

Our 'Birthday Boy' **President Paul Saito** had to stand through our singing, before he opened our meeting and invited **Judy Lind** to offer her sincere inspiration. We were led in the pledge by **Erin Auerbach**, and **Lyla Berg** delivered a rousing National Anthem. **Dawn Marie** pointed out the visiting Rotarians and special guests in the Regency Room.

President Paul introduced our newest member, who he sponsored...**Rob Van Tassell**. Rob is the CEO of Catholic Charities, whose father has been a Seattle Rotarian for more than 30 years. "GO SEAHAWKS!" **Keane Santos** and **Jeff Martin** are like President Paul...older this week...and 2 of our handsomest Rotarians, **Bryan Watkins** and **Max Besenbruch** are celebrating club anniversaries...7 and 27 years!

We were encouraged to signup for Paul Harris Event hosting for the week of February 25<sup>th</sup>. Give **Sam Haas** a call, if can. Our next Rat Pack community service project will be at Palolo Valley District Park, Saturday Feb. 15, where from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, our clean up/fix up efforts will help enrich the lives of young and old alike who consider the park and recreation center in their backyard a lifesaver! Mahalo **Ron Tsukamaki** for the details and leadership. Do you want to make a difference in Bali Indonesia? Work with **Dave Shanahan** and others to join our team planning to finish dormitory construction for rural students attending High School. The life-changing Rotary Service Project is scheduled for August 8-15.

**Dawn Marie** announced the local realtors' Hawaii Life Charitable Fund 2020 outreach for grant proposals and supporters to serve our population. And she tearfully encouraged us to go to Go Fund Me sites assisting victims of last week's horrific crimes on Hibiscus Street, Diamond Head.

We applauded and recognized our newest members of the Paul Harris Foundation, John Warren Club Foundation and Maile Hale Foundation.

**JWF: David Carr, Tom Coyne, Kein Hall, Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Kent Reinker. MHF: Lynn Babington, Chris Cloward, Kevin Hall, Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Terri Leon, Diana Sakurai. PHF: Karin Holma, Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Gwen Yamamoto Lau.**

**I** know you, like me, are so proud of their commitment to the future ... and past...of Rotary! Please consider joining the remarkable ranks.

**Alice Tucker** introduced our speaker, recently retired Hawaii News Now President and General Manager Rick Blangiardi. He arrived in Hawaii in 1965 ... TV than was on 1-week delay, and technology didn't

click. He was a 2 year starter at linebacker 65/66 and coached 1972-1976 under coaches Dave Holmes and Larry Price. He was also a color analyst on radio and TV. His athletic history led to a UH Hall of Fame award in 2018. But, wow....what happened prior to that!

Rick guided local television from a downhill road in 2002 to a transition into the digital landscape to become a leader in breaking news throughout the state. By October 2009, the station moved to Waikamilo Road...41 hours of news...more employees. KGMB, KHNL, KFVE evolved and eventually went globally. Blangiardi noted that people who move away still rely 'on us'. The 'missile scare'...the return of Hokulea. "We are going to go for it."

Blangiardi never held public office , but we got the impression that he is going "to go for it". He is focused on making Hawaii safe, clean, and smart. Climate change is a major concern. His association with businesses in Hawaii and communication knowledge will be beneficial, should he run for Honolulu Mayor.

Every moment recaptured above was easy to recall. Focusing on my former mentor/boss at KGMB...my inspiration, right there in front of us all, was exciting. I was a *woman* on TV, and he accepted that challenge. His advertisers gave him a convertible mustang with KHMB written all over it, and gave it to me to drive. Kirk and I found ourselves at the start of Kalakaua Ave, intending to drive the shiny advertisement up to Michelle's. Police waved us frantically forward, and we found ourselves proudly waving from start to finish throughout the Gay Pride Parade. YEY KGMB! We waved all the way up Kalakaua in cheers!

Rick signed the book "Free Lunch", which will be donated to Palolo Elementary School.

With Aloha,  
Linda Coble, Scribe