

# PACIFIC STREAM

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

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### About the Newsletter

The Pacific Stream Newsletter is a free publication distributed to PIFA members to provide information about PIFA efforts in the community. Our main event, for which PIFA is known, the Pacific Islander Festival has built a large network of followers who attend the event every year.

The Pacific Stream is shared with the PIFA membership, San Diego community, and nationwide affiliates.

To view this newsletter online, visit [www.pifasandiego.com](http://www.pifasandiego.com)

### Inside this issue:

PIFA 2013 Presents "Drums of the Islands"	1
A Letter from our President	1
PIFA Scholarship Awardees	2
11 <sup>th</sup> Taste of the Pacific Islands	2
10 <sup>th</sup> Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego	3
Membership Renewals and Parking Passes	3
Special Member & Volunteer Recognition	4
Cultural Villages and "Pacifica Health & Wellness"	4
WINCART	5

## PIFA 2013 Presents "Drums of the Islands"

PIFA will be celebrating its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Islander Festival, "Drums of the Islands" at beautiful Ski Beach San Diego on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22, 2013.

Our theme, "Drums of the Islands" recognizes a large part of history of the Polynesians, Micronesians and Melanesian cultures. Island drums come in various shapes, sizes and forms to accompany songs, dances, and religious ceremonies.

For most of these cultures, music is its oral history, handed down from generation to generation, remembering their ancestors' feats.

"Drums of the Islands" opens up a lot of conversations about its placement and evolution in Pacific island history.

Where did the history of drums of the islands come from?

Is it indigenous or is it from its modern history?

Are there music patterns that are distinguishable amongst the various Pacific island regions?

How is island drumming different or similar in comparison to drumming practices in other cultures and regions of the world?

Drums are unique in the way it is presented and performed by the Pacific island cultures.

Learn more at this year's festival. See you then!

## A Letter from our President

Greetings PIFA Members,

I hope you're enjoying the summertime!

We have been lucky to have successfully shared the Pacific Island cultures with the community through our annual festival, and we've been honored to have incorporated other events like our Taste of the Pacific Islands, Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego Scholarship Pageant and our PIFA Scholarship Program.

As the President, I have a broad perspective of all the different areas in the organization and I see collaboration, team work, and respect. PIFA is truly a Family working together to promote and perpetuate Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia traditional cultures. It's always humbling to me to see how many people put their time, effort, and energy into making PIFA a success.

I extend a big thank you from me personally to all our volunteers. I encourage you to thank the volunteers you meet as you participate at the festival. And volunteers, please let your Committee Chairs and Directors know if you're interested in supporting the organization as a Director!

And of course I also encourage you to volunteer, if you're not already. It really is the best way to get the most out of your PIFA membership.

Let us celebrate and rejoice for how far we have come as a community of Pacific Islanders and of people with love for the Pacific Island cultures.

Rudy Tai  
2013 PIFA President



## Congratulations PIFA Scholarship Winners!

One of PIFA's primary objectives is to provide educational and cultural resources to everyone, but with emphasis on the Indigenous People of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. One of the ways we do this is by providing scholarships to Pacific Island high school seniors and college undergraduates, who are San Diego residence. We have two programs which students may apply for, the PIFA Scholarship Program and the Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego Scholarship Pageant.

In the last fourteen years, PIFA has awarded over \$110,000 in scholarship awards to high school seniors and college undergraduates.

Applicants may only apply for one scholarship per year: high school, undergraduate or Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego.

We are so excited for this year's PIFA Scholarship Winners!

Best of luck to all the awardees, as they continue their college journey.

### High School Graduate Awards

Tia Aumoeualogo, PIFA Top Scholar

Elijah Aloese

Benjamin Concepcion

Tyrone Hueitt, JTF Award

Vaitulu Leota, Miss PIFA 1<sup>st</sup> Princess

Adanna Knox-Iuli, Miss PIFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Princess

Keiana Castro, Miss PIFA Participation Award

### Undergraduate Awards

Meaghan Zuttermeister, Miss PIFA Queen

Candace Borja, Miss PIFA Participation Award

Darline Schwenke

Tutulu Finau

Martin Finau

## PIFA's Annual Fundraising Event: Taste of the Pacific Islands



The 11th Annual Taste of the Pacific Islands was held at the beautiful Bali Hai Restaurant on July 25, 2013. The main highlight of the evening was the food that was shared and food competition with the "Sili Award" for best island appetizer, entree or main dish going to Homestyle Hawaiian, "Mea'Ona Award" to Taste of Polynesia, for the best island dessert and the "Oceania Award" went to Chamorro Grill for the people's choice. Guest judges for the competition included Dr. Christina Holub (Pacific Islander Community Health), Mike Hastings (Fresh and Fit Meals), and Jess Solis (Pacific Islander Ethnic Arts Museum).

Questions: Contact  
[info@pifasandiego.com](mailto:info@pifasandiego.com)

Our restaurant sponsors included Homestyle Hawaiian, Island Girl Shave Ice, Sushi Affair Catering, Hawaii's Island Eatery, Taste of Polynesia, Chamorro Grill, Rotisserie Affair Catering, Sweetstacks, Kona Kakes, Chris's Ono Grinds Cafe & Grill, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, Ohana Hawaiian Barbecue, Bali Hai Restaurant and Guahan Grill.



Emcees for the evening were Hula Ramos from Energy 103.7 and Mialani Love, Miss PIFA 2011. We had a wide array of entertainment that was showcased with Ahutoru Nui being our featured group!!

Despite a power outage in the Pt. Loma community for about an hour the event was a success with lots of food to share, awesome entertainment and prizes won by many for the guests who participated in our Silent Auction/Raffle. All the money raised went towards the PIFA Scholarship Program.

Thank you to all of our participants for their generous contributions and invaluable support!

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego



PIFA celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego Scholarship Pageant on June 28, 2013 at the gorgeous Venue at Eastlake. Five beautiful lovely Pacific Island women participated in the competition, building a sisterhood of young island women with an experience to last a lifetime.

Congratulations to Meaghan Zuttermeister, Native Hawaiian and crowned the Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego Queen 2013.

Viatulu Leota, Samoan/Tokelau/Fijian was crowned Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego, 1<sup>st</sup> Princess.

Adanna Knox-Iuli, Samoan was crowned Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego, 2<sup>nd</sup> Princess and awarded the Miss Charity Award for her charity fundraising efforts.

Candace Borja and Keiana Castro, Chamorro both took home a Scholarship Participation Award.

The pageant has grown into such a prestigious program, recognizing young Pacific Island women for their talents and achievements in their youth and early adulthood. More so, it has established an opportunity for participants of the program to learn and develop themselves to prepare for their futures.

We were honored with the presence of a number of our past queens, including Mahealani Villabroza (formerly Wong), PIFA's first Queen 2004.

If you are interested in learning more about the Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego Pageant, please email us at [info@pifasandiego.com](mailto:info@pifasandiego.com) or call 619-699-8797. Applications for next year's program will be available, late September.



## Membership Renewals and Parking Passes

Thank you to all of our members! Many of our members come out annually to volunteer at the festival and support preparing for our yearly events. With 138 members strong, PIFA has built a lasting network of friends and family who we can always count on to support the PIFA mission.

Remember, your membership is an annual membership for a calendar year. We encourage members to renew every year at the festival, before their membership expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. To remain a PIFA member in good standing, please submit a completed membership form and your membership renewal fee of only \$15.00, by check or money order, payable to PIFA and mail to: Attention: PIFA Membership P.O. Box 86046 San Diego, CA 92138.

You may obtain a [membership form](#) at the PIFA website [www.pifasandiego.com](http://www.pifasandiego.com).

Members are provided free parking passes to the festival, both Saturday and Sunday. Remember, parking on the festival grounds is limited. More parking passes are distributed than there are spaces available. You should arrive early to ensure you get a parking spot.

Parking is also available at the Sunrunner Parking Lot (off Sea World Drive) and Hospitality Point (on Quivera Boulevard). Shuttle services will be provided from these two locations for a fee of \$1.00 per seat.

Please visit our website for [festival frequently asked questions](#) at [www.pifasandiego.com](http://www.pifasandiego.com) on the "Current News" page. The city enforces strict guidelines with regards to community events, particularly at this location.

It'll be another exciting year to see all of you out there in full force, reconnecting with family, old friends, making new friends and enjoying all the things to enjoy at the Pacific Islander Festival. We look forward to seeing you all there!

## Special Recognition to Pat Palma, PIFA Member

Pat Palma is being recognized for her invaluable contributions to the Pacific Islander Festival Association. She has been a member and volunteer of PIFA since the very first PIFA festival. She was inspired to join the mission to bring awareness to the community of the beautiful Polynesian culture to San Diego. Pat has volunteered in many different areas of the festival including booths, publications, PR, selling t-shirts, security, logistics, helping coordinate entertainment, helping booths chop, sell and PR their booths. She's also helped with setting up, taking down and manning booths. She commuted entertainers for shows, when needed, stayed up till early morning hours cooking rice and so much more. Whatever is needed, Pat gets the job done.



One of the things Pat really enjoys about the festival is meeting neat people from all over the world! Some who have become lifelong friends. She's enjoyed everything about the festival, especially learning of the heart and soul of Polynesia. Though not a Polynesian, Micronesian or Melanesian, she has embraced the love and life of these cultures, greatly because she has always gotten along with island people easily and she believes that her Mexican cultural upbringing shares some similarities that the Polynesian people share, particularly "familia, amigos, cultura y amor de patria (God, family friends, culture and love of country)".

Pat is married to Ed Palma. She has two children and two step children. Pat has been employed for over 20 years at Grossmont College in the World Language Department. She is looking forward to obtaining a degree in Sign Language and attending classes.

Pat's volunteerism expands to other realms in San Diego including serving as a Eucharistic Minister at her church, building Scouting clubs and initiatives, helping to establish Scouting resources for Hispanic boys, volunteering for the Special Needs Committee and donating food and quilts towards other endeavors.

Pat resembles a woman of great strength, character, leadership, devotion and love in all the work she does from family life, to her daily job, in the volunteer work she does and the passion for life that she shows. She's driven by an opportunity to give a helping hand. She is a humble woman who is grateful to be able to share her talents and skills, without expecting anything in return. Pat Palma is a specially recognized member because of her selfless acts of kindness. She is a true leader and role model. PIFA is proud to call Pat a part of the PIFA family. Thank you Pat Palma!

## Cultural Villages and "Oceania Health and Wellness"

Come visit the Cultural Village Displays and learn about the rich histories and legacies of various islands in the Pacific such as Guam, Tahiti, Samoa, Tokelau, Palau and Hawaii. Step into the past and be informed about ancient artifacts, practices and traditions through fun interactive workshops and storytelling from our community ran displays.

The new "Oceania Health and Wellness" debut will also be located in this area of the festival! The goal is to promote a healthy Pacific Islander community through providing access to health education and information on



strategies to improve health and wellness. In partnership with PIC Health (Pacific Islander Community Health), we will host various workshops including topics on diabetes, high blood pressure, and nutrition. Demo workout classes and a physical activity challenges will also be held, for your chance to win prizes.

PIFA would like to thank the SDSU/UCSD Comprehensive Cancer Partnership for their support of the Pacific Islander Communities through Health and Wellness.



## Weaving an Islander Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training



The Weaving an Islander Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (WINCART) has several programs that focuses on research, education and community capacity building, all contributing to the reduction of cancer health disparities among Pacific Islanders (PI) in Southern California.

One of our most successful programs has been the WINCART Let's Move! Program, designed to encourage groups of Pacific Islanders in organizations, churches, or community sites to adopt and engage in 10-minutes of physical activity at every meeting. This program guides organizational members, congregations, and/or staff through at least 10-minutes exercise breaks that can be done in groups or personal setting. Numerous results for individuals

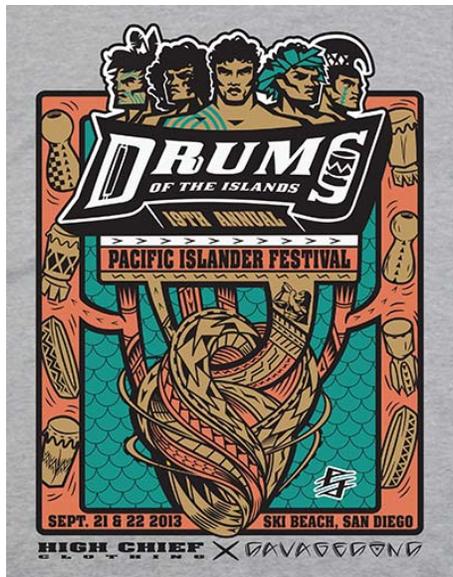
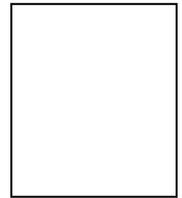
including improved health, cancer prevention, obesity prevention, and overall well-being can be achieved. Engaging in the WINCART Let's Move! Program empowers Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults to get physically active every day.

If your group is interested in being a site for WINCART, contact [mfifita@fullerton.edu](mailto:mfifita@fullerton.edu). Let's Move! Pacific Islanders and start exercising to our 10-minute workout <http://youtu.be/UC2h72XnhuE>. Another program that WINCART just launched is Motivating Pasifika Against Cigarettes & Tobacco (MPACT). This study will test the use of cell phone text messaging used along with other stop smoking educational resources to help young adult Pacific Islanders, between 18 and 30 years old, who have decided to try to stop smoking cigarettes. If you are a current cigarette smoker who wants to quit smoking, and are not currently in any other stop smoking program, learn more about MPACT on our FB site. <http://facebook.com/mpactprogram>.

Come visit the WINCART booth at the festival to learn more!



**Pacific Islander Festival Association**  
**P.O. Box 86046**  
**San Diego, CA 92138**  
[www.pifasandiego.com](http://www.pifasandiego.com)



**Celebrating 19 years of PIFA!**

*PIFA Mission Statement*

*The primary purposes and objectives of the Pacific Islander Festival Association shall be:*

- (a) *To promote charitable and educational projects for the benefit of everyone, but with emphasis on the Indigenous People of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.*
- (b) *To provide educational and cultural resources to everyone, but with emphasis on the Indigenous People of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.*
- (c) *To actively participate in the promotion and perpetuation of the traditional cultures, ancient historical data, languages, attitudes and values of the Indigenous People of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.*

