

## April Pualani Chock

April Pualani Chock has been teaching in the Kaimuki Adult Education Program with the State of Hawaii since 1983. She has taught hula for the Kamehameha Schools Continuing Education Program, the Performing Arts Academy and the senior citizens in Pālolo.

In 1957 I began taking hula lessons from the late Ma'iki Aiu Lake who had her studio on the corner of Ke'eaumoku Street. She also taught us other things like how to make haku leis and how to wrap a kikepa in many different ways. We had the best years with Aunty Ma'iki because she always had time for us.

In 1958 I started performing at the Lau Yee Chai Restaurant (The Ambassador Hotel) during the weekends and at the Halekulani Hotel once a month with Ma'iki Aiu Lake. I was fortunate to have danced at the Queen's Surf with Terii Rua, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Long House with Danny Kaleikini and at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel for special events. I traveled to Washington, D.C. and the World's Fair with the Kamehameha Alumni Glee Club and to Moloka'i to perform for the canoe races and to Maui to participate in the Aloha Week activities. I worked in Nara, Japan at Dreamland for three months. I performed at Paradise Park as a singer and dancer, sang with Ed Kenney in the Tapa Room at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel and performed at the Waikiki Shell in the "Aloha 'Oe" play written by Lloyd Stone. I also worked with Ma'iki Aiu Lake on many Aloha Week functions.

When I wasn't performing, I was studying with Ma'iki at the studio. I was studying under her to puka but I left when I got married and had children. If you can't concentrate, you can't study. It was kind of sad to leave Ma'iki, but she always told us that family comes first. I would go in and help her but not as much as I did before I got married. I was there if she needed me, but it wasn't like going in every day and opening up the studio. It was only occasionally.

I taught for Ma'iki in her hālau whenever she travelled to do promos and shows. When I had my last child in 1969, I asked her if I could teach some friends of mine who wanted to learn

a hula for their wedding. From those four friends, my studio grew in number. I have a ho'ike every two years.

In 1982, I was ready to continue my hula so I went to Kamamalu Klein to finish up. On August 18, 1985, I puka with Kamamalu Klein in Kane'ohe. What we receive from our teachers is the kihei as our certificate. Not a piece of paper. The ceremony is to show what we accomplished throughout the year. We made our own pahu, ipu heke and 'uli'uli. These are crafts that teachers should know and be able to explain. Actually it was like a review of all we had learned. We keep going to classes because we really don't stop learning.

After I puka, I changed my hula studio name to Halau 'o Apelila. In 1992, Kamamalu gave me another name for my hālau which I use as a signature, "Uluwehikalikolehuaikauanoē". Her thought was that any student leaving my hālau would flourish, or any student in my hālau would have the knowledge of Hawai'i and would keep it as a heritage. I use the name as a signature on all my flyers and tee shirts.

As a young girl, I learned to play the 'ukulele by watching. I use the 'ukulele to teach my students. If you play the music, then the dancer has to know and think the motion that you've taught them instead of copying all the time. The students use more of their senses as well as learn the words when I play the 'ukulele.

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