a year of firsts for new Champion, Joseph Cadousteau, as he took home his first World Fireknife Championship title, becoming the first Tahitian to hold the title. Cadousteau also won the open group competition with fellow Cirque Du Soleil performer and Hawaii local, Micah Naruo, in a superbly choreographed routine, marking the first time a competitor has held both titles simultaneously.

"In the two decades that we've held the World Fireknife Championship, this, in my opinion, was the best year we've ever had. The level of talent alone was extraordinary. We had Cirque Du Soleil performers, multiple Disney performers and four past World Fireknife Champions all enter this year," said Vice President of Operations Logo Apelu. "The best in the world were truly on display this year."

The championship also blazed new trails in cyberspace, as the entire competition was live-streamed on WorldFireknife.com. For the first time in the competition's 20-year history, family members, friends and fans from around the globe could catch every breathtaking moment free online. To make it an even better interactive experience, the new "People's Choice Award" was also unveiled. Following the first night of finals on Friday, May 11, fans had the opportunity to vote online for their favorite competitor. By the time voting closed at 9 p.m. on Saturday, former four-time champion, Mikaele Oloa, garnered more than 50 percent of the votes and was named the inaugural People's Choice Award winner.

With the level of talent and difficulty increasing each year, it is anyone's guess as to what we'll witness next year. Will Cadousteau be able to defend his title, will Oloa become the first ever five-time champion or will a new king of fireknife emerge?

Te Mahana Hiroa O Tahiti Shakes Things Up



Kauluwehiokekai Oliver of Urahutia Productions

The spirit of Tahiti shined bright at the Polynesian Cultural Center's 13th Annual Te Mahana Hiroa O Tahiti Festival. This solo dance competition saw dancers, including tamarii (children) as young as one and taurearea (adults), showcase their skilled movements and spectacular costuming.

Set in the picturesque Tahiti Village, the festival opened with an exhibition of tamari'i between the ages of one and three, followed by the solo competition, which included 31 competitors from across Oahu, all vying to be named the best in their divisions.

This year's festival also welcomed back the invitational division, which featured six of the world's most skilled and graceful dancers, many of whom have won titles in a major heiva (celebration of Tahitian culture). After three rounds of heated competition it was Manarii Gauthier of Tahiti Mana and Kauluwehiokekai Oliver of Urahutia Productions who captured the tane (men) and vahine (women) crowns, respectively.

For full results and more information, visit http://www.polynesia.com/tahiti_festival.

Message from President Orgill

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to show respect to them and to help them in ways they need help.

The PCC Student Worker Office was established with the intent of centralizing our efforts to better help individual students, more specifically IWork students. Elder and Sister Harber were asked to direct its creation and did a marvelous job. As the Harbers finished their mission, Elder and Sister Spiller took over that responsibility. They too, have been incredible as they have gathered, compiled, organized and disseminated information that can help us all better understand how the IWork program functions, where the potential trouble spots are and how the students can best enjoy success while at BYUH and PCC. Sister Walker has also been assisting with this effort, as are Elder and Sister Maples. The Maples have now been asked to direct this office since the Spillers have returned home.

The whole intent of this office is to assist our BYUH student workers, particularly when they first arrive here, to integrate smoothly into their experience and to genuinely feel part of our ohana. We want them to have a marvelous time on their journey to becoming ever more like the "genuine gold" President McKay described.

One way we are doing this is by assembling welcome baskets to make their transitions easier. Some of these young people arrive with very little, and they need help from the very beginning. Many of you have generously donated items or money to support the effort of putting together these welcome baskets, which contain items such as pillows, sheets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent and many other items. If you would like to assist, please contact Sister Maples.

Some students arrive at the Honolulu International Airport and have no idea how to get here. They don't have much money, and they don't realize how far Laie is from the airport.

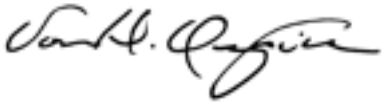
Some time ago, I arrived at the airport from a PCC trip and was waiting for my ride back to Laie when I met such a young man. I asked him if he was a BYUH student. He said he was. I asked how he planned to get to Laie. He told me he didn't know, but he had been praying to Heavenly Father to send someone to help him. He is just one example. Sister Maples is also coordinating efforts with BYUH to pick up students who need transportation from the airport to Laie. If you would like to be added to the list of those who would like to help, please contact her.

We want to make sure that when these students arrive they receive a proper PCC welcome. We want them to know they are loved and that we want to help them get established and settled in. We'll help them in whatever ways we can as we coordinate with BYUH and their bishops.

We also want to ensure they are treated like the "genuine gold" President McKay said they would become. Of course, they are and will be in engaged in a process where they can learn and grow, but we should treat them like they already are "genuine gold" from the time they arrive and throughout their stay.

That means every time we see and interact with them, in each department, we must demonstrate the best that is in us. Let us share the Mission Statement and the Cultural Beliefs by the way we live. Let us teach, mentor and guide them as part of their preparation. In a very real sense they are our "customers," as much as our guests — let us help them understand that we know who they are and who they are becoming. Let us be the examples that will show them the way. That means we need to demonstrate in all we do what it looks and feels like to be "genuine gold" ourselves.

Let us make sure their experience here is everything the Lord expects … of them … and of us. Thank you for the wonderful way you are already doing these things and let us commit to being ever better at lifting, encouraging, inspiring and building in the days ahead.



Von D. Orgill
President & CEO

Te Manahua Maori Festival and Hawaii Debut of Maisey Rika and Ria Hall

Te Manahua returned with a three-day celebration of the Maori culture

After a year's absence, the Te Manahua Maori Festival returned in a big way last month. The festival was extended to three days and featured local and international competitors. Festivities began on Thursday, August 2 with the Haka Hard and Poi-e competitions.

The following night, Friday, August 3, featured the Hawaii debut of two of New Zealand's top artists, Maisey Rika and Ria Hall. As a young artist in her 20's, Maisey Rika has already released two albums, both of which climbed the NZ Top 40 charts, and is described as having "one of the most arresting and beautiful voices to emerge from New Zealand, ever." Also performing was Ria Hall, an exciting new voice on the contemporary New Zealand music landscape. Hall burst onto the scene with an inspired performance at the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup last year.

Te Manahua concluded with the Maori Performing Arts Competition on Saturday, August 4. Groups competing in the Maori Performing Arts Competition were evaluated in non-aggregate categories of kakahu (attire), kaitataki wahine (female leaders), kaitataki tane (male leaders) and te reo (Maori language). Each group was also judged in aggregate on whakaeke (entrance), moteatea (traditional chanting), waiata-a-ringa (action songs), waiata tira (choral song), poi (graceful dance implement with the twirling ball on end of string), haka (posture dance) and whakawatea (exit).

"Te Manahua is back and better than ever this year," said Seamus Fitzgerald, Aotearoa Village Manager. "We had a fantastic bunch of groups competing this year. Audiences were captivated from start to finish by the powerful haka, mesmerizing poi and intricately detailed costumes. The concert was incredible and we were honored to host two amazing vocalists."

Upcoming Events

Haunted Lagoon

Renowned as Hawaii's top haunted attraction and the only haunted canoe ride in the world, the Polynesian Cultural Center's Haunted Lagoon: Dreams and Nightmares returns on Oct. 5. This full-scale production features fearsome characters, brand-new costumes, state-of-the-art special effects, animatronics and more. Guests cast off on double-hulled canoes and journey through the dark waters of the PCC's twisting lagoon and navigate the conflicted labyrinth of the Laie Lady's mind. Canoes run from 6:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from Oct. 5 to Oct. 20, and Monday through Saturday from Oct. 22 to 31.

Visit HauntedLagoon.com to make reservations or for more info.

50th Anniversary Website Goes Live

The Polynesian Cultural Center's 50th anniversary website is live. PCC50.com serves as a portal to the PCC's rich history and is a one-stop site for information and tickets to the anniversary celebration. For those still looking for accommodations the site includes links to many convenient options. Please note that the PCC will not be providing housing for the celebration.

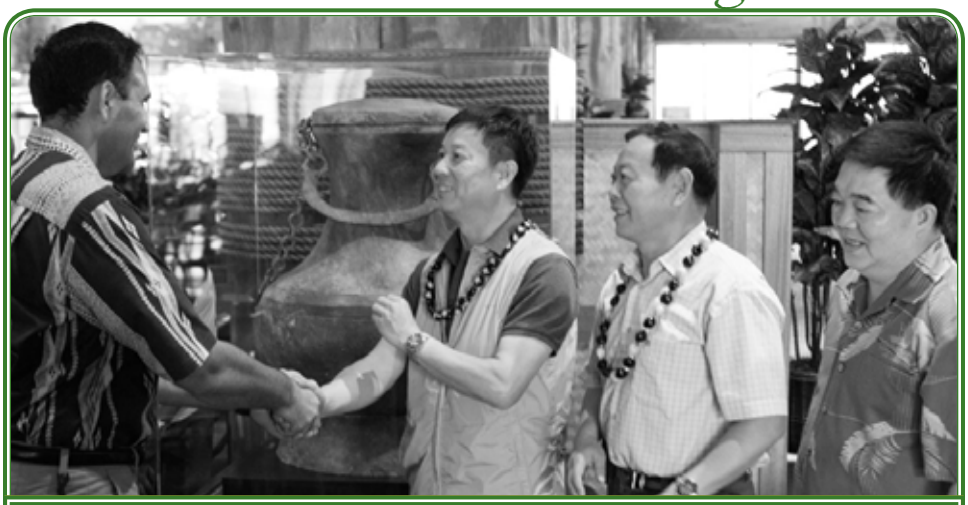
Reuniting with Spa Resort Hawaiians

For years the Polynesian Cultural Center and Spa Resort Hawaiian – a resort and theme park in the Fukushima Prefecture of Japan – have shared a close bond. Spa Resort Hawaiians' kumu hula gained her knowledge of hula and the Hawaiian culture from the cultural experts at the PCC before returning to Japan to teach. PCC has also hosted countless dancers for workshops and has even traveled to Fukushima over the years, teaching the resort's entertainers about the cultures, arts and dances of Polynesia.

It was heart-wrenching for many at the PCC when news spread about the March 2011 tsunami that struck so close to Spa Resort Hawaiians and we all let out a collective sigh of relief when, thankfully, no deaths were reported at the resort.

On April 17, more than a year since they were last together, entertainers from Spa Resort Hawaiians were hosted at the PCC for the first time since the disaster. Welcoming them with open arms, Aunty Ellen Gay Dela Rosa quickly demonstrated the unbreakable bond of hula as PCC and Spa Resort Hawaiians shared the stage once again.

A Cultural Bond with Yunnan Nationalities Village



PCC COO, Alfred Grace met with representatives of the Yunnan Nationalities Village from China

In a ceremony complete with a traditional Hawaiian oli (chant) and procession, the Polynesian Cultural Center welcomed representatives of the Yunnan Nationalities Village in China with the unveiling of a kettle modeled after a holy bronze kettle that was used by royalty in the ancient Yunnan, Kingdom of Dian over 2,000 years ago. The kettle symbolizes the important sister relationship between the two cultural centers.

"It's been nearly two years since myself and several other PCC representatives visited the Yunnan Nationalities Village and we enjoyed a similar presentation where they unveiled a marble statue of a Hawaiian umeke (bowl) that stands over six feet tall on its base and is located along a main thoroughfare in the villages," said Alfred Grace, PCC's Chief Operating Officer. "We had hoped that they would one day visit the PCC in Hawaii so we could reciprocate their generous gesture. We were extremely honored and excited that they were here with us. PCC's sister relationship with the Yunnan Nationalities Village is invaluable and we are very thankful for their partnership."

The replica of the holy bronze kettle is available for viewing and will remain in a casing located in the Gateway restaurant.

Anuhea and Nesian N.I.N.E Kick Off Summer

Anuhea headlined the July 6 Concert

Na Hoku Hanohano award-winner Anuhea and local group Nesian N.I.N.E., two of Hawaii's most popular local acts, kicked off summer with a live performance at the Polynesian Cultural Center's newly renovated Gateway venue on July 6.

"This concert showcased Hawaii's brightest musical stars at the PCC. The excitement of their fans and their talent brought nothing but positive vibes through the night," said Raymond Magalei, PCC's Director of Marketing. "This is just one of many concerts we have planned. Earlier this year we hosted an intimate Valentine's evening with Natalie Ai Kamauu and her special guest performer Kapena and just last month we had a Mother's Day dance with live music provided by Island Times 2."

Construction Updates

New Hukilau Theater

You can't rush perfection. In order to ensure the best possible experience, the opening of the new theater (formerly the IMAX) has been rescheduled to November 2012. The theater will still feature all the bells and whistles as it takes guests on a journey unlike anything offered in the Hawaiian Islands. Majestic mountains, roaring waterfalls, lush forests and imposing volcanoes – many only accessible by air – are all brought to life through astounding cinematography and customized special effects that tantalize viewers' senses. The narrated film plunges guests deep into the story of Hawaii as stunning vistas provide breathtaking backdrops on one of the state's largest movie screens.

Island Villages

The renovations are right on schedule in Hawaii. The new ahupuaa-inspired experience is expected to be unveiled next month complete with all new buildings and sidewalks.

The first phase of the renovations in Samoa, which focused primarily on structural upgrades, is complete. The second and third phases, including the new entrance to the village and a new Chief's Hut will kick off once work in Hawaii is complete.

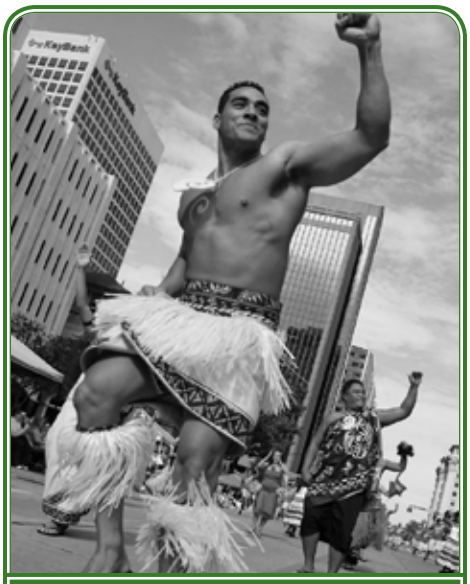
Hale Aloha

The revitalization of this iconic venue is scheduled to start in December. Upgrades will include a new sound system, theatrical lighting and a renovated control booth. Aesthetically, none of the old Hawaii charm will be lost and once complete, Hale Aloha will be able to provide a little piece of paradise for many years to come.

New Market Place

Permits and contracts are being reviewed for a totally new and expanded Polynesian Market Place. Accommodating more shops, the market place will enable the PCC to offer a wider variety goods from throughout Polynesia, including ukuleles, Polynesian handicrafts, fresh island fruits and vegetables, and other Polynesian cuisine. Admission to the market place will be free to the public.

PCC Makes a Splash in Utah



PCC Won "Days of 47 Sweepstake Award" for Best Overall Float

In July, the Polynesian Cultural Center literally took its show on the road as it participated in the Days of 47 KSL 5 Parade in Salt Lake City, Utah. The trip yielded big rewards as the float was awarded "Days of 47 Sweepstake Award" for best overall float and "President's Award." The float, named "Pioneers of the Pacific," was themed after the cultures represented at the PCC and was the only float among the 113 entries to feature fresh flowers. PCC's promotional team turned up the energy as they danced next to the float for the entire parade route. Adding to the excitement, more than 50 alumni and former PCC employees who now reside in Utah also joined in the parade. The Days of 47 KSL 5 Parade is Utah's most celebrated with onlookers often camping overnight to claim prime real estate along the parade route.

This trip also marked the first time that *Ha: Breath of Life* was performed on the road. For two nights the critically acclaimed show was performed to sold out crowds at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center.

"There was no better place to kick off the 50th Anniversary promotion," said Raymond Magalei, PCC's Director of Marketing. "The energy we felt from the crowds in Utah was fantastic and it was great to reconnect with members of the PCC ohana who are now living there."

Meet the Missionaries

Sister Kim Rigby

Sister Rigby

Born and raised in Korea, Sister Rigby now calls Centerville, Utah home. Sister Rigby worked in the Church History Department and a bank. She loves to crochet and hike. Sister Rigby will be assisting our tour guides in Customer Service.

Elder Ron and Sister Naomi Dummar

The Dummars

From Heber, Utah. They are serving as Safety Officers at the PCC. They were in the Church Educational System for 31 years, after Elder Dummar spent 11 years in the Armed Forces and they previously serverd a mission in Romania.

Sister Harris

Sister Harris

From Salt Lake City, Utah. Sister Harris recently returned to the PCC to complete the mission that she started with her husband earlier this year. (Her husband passed away in June. This was their 4th mission.) Sister Harris has a multitude of talents to share. She loves family history, scrapbooking and cooking. She's working as the Protocol Secretary at the PCC.

Sister Cheryl Hubbard

Sister Hubbard

From Tucson, Arizona. Sister Hubbard has worked as a cashier and for Hughes Aircraft. She also worked for a bank as a vault teller, in verification and sewed leather items for a tack store. She loves riding horses and spending time with grandchildren. She'll be working in the Seamstress Department at PCC.

Elder Kreston and Carol Ann Snow

The Snows

From Saratoga Springs, Utah. Elder Snow has worked as an auto mechanic and heavy truck/equipment operator. Sister Snow has been a dental assistant, office manager and professional quilter. They are presently assigned to work in the Physical Facilities area. The Snows served previously at a dry pack cannery.

Elder Ed and Sister Sharon Swenson

The Swensons

From Kaysville, Utah. Elder Swenson has been an accountant/auditor and owner of a chemical company. Sister Swenson owns a crafts and fair boutique. Previously, they served in Temple Square, the Conference Center and in Palmyra. They are both working in the Mission Settlement.

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Meet the Missionaries

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Sister Tessie Crummett

Sister Crummett

From Raymond, Washington. Besides raising and home schooling her kids; she has been a floral designer, artist and dog trainer. Sister Crummett also loves to sew, paint, crochet, knit and garden. This is her first mission and she is serving in the Seamstress Department.

Elder Gene and Sister Carol Walker

The Walkers

From Provo, Utah. Elder Walker has been a cattle rancher and chemical analyst with Idaho Nuclear for 27 years. Sister Walker has authored two books and started a successful financial education company. Elder Walker is working in the Mission Settlement and Sister Walker is in Human Resources. They previously served in England and Nauvoo.

Sister Esfira Humphreys

Sister Humphreys

From Shelton, Washington. Sister Humphreys has been a waitress/hostess, hairdresser and a bookkeeper/accountant. She loves to sing, read and play the violin. She brings many skills to the PCC organization and is serving in the Islands Office.

Sister Grace Lee

Sister Lee

From Centerville, Utah. Sister Lee grew up in Taiwan, where she was a professional graphics artist and a ladies handbag designer. After moving to the US, she worked as a textile designer in the New York area. She loves to sing, paint and sew. She is working in Human Resources.

Sister Gloria Schick

Sister Schick

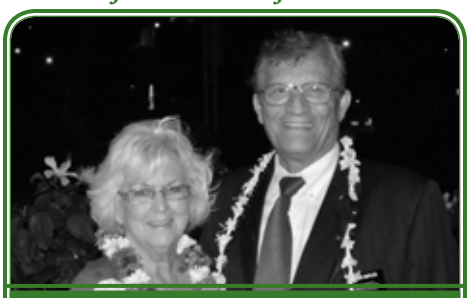
From Farmington, Utah – with a "home base" at a farm near Spokane, Washington. Sister Schick has worked in banking, real estate and investments. She also ran a production, drilling and mining company. Sister Schick plays the ukulele and is working in the Mission Settlement. She previously served a proselyting mission in Washington, D.C.

Sister Brenda Woods

Sister Woods

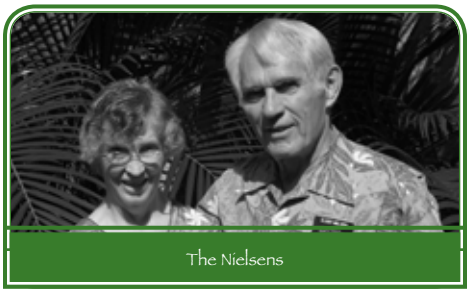
From Anthem, Arizona. Sister Woods has been a voice teacher, a recruiter for a finance company and a receptionist. She sang in the Tabernacle Choir for 18 years and has been involved with many other musical ventures. This is Sister Woods' first mission and she is serving in the Mission Settlement.

Elder Joe and Sister Janice Maples


The Maples

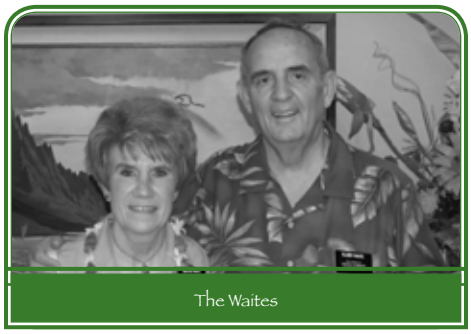
From near Nashville, Tennessee. Elder Maples spent the last 10 years building commercial restaurants and spent 30 years in the production management of newspaper companies. Sister Maples has spent years as a real estate agent and retail business owner. Elder Maples is currently helping with the building of PCC special effects and Sister Maples is helping in several different areas. This is their first mission.

Elder Reed & Sister Nina Nielsen


The Nielsens

From Paradise, Utah. Elder Nielsen taught welding/engineering at Utah State University for 30 years. He also owned a consulting business and a welding and fabrication company. Sister Nielsen spent most of her time raising their 10 children. This is their 5th senior mission. Elder Nielsen is using his welding skills at PCC and Sister Nielsen is working in the Seamstress Department.

Elder Jay & Sister Judy Waite


The Waites

From Logan, Utah. Elder and Sister Waite lived in the Washington, D.C. area for about 40 years, where he worked for the US Census Bureau, retiring as the Deputy Director and COO. This is their first senior mission. Both of the Waites are working in the area of PCC Quality Control and Sister Waite will also help out in the Seamstress Department.

Sister Lynette Gurr

Sister Gurr

From South Jordan, Utah. She has 3 children and 10 grandchildren. As she was raising her children, Sister Gurr ran her own beauty salon in her home for 35 years. She loves being active, bicycling, walking, camping and traveling. She also makes jewelry, sews and cooks. She will be helping out in Customer Service.

Elder Brent & Sister Kay Przybille

The Przybilles

From Vernon, British Columbia. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. Elder Przybille (pronounced Sha-bill) worked for years in the forest and logging business, and more recently has worked as an Occupational Safety and Health professional. He loves golf and enjoys traveling. Sister Przybille has been a bookkeeper and homemaker. They'll be working in the Motor Pool, Safety and Business Offices.