



For Immediate Release

**PRESS CONTACT:** Daniella Elghanayan, Chris Davis 805/687-3322  
**Event Information/Tickets:** 805/563-8812

## **“Island Wishes” Show to Include Tahitian Dancing, Drumbeats**

**UCSB Polynesian Club Hosts Showcase to Benefit  
Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. – A Volunteer Hospice Organization**

**May 14, 2008, Santa Barbara, CA**—Get ready for grass skirts and island drumming at “Island Wishes,” a benefit concert put on by Iaorana Te Otea, UCSB’s Polynesian Club, at **8:00 pm on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at UCSB Campbell Hall.**

Iaorana Te Otea—Polynesian for “greetings from the drumbeats”—is a student-taught organization that celebrates the dynamic cultures of the Polynesian Islands. The group performs dances that originate from the islands of Tahiti and consist of oteas, fast-paced dances set to drumbeats, and aparimas, graceful dances that tell a story, accompanied by chants and lyrics.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the club will be hosting its sixth annual Island Wishes benefit showcase. Nonprofit Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. has been chosen this year as the beneficiary of the event. Hospice of Santa Barbara is a volunteer hospice organization that works to heal emotional, social and spiritual pain associated with life-threatening illness and death. All services are provided free of charge, and are available to anyone impacted by the diagnosis of life-threatening illness or grieving death of a loved one.

“We’re really excited that our performance can support a group that provides such critical services to our community,” said Pooneh Aminian, President of Iaorana Te Otea.

With over 40 active members, the student organization practices Fall and Winter quarters in preparation of this annual event. This year’s Island Wishes concert will include over 20 different dances and musical performances. The group is committed to preserving the legacy of Polynesian culture and creating a new legacy in our community through its 18-year-long presence. Dances have been passed down from students ever since the group was founded in 1990. Since then, students have been choreographing their own dances to add to their repertoire. Students are also responsible for costume designs that are reflective of Polynesian culture.

Tickets to the event are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. **To purchase tickets or for more information, please call Amanda Kastelic at (805) 563-8812. Tickets will also be available for students on the UCSB campus from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm beginning May 21<sup>st</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> at the University Center (UCEN) and May 27<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> at the Arbor.** All proceeds will be donated to Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. – A Volunteer Hospice Organization.

The mission of Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. is to provide care to anyone experiencing the impact of a life-threatening illness, or grieving the death of a loved one.