

Nature Notes

by Patricia Clark-Gray



The Pacific Voyagers Visit Monterey

On Friday, I was fortunate to see the six vakas come into the bay around 4 p.m. and land on Del Monte Beach. They had just come from San Francisco. The Pacific Voyagers are a group of Pacific Islanders who have come together from many nations to sail across the Pacific Ocean. Their motto is "Move your paddle silently through the water". Their goal is to share their message of stewardship with the world.

sustainable materials to lessen the impact on our environment. For example, they installed eight solar panels on the back of each vaka to power their engines. For cooking they use natural gas and they use no running water. The vakas were built in New Zealand.

The crews of the vakas include Aotearoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and Tahiti. They also have crews from Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

As the six vakas came into the beach, they blew a shell and each crew wore colorful clothing and the vakas had different flags. The vakas

has colorful designs on their sides. My favorite was a design with a fin and dolphins in red triangles.

They were greeted by officials from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Pacific Islanders Cultural Association, and First Nations representatives.

If you want to learn more about the Pacific Voyagers you can go to their website at www.pacificvoyagers.org/ Be sure to check out the section "Track the Voyage" where you can see a map showing where they started (New Zealand) and where they have traveled to get to Monterey. You can also be-

come Friends with the group on their Pacific Voyagers page on Facebook.

I want to end this article with a quote from their webpage: "As we voyage throughout the Pacific, spreading our message of respectful stewardship of our ocean, we carry the spirit of our ancestors and gain continued strength by the many other brothers and sisters we meet on shore and who come up from the waters' depths to guide us on our journey."

GRAY-ZAKARIA

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gray (Patricia Clark-Gray) of Marina are proud to announce the marriage of their son, Douglas Ryan Gray, to Addilah Zakaria. Addilah is a graduate of Monterey High School and UC Santa Cruz. He is a Computer Engineer and works for Amazon in



glas Ryan Gray, to Addilah Zakaria. Their Malaysian wedding ceremony was February 26th in Johor Baru in Malaysia and was hosted by Addilah's mother Mrs. Hapsah Buang. On May 14th, they had their American wedding at the Memory Garden in Monterey.



Douglas is a



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