# MERRIE MONARCH FESTIVAI

laiki Aiu Lake left a legacy to hula. Here is a genealogy of kumu hula she taught.

Class name: Papa 'Uniki Lehua (1972-73

Ho'oulu Cambra (deceased)

Robert Cazimero (4\*) Halau Na Kamalei

Milton I, Squires House of I

<mark>George Pulamahia Maile,</mark> Halau Kekamaipulamahia

Kalena Silva

Coline Kaualoku Aiu, Halau Hula O Maiki

Mapuana Kekahuna Aarona

Mililani Allen, Halau Hula O Mililani

nia Darlene Ulalia Berman, Ulalia School of Hawaiian Dan

**Keli'i Taua,** Maui Nui O Kama Na Wahine No Me Ka Ha'aha'a Mai Maiki

Lani Downey

Halau Moanikeala O Na Lei O Ka Lehua

Lahela Kaaihue

Leinaala Kekahuna

Kealoha Wong

Maile Yamanaka

Momi Aarona Kepelino, Halau Pualililehua 'O Ku'uleimon Kahaʻi Topolinski (6) Ka Pa Hula Hawaii

Leina ala Heine, Na Pualei O Likolehua

Mae Kamamalu Klein (10)

# Class name: Papa 'Uniki 'Ilima (1975)

Wayne Keahiokekamaali'i Chang, Halau O Keahi

Bill awaiponimoʻikapiolani Correa, Ha-lau-haʻa-ula-ʻo-Pili Kepa Maly

Keola Aipelina

Kawaikaula'au Aona-Ueoka, Halau Ho'oulu Mai Ka j'llima

Ku'ulei Bernadino

Napua Brown, Malau Hula O Napua

Mapuana de Silva (7), Halau Mohala 'llima

Elena Marie Marquez

Rowena Mehanaaloha Nakamitsu

Wendy Uluwehi Nakanishi

Sarah Ilialoha Quick

Kini Sullivan

Kuulei Pedro

Pamaieulu De Fries Sham

Charlotte Leilani Silva

Hanakaulaniokamamalu Holt Takamine, Pua Ali'i 'Ilima

Charlene Kaleialalokelani Holi Williams

Class name: Papa 'Uniki Kukui (1979)

Edward Kalahiki, Na Punahele O Haluakaiamoana

BY CATHERINE KEKOA ENOMOTO

Star-Bulletin

HE late hula master Margaret Maiki Souza Aiu Lake stood at the cusp between Hawaiian spirituality and Christianity when she groomed more than 40 dancers to become kumu hula.

She was a carrier of traditional beliefs and rituals, yet she was a staunch Catholic. For example, she may not have reconciled to herself the symbolism of a black pig in hula ritual, let alone to her students.

In the context of this dichotomy, in 1971, the same year the Merrie Monarch hula competition started, Lake was gathering dancers for a kumu hula class. When Merrie Monarch, the premier event in the hula world, unfolds this week, three kumu hula and one judge will be visual reminders of Lake's legacy of 42 first-generation kumu hula and 34 second-generation kumu hula.

Her protege kumu hula and their halau at Merrie Monarch include Kaha'i Topolinski and Ka Pa Hula Hawai'i; Leina'ala Heine and Na Pualei O Likolehua; Mapuana de Silva and Halau Mohala 'Ilima; and judge Vickie Holt Takamine of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima.

The eating of certain parts of a black pig is a ritual in becoming a kumu hula. In ancient times, the pig may have been a human, some speculate. Kumu hula Wayne Keahi Chang, another Lake

PLEASE SEE LAKE, D-3

\*Number of kumu hula trained

Class name: Papa 'Uniki Laua'e (1983)

John Keolamaka'ainanakalahuiokalaninokamahemahaekolu Lake (7), Na Hanona O Ka Halau Hula Pa Ola Kapu

# LAKE: She was matriarch of hula ohana

### FROM D-1

protege, explained. "You go with your kumu to select a pig. You learn to love that pig until you killed it.

"Maybe that's why (the ritual) was kept underground. People would've really condemned them as 'cult' things.'

Heine and Topolinski were among 26 graduates of Papa 'Uniki Lehua, Lake's largest and most famous 1972-73 graduating class

of kumu hula.

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Kumu hula

AAA

"Papa 'Uniki Lehua was the first class after a long time," said Lake's daughter, Coline Kaualoku Aiu, also a Lehua graduate and current doyenne of Lake's Halau Hula O Maiki. "It was named for the lehua, the first flower after a lava flow." De Silva, Takamine and Chang graduated with the 14member Papa 'Uniki 'Ilima in 1975.

"I had great expectations," Chang recalled. "I really did, because already in my mind she was

this legend. I had been in the hula world for a while and this lady had respect across the board."



Lake could be a tough teacher, scolding, cajoling, explaining. "She was all those things, depending on what she had to be," Chang said. "When you were her student, you were also her child; she was your mother," he said, elongating the word, mother. "When we had problems, many went to her before their own parents; that's how tight the bond was. If she felt we needed to be scolded, she scolded us unmercifully. And it wasn't privately like a counselor; it was in front of the family. Boom! Right between eyes.

'Sometimes I left class drained hysically, sometimes absolutely drained emotionally; that's what Maiki did. And, like in any Hawaiian family, she had her favorites, her punahele." He and Robert Cazimero were two of them,

Chang said.

Na Hoku Hanohano award-winning entertainer Cazimero is one of the most illustrious Lehua

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### Miss Aloha Hula

(Competition is Thursday)

☐ Kawena Sachiko Moanikeala Suganumua of Ka Pa Hula Hawai'l (Honolulu)

Christy Kilileo Horita, Na Hula O Kaohikukapulani (Hanapepe, Kauai) Laua'eki'eikula Yamasaki, Halau

Kealakapawa (Honolulu) Jennifer Kehaulani Wehrsig, Ha-

lau O Ke Anuenue (Hilo) U'ilani Bobbitt, Halau Mohala 'Ili-

ma (Kailua, Oahu) □ Ku'ukamalani Ho, Keali'ika'apunihonua Ke'ena A'o Hula

(Honolulu) ☐ Violo Aliifua, Hula Halau O Lilinoe (Carson, Calif.)

□ Noelani Kalama, Puka'ikapuaokalani Hula Halau (Kailua,

□ Namaka Uesugi, Keali¹i O Nalani (Los Angeles, Calif.)

■ Myrel Sapinoro, Hula Halau O Kamuela (Kalihi/Waimanalo) Lauren Leialoha Kanae, Halau

Hula Olana (Alea, Oahu) Pauliane Kaleonani Kekela, Ha-

lau Hula Ka Ua Kani Lehua (Hilo) Jaylin Kaleiokalani Kahalepua A'o Kalola Winchester, Ka Pa Hula O Kauanoe O Wa'ahila (Honolulu)

### **Group Wahine and Kane**

(Friday and Saturday)

 Halau Kealakapawa, kumu hula Michael Canopin

☐ Keali'i O Nalani, kumu hula Keall'i Ceballos

☐ Keali'ika'apunihonua Ke'ena A'o Hula (kane), kumu hula Leimomi Ho □ Ka Pa Hula Hawai'i, kumu hula

Kaha'i Topolinski ☐ Hula Halau O Lilinoe, kumu hula Sissy Kaio

☐ Halau Ka Ua Kilihune (Kaneohe; kane division), kumu hula Al Bar-

Puka'ikapuaokalani Hula Halau, kumu hula Ellen Castillo

□ Na Pualei O Likolehua (Honolulu), kumu hula Leina'ala Heine

☐ Halau Hula O Kahikilaulani (Hilo; kane), kumu hula Ray Fonseca

☐ Halau O Ke Anuenue, kumu hula Glenn Vasconcellos

☐ Halau Na Mamo O Pu'uanahulu (Honolulu), kumu hula Sonny Ching-☐ Halau Hula Olana (kane), na

kumu hula Howard and Olana Ai □ Na Hula O Kaohikukapulani,

kumu hula Kapu Kinimaka-Alquiza ☐ Halau Hula Ka Ua Kani Lehua, kumu hula Johnny Lum Ho

☐ Hula Halau Ó Kamuela (kane), na kumu hula Paleka Mattos and Kunewa Mook

□ Na Pua Mé Kealoha (Carson,

Calif.; kane), kumu hula Sissy Kaio ☐ Halau Hula O Kahikilaulani

Keali'i O Nalani (kane) Halau Mohala 'Ilima, kumu hula

Mapuana de Silva 🗀 Halau Hula Na Pua Ufi O Hawaifi (Kailua-Kona), kumu hula Etua Lopes

☐ Halau Kealakapawa (kane) ☐ Keali'ika'apunihonua Ke'ena A'o

☐ Moana's Hula Studio (Kaunekakai, Molokai), na kumu hula Moana and Raquel Dudoit

□ Ka Pa Hula Hawai¹ (kane) ☐ Ka Pa Hula O Kauanoe O Wa'ahila, kumu hula Mae Loebenstein

☐ Keolalaulani Halau 'Olapa O Laka (Kaneohe), kumu hula Aloha **Dalire** 

☐ Halau Na Mamo O Pu'uanahulu

☐ Halau Hula Olana

☐ Hula Halau O Kamuela

🗆 Halau Hula O Kawaili'ula (Kailua, Oahu; kane), kumu hula Chinky Mahoe

### JUDGES

Cy Bridges **Ed Collier** John Kaimikaua Namahana Kalama Panui Elaine Kaopuiki Noenoelani Zuttermeister Lewis Victoria Holt Takamine

## TV coverage

KITV4 coverage of the 33rd annual Merrie Monarch Festival's hula competition:

7 p.m. today: Starts with a pre-festival show, "Na Hula Kahiko."

7 p.m. Wednesday: "Backstage at the Merrie Monarch"

6 to 11 p.m. Thursday: Miss Aloha Hula pageant

6 to 11 p.m. Friday: Group competition in kahiko, or ancient hula

6 p.m. to midnight Saturday: Group competition in 'auana, or modern hula

The event at Hilo's Kanaka'ole Stadium is sold out.

Also, Halau Hula O Maiki hosts events marking the 50th anniversary of when the late Maiki Aiu Lake began teaching hula. Call 955-0050 about:

"Kahikolu" celebration May 27 with a 1.5-mile Hula Malie fun run at 10 a.m. and entertainment from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis School.

■ 50th anniversary concert at 5 p.m. July 13 at Blaisdell Concert Hall. Tickets are \$50.

"Hula Is Life" book.

placed third overall at last year's Merrie Monarch. This year he brings Kawena Suganuma, greatgranddaughter of the late historian Mary Kawena Puku'i, to compete in Thursday's Miss Aloha Hula solo competition.

Heine celebrates the 20th anniversary of her halau, Na Pualei O Likolehua, by dedicating its Merrie Monarch performance to her teachers, Joseph Kahaulelio and Lake.

"She gave a lot of people the opportunity to actually carry the shingle 'kumu,' of going through the process and the protocol, Heine said. "Before, everything was underground; in the Western world one would say there were no credentials. She let it be known this was going to be the first 'uniki class. She gave us a chance to begin our own schools. She had trust in me: 'OK 'Ala, you are significant. You are good, ready and prepared.' It's what made me the person I am today."

Look also for a 20th anniversary performance at Merrie Monarch of de Silva and her radiant dancers of Halau Mohala 'Ilima.

'I always felt love from her for things Hawaiian, for hula, for what she was teaching and for us; that she genuinely cared for us. That really made an impact on me. That is, basically, the philosophy I teach. I try to convey that feeling of joy and love for what I do, because I felt that's how she approached the hula."

Far from the spotlights and TV cameras of Merrie Monarch, 63year-old Aunty Mae Kamamalu Klein teaches in the shadows, training Lake's former students to become kumu hula. Klein's 75member halau, Kukalehuaikaohu (The Lehua That Stands in the Mist), is in Kaneohe. She recalled a conversation with Lake.

We had a long discussion four days before she passed away. At that time she asked me to open a school and I said, 'No, not as long as you're living.'"

Then, "she had a heart attack. I was at a loss, really at a loss. I still feel it; I cry. So I sit quietly and do work by myself to pass on her legacy, to include 'uniki for as many people as possible. And mainly these are her people, who were in her halau for 10 plus years, people who didn't finish (becoming kumu hula). I promised and I will keep going until I can't do it anymore.'

Merrie Monarch is considered the most important event in hula and Lake was the most important individual driving the resurgent interest in the art.

Says daughter Aiu, "Hula holds the host culture."

hee, Racine Klein-Cook and Michael Pang who themselves have schools, and lawyer Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie. Lake introduced the "hula

book" in which students collect their dance steps, research, note and clippings; the concept provided a Western way to learn a heretofore oral tradition. But her haumana, or students, many of them now renowned kumu hula, remember her for much more.

'It's an eternal thing," said Topolinski of Ka Pa Hula Hawaiʻi. "Aunty Maiki lives on and on through the songs and dances and anecdotes she taught us."

Her anecdotes or dictums included: Remember, you learn, but it is not yours to give until your teacher allows you that right. And: People who don't know how to dance, but who have a loving spirit, can be cultivated to be dancers

Topolinski said he became a kumu hula "to restore men's hula into the public arena." His men