

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN MONARCH ROOM
DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2017
PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT RICK TOWILL**

When I take my next bath, I will remember to get a Water Bladder.
It's not what you think, but more on that later.

Rotary Club of Honolulu **President Rick Towill** called us to order and invited **Reese Liggett** to inspire us on how best to shake hands: cradle the offered hand firmly with a firm arm...web-to-web, palm-to-palm after zeroing in on the 'v' between index finger and thumb, and cradling with firm finger tips without squeezing. We gave it a try around the table...1 to 2 seconds each. Laughter and learning...a great combination to inspire us. **Reese** later also reminded us that hosts are still being sought for April 11th Paul Harris lunches, **Ann Stamp Miller** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, **Craig Robinson** accompanied **Al Linton** in the singing of God Bless America, and **Walter Flood** introduced us to our five visitors and families, with the spirit of Aloha.

My late husband, Kirk Matthews, used to love going to elementary schools statewide, and reading books to the young students. He returned home beaming! I trust that some of our Rotarians took advantage of this week's noting Dr. Seuss's 113th birthday, which was a District wide celebration via reading 'Green Eggs and Ham' to a first grade classes. **Diana Sakurai** asked our club members to go to Manoa Elementary and Kauluwela Elementary schools at 8:30 a.m. Thursday and today. Mahalo to those who stepped up...make that spoke up...and made a difference.

When we arrived at the Monarch Room today, stacks of books were available for sale dealing with ways to prepare for disasters, and **Fran Mossman** noted how we should prepare in our neighborhoods, communities and families in the face of incoming calamities, and introduced Coralie Chun Matayoshi... the CEO of American Red Cross Hawaii State Chapter since 2003, and who added Guam and Saipan to her territory 10 years later. The American Red Cross is celebrating 100 years of service. In fact, Queen Liliuokalani was one of the first to donate \$100 to the new organization, and Princess Kaiulani, Duke Kahanamoku and the late Senator Daniel Inouye were volunteers at an early age.

Matayoshi noted every year there are 70-thousand disasters in America...one every 8 minutes. Hurricane Katrina was a biggie, but the total includes everything from fires and active shooters to chemical spills and destructive winds...2-minutes to get out of the way and safe...but it takes a plan. The Red Cross Disaster Mental Health workers are on hand 24/7 to attend to victims. The Red Cross works with Tripler Army Medical Center and provides volunteers with service dogs. And there are other suggestions for all of us to prepare:

- > Stock your home with 7 days of food, water, batteries, flashlights and fire alarms. The Red Cross can help install fire alarms. You can get a **Water Bladder** to line your bathroom tub and pump out fresh water...available on Amazon.

- > Download and visit **redcross.org/apps**, for what you need to know about first aid for humans and animals. And check the **readyrating.org**, to guide your business or school for measurable steps to become better prepared for emergencies.

- > If your family is headed to a shelter, take sleeping bags, toiletries, food, water and important documents in a binder. If taking pets, take a cage or crate, food and water. Keep a list of phone numbers to call across the islands and country to let family & friends know you're safe.

- > If you have kids, ask the school about the pillow case project, so the family can pack separately for the children (sponsored by Disney).

- > Consider going online to Crowd Fund to help the American Red Cross Hawaii Chapter get a more efficient emergency vehicle that can shelter & feed victims and consult with victims on scene of their tragedy.

See you next Tuesday at the Royal...I hope ;-)

Aloha,

Linda Coble, Scribe