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## Hawaiian dance, music at Hula Mai Day in Sonoma Plaza

Thursday, June 13th, 2013 | Posted by [dhart](#) | [no responses](#)

Hula Mai Dancers at last year's performance in the Sonoma Plaza. (Photos courtesy of Hula Mai)

Local dancers and an award-winning musician are among the performers at the fourth annual Hula Mai Day event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday (June 14) in the Grinstead Amphitheater in the Sonoma Plaza.

Sonoma Valley resident and Hula Mai founder Betty Ann Bruno brings the "aloha spirit" to the plaza with the Hula Mai band, two dozen dancers and guest artist Patrick Landeza, winner of the acclaimed Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award bestowed by the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts, an award much like a Grammy.



Award-winning Hawaiian musician Patrick Landeza is the guest artist at Hula Mai Day.

Landeza will perform the Hawaiian slack key guitar as dancers share both modern ('Auana) and traditional (Kahiko) forms of the hula during the free event.

The authentic Hawaiian show highlights the art of storytelling through dance. Hula numbers will include dancing to Hawaiian favorites "My Yellow Ginger Lei," "Pua Mana," and "Song of Old Hawaii."

Several ancient Kahiko hulas will be accompanied by chanting to the beat of the ipu-heke gourd drum.

Bruno says dancers will offer new twists on some of the ancient hulas.

"We are all so thrilled to be performing this year on Hula Mai Day. There are many reasons why our dancers and band members volunteer their time to perform for the community, but the one thing we all share is a love of spreading the aloha spirit," Bruno said.

She defines the uniquely Hawaiian spirit as "giving without any anticipation or expectation of getting anything in return," something that sets the Hawaiian culture apart.



Hula Mai Dancers (clockwise from left) Linda Green, Carolyn Pendry, Nellie Woodard and Lois Tselentis.

"It's so very special to us," she said.

Several Plaza merchants are offering Hawaiian-theme specialties in celebration of Hula Mai Day:

**The Swiss Hotel:** Hawaiian barbecued pork sandwich, pineapple Hawaiian Mai-tais

**Mary's Pizza Shack:** Regular or spicy luau pizza, "Hula Mai"-tais

**Murphy's Irish Pub:** Kalua-style pig, spring rolls, shiitake mushrooms, grilled pineapple, Ponzu dipping sauce

**Town Square:** Maui Zowie Jell-o Shots

**Sonoma Cheese Factory:** Hawaiian burgers

**Della Santana's:** Hawaiian wine coolers, penne pasta with fresh vegetables and tomatoes

**The Chocolate Cow:** Authentic Hawaiian shaved ice

**Plaza Bistro:** Hawaiian Mai-tais

Bruno will offer hula workshops through Vintage House in the fall. For more information, visit [hulamai.org](http://hulamai.org).

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