

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
FEBRUARY 5, 2019
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT BUB WO**

President Bub Wo opened the meeting with greetings for the first day of the Chinese New Year, the year of the boar. Garbed in formal Chinese attire, he described the relationship between the narcissus flower and the Chinese New Year. **Rick Towill** followed with a to-the-point and meaningful inspiration. **Linda Coble** led the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Al Linton** led the singing of "God Bless America" with **Craig Robinson's** accompaniment. **Terry Yorga** welcomed the many guests, from the mainland, local member prospects, and guests of members.

Robyn McCreary introduced new member **Brennan Purtzer**, who has already participated in many of the club's activities. **President Bub** announced the week's birthday (**Kiersten Faulkner**, February 8) and club anniversaries (**José Fajardo** - 1 year, **David Low** - 13 years, and **Bob Robinson** - 54 years). In honor of the anniversary, **Bob** made a donation to the club. **Bub** asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Dr. Charman Akina, a former member of the club. Those interested in a small memorial for him are to contact Martha. **Bub** acknowledged **Robyn McCreary** for taking and preparing pictures of and for the women at the Fernhurst holiday celebration, and **Ann Stamp Miller** for underwriting the cost of materials. He thanked **Tom Coyne** and the Beer Fest volunteers. **Tom** reported that 2,500 attended the Winter Beer Fest on January 26, twenty-one volunteers served the "participants", 17 of whom are in our club. The Summer Beer Fest is scheduled for July 13 and will be held at Bishop Museum. **Reese Liggett** reported about last week's RYLA weekend for teens and noted those members who helped underwrite the attendance of several participants. He also announced the Hamakua Marsh clean-up project on February 10 and a RAT Pack project building book cases for the Armed Services YMCA programs for youth on March 2. **Joanna Amberger** invited members to sign up for the February 19 Paul Harris locations. **Dawn Marie** indicated the application period for Hawaii Life Charitable Fund proposals has opened and it closes March 30. She described the organizations that have received previous grants from the fund, all of which are designed to better Hawaii Life, and asked members to contact possible applicant organizations. Past President **Dave Shanahan** recognized the Paul Harris fellows, including a first for **Robyn McCreary**.

After a few minutes of fellowship, **President Bub** introduced **Diana Sakurai**, the club's liaison to the Hawaii Literacy organization. **Diana** began by explaining that all healthy babies are born with what is needed for a happy and productive life. However, it requires nurturing support, in particular reading and being read to, to maximize each child's productivity and success in life. Our club has found an opportunity through Hawaii Literacy to serve youngsters who need support in reading and writing in English. She thanked the members of our club who have helped with the various literacy programs at Mayor Wright Housing and Kuhio Park Terrace. She ended with a slide presentation demonstrating the literacy activities and the happy participants.

Diana then introduced Suzanne Skjold, the CEO of Hawaii Literacy since 2008. Suzanne began by thanking RCOH for the broad support of the literacy programs, both volunteers and supplies. She indicated most of the children in the literacy programs are Pacific Islanders, many of whom have no books in the home. One in six of Hawaii's children struggle with reading. She cited several examples of the significant difference the ability to read—or to not read— makes in an individual's life, e.g., the earning power of a non-reading person is 40 cents on a dollar, resulting in a lifelong loss of earnings of \$800,000. She also related the depth of trouble a man who could not read found himself in after receiving a traffic ticket, because he was unable to read the summons. She described the various programs of Hawaii Literacy, which include adult literacy programs and bookmobiles. They are in the process of acquiring and outfitting a second bookmobile. The development of new programs is in the works. She ended her talk with a video illustrating the organization's various approaches, e.g., peer literacy and educational app/tech programs, and detailing the organization's work at Kuhio Park and Mayor Wright. Hawaii Literacy helps over 3,000 children and adults with reading each year.

President Bub thanked the two speakers and presented the book for Palolo Elementary School they all signed. He closed the meeting with a Chinese proverb.

Nancy White, Scribe