



# Kona Nightingale

*The Newsletter for Rotary Club of Kona Mauka*  
Chartered in 1967

May 2017

## President's Message

Sharon Taylor



### Speakers

#### Door Prize

**May 2**  
**Vocational Award Lunch**  
*Dave Hiranaka*

**May 6**  
**50th Anniversary**  
**celebration dinner!**

**May 9**  
**Gregory Barbour**  
**NELHA**  
*Donna Hiranaka*

**May 16**  
**Mayor Harry Kim**  
*Sam Johnson*

**May 23**  
**Joe Kamelamela**  
**Corp Counsel**  
*Bill Jones*

**May 30**  
**Lee-Ann Heely,**  
**Blue Zone project**  
*Larry Kniffin*

May is Youth Services Month in the Rotary Calendar. How appropriate that here in Hawaii it is also graduation month. On May 10 our club will award \$23,900.00 to graduating students at Konaweana High School at their annual awards night. By awarding scholarships we are ensuring that students will be able to go on to higher education and fulfill their dreams of a bright future for themselves, their families and for Hawaii Island. These young people are the future leaders of our community.

On Sat., May 6 our club celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a gala dinner at the Sheraton. Club members, former members, district leaders, county councilors, members of our sister club from Mizusawa, Japan and friends of Rotary gathered to celebrate our 50 years of service. It was a wonderful evening of music, hula dancing, videos, fun and camaraderie. Yes, there were a few short speeches.

The committee who put this together worked hard to make this a memorable evening for all who attended. Special thanks to Sherry Bracken who was an awesome master of ceremonies, to Kumu Ka'ea Lyons and her halau for their opening chant and hula, to Karen and Richard Harrison and their friends who supplied music and to Awa who danced a beautiful hula, to Annu who accompanied our Japanese visitors when they sang two beautiful songs. Special thanks to Donna for the power point presentation, to Lisa for the leis, to Donna and Lisa for the name tags and arrangements with the Sheraton.

All this would not have been possible without the hard work of the committee who put this together. To Don, Donna, Lisa, Kent, Awa, Eric, Mary, Joe, Mary Kay, Gary and Larry thank you so much for all that you did. It was a splendid evening the memories of which will continue for a long, long time.

In addition our 50 years will be celebrated with our two community projects, a sound system at Magic Sands beach which is already in place and a grant to the Aloha Theatre to improve their facade. These projects will be visible in our community for years to come.

It was a pleasure to have members of our sister club from Mizusawa East Rotary and a member of the Rotary Club from Iwayado attend our celebration. Most of our visitors arrived on May 4 and left on May 7. They came all this way to celebrate with us. On May 4, Kent and Judi Nakamaru hosted a reception for our guests at their beautiful home in Holualoa. Thanks very much Judy and Kent. Also, thanks to Annu and Kent for organizing the gifts for our visitors and to Bill Jones for organizing the drivers to transport our visitors and to all those who drove.

Mark your calendars for April 28, 2018. Our sister club will be holding their 50th Anniversary Celebration and have invited members of our club to attend.

## Rotary's 4 Way Test Of the Things We *Think, Say* and *Do*

*Is it the TRUTH?*

*Is it FAIR to all concerned?*

*Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*

*Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

*(AND . . . Is it Fun??)*



**50** Celebrating  
years  
1967-2017  
**Golden Jubilee**  
Rotary Club of Kona Mauka

## What an Incredible Evening Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary





## Rotarians at Work Day

Kona Mauka Rotary was joined by Kona Sunrise for a work project at WH Veterans Cemetery. Invasive weeds were removed and indigenous trees planted



**Mahalo to Mauka Rotarians** Sharon Taylor, Awa Huihui-Graffe, Lisa Folden , Sam Johnson, Carol Gigliotti, Don Taylor, Gary Rovelstad, Gabriella Cooper, Mary Kay Rovelstad, and Laura Kniffin .... As you can see, the spirit of Service Above Self is alive and well.

More than 25,000 Rotarians and volunteers from 35 districts worldwide rolled up their sleeves to improve their communities as part of Rotarians At Work Day. Started in 2006 by the late Bob Watson, past governor of District 5340 in California, Rotarians At Work Day happens the last Saturday in April each year and challenges clubs around the world to carry out hands-on service efforts in their community.



Mizusawa East sister club members getting ready for our 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala



Wil Okube, Managing Director of Hawaii County, presented a very interesting talk

Kona Mauka is gearing up to award \$23,900 in scholarships at Konawaena's Senior Awards Ceremony on Wednesday night!



Eric was guest speaker at Kona Club with his enthralling presentation about his & Mary's trip to Antarctica.

Pictured: Eric Curtis and Kona President Lori Burgoon



## Vocational Award of Professional Excellence



Nominator Sam Johnson with Jan (and the beautiful cake from Fish Hoppers!)

Rotary Club of Kona Mauka congratulates this year's Vocational Award of Professional Excellence recipient, Jan Benlein. The club was proud to recognize Jan's outstanding personal and professional achievements, high ethical standards, passion and commitment to our community, and her support of the Rotary concept of Service Above Self.

Jan founded 'Auntie's Angels', a non-profit that provides food and services to the community, with a large focus on residents of Hualalai Elderly Housing Complex. They have also adopted Hookena School and provide brown bag lunches and free books to needy students.

Kona Mauka Rotary donated \$1,000 to a non-profit group of Jan's choice, which she then presented to Auntie's Angels.



Jan and her invited friends



Jan presenting the \$1,000 check to Aunties' Angels board member Gretchen Lambeth Osgood



Many members and guests came to be a part of the recognition ceremony



## Club Social at the Nakamarus:

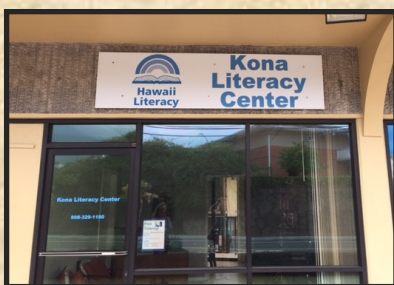
Our sister club from Mizusawa East, Japan flew to Hawaii to take part in our 50th anniversary celebration. The fun began on Thursday with a club social at Kent & Judi Nakamaru's beautiful home in Keauhou Mauka.

Wonderful company, delicious food, music by Richard & Karen Harrison and hula with Awa HuiHui-Graffe and Ayumi Ito.

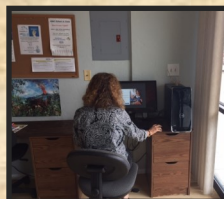
Friends from around the world through Rotary: Priceless



## Literacy Grant



In response to a presentation at the 2016 District Assembly by the Kona Literacy Center, Kona Mauka Rotary wrote a District Grant to help supply furniture and computer equipment for this non-profit organization that offers one-to-one tutoring on basic reading and writing skills to English-speaking adults free of charge. Larry Kniffin then helped to set up their new equipment.



## Bill Gates to Keynote Rotary International Convention



Bill Gates will be Keynote Speaker at Rotary International Convention

Kona Mauka Rotary will have two representatives at this year's Rotary International Convention. Donna & Dave Hiranaka are excited to experience this incredible event—all those who have attended in the past share that it is truly an event to remember. Looking forward to reporting back to the club!

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will speak at this year's Rotary International Convention June 10-14 in Atlanta, Georgia. Rotary's 108th annual international convention June 10–14 is expected to attract 40,000 Rotary club members from over 160 countries.

"Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have been working together on polio eradication for a long time, and our strong partnership will continue through the final years of the effort," said Rotary International President John Germ. "With the most effective resources in place, it's possible that we will soon see the last case of polio in history. At the convention, Bill will say more about how we can — and will — end polio."



**Did You Know . . . A Portion of Your Amazon Purchase Can Go Towards Kona Mauka Rotary Foundation?**

amazon smile  
Prime

Beauty & Personal Care ▾

You, too, can get this exciting message when you shop!



Departments ▾

Supporting: Kona Mauka Rotary Foundation ▾

Browsing History ▾

Donna's Amazon.com

Today's Deals

Gift Cards & Registry

Sell

Help





## MAY IS YOUTH SERVICES MONTH

### KONA MAUKA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF SUPPORTING YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

- **Scholarships:** Over the years the club has established several scholarships as a way to help young adults achieve their academic goals. This year the club is awarding \$23,900 in scholarships. Overall, the club has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships!
- **HRYP:** In Hawaii we also have the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation scholarship program. Kona Mauka interviews high school applicants and then one final applicant receives a \$5,000 scholarship from each club. Chosen students go on to a second round of interviews to vie for the \$10,000 scholarship, one outstanding student from each district will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.
- **Youth Exchange:** This is a program in which a high school student lives with a host family in another country for up to a year and attends school there. Our club has sent or received many students over the years. Accepting a Youth Exchange student into our club, community and household can be a very rewarding experience. It's an opportunity for us, our family and fellow Rotarians to learn about a different culture and help a young person understand our culture. The goal of Rotary Youth Exchange is to promote the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace at the person to person level.
- **Vision Screening:** Each fall we provide a vision screening for all 3rd grade students in our mauka community.
- **Dictionary Project:** Third grade students also receive a dictionary each year from our club. It's fun for both the students and the Rotarians as they explore the many functions of dictionary together.
- **RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards):** On the Big Island, RYLA takes place at Kilauea Military Camp each year. Youth from all over our island are chosen for their leadership potential to attend the camp to attend the weekend event. Island Rotary clubs take turns organizing this event.
- **Grants:** Our club has sponsored several grants that benefit the youth in South Africa. Computer labs have been funded at three schools which help provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to compete for employment in the modern day South Africa. Computer literacy is essential for many jobs. Think about it, without these labs they would have no access to computers. Bill Cliff had great skill at putting together these grants and garnering financial support from partner Rotary clubs across the globe. Through his relationship with Grahamstown Rotarian Bill Mills we were able to positively effect students at Greahme College (K-12), PJ Olivier High School (grades K-12), and Victoria Girls Primary School.
- **Interact Club.** Plans are under way to rejuvenate our Interact Club at Konawaena High School.

In summary, Kona Mauka Rotary values youth and this is a month to recognize & celebrate our efforts.

John Germ

May

As you read these lines, final preparations are well underway for our 108th Rotary International Convention, 10-14 June in Atlanta. We're looking forward to one of the biggest and best Rotary conventions yet, as we celebrate not only a wonderful year of Rotary Serving Humanity, but a full century of Doing Good in the World through The Rotary Foundation.

If you haven't already made plans to attend, it's not too late to register at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org). There is simply no better way to round off another great year in Rotary than by coming together with 40,000 or so of your fellow Rotarians to share ideas, find inspiration, and have a great time together.

We're excited to have Bill Gates, a friend and partner in our work to eradicate polio, speaking at our convention this year. And it's worth arriving early to attend a special Presidential Peace Conference, scheduled for 9-10 June and featuring Bernice A. King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.

I'm proud to host a convention that is practically in my own backyard: Atlanta is a vibrant, modern state capital just a two-hour drive from my home city of Chattanooga, Tenn., and it's a great place to experience the famous hospitality of the American South. Our Host Organization Committee has a great week planned, starting with the "Blue Jeans and Bluegrass" kickoff event on Saturday night.

Come on over to Centennial Olympic Park, right across from the House of Friendship, and get in a dancing mood with Grammy Award winner Ricky Skaggs and his Kentucky Thunder band. Meet up with friends old and new at the Centennial Celebration Block Party or on the Peace Tour of Atlanta. Roll up your sleeves for the Habitat Home Build, or tie up your laces to take part in the 3K Walk/Run to End Polio Now. And before you say goodbye, come back to the House of Friendship for one more party: our Foundation's 100th birthday party, with (of course!) cake and ice cream.

It's going to be an incredible experience, and Judy and I are looking forward to celebrating with you – or, as we say in the South, with y'all! See you in Atlanta!



## Our Leadership Team



**Rotary International  
President  
John Germ**



**District 5000  
District Governor  
Clint Schroeder**



**D5000 Hawaii West  
Assistant Governor  
Donna Hiranaka**




**Rotary Club of Kona  
Mauka President  
Sharon Taylor**



## What's Happening in Rotary This Month?

# May

# Youth Service Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Richard & Karen's anniversary	2 Vocational Award Luncheon	3	4 Don's Birthday	5	6  Celebrating 50 Years 1967-2017 Golden Jubilee Rotary Club of Kona Mauka
7	8	9 Keith Olson NELHA	10	11	12	13
14  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	15	16 Mayor Harry Kim	17	18 Sharon's Birthday	19	20 Mary Kay Birthday
21	22 Greg & Susy Stille Anniversary	23 Joe Kamelamela Corp Counsel	24	25	26	27
28	29  memorial DAY	30 Lee-Ann Heely Blue Zone Project	31			

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**May 6:** 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner @ Sheraton Keauhou  
**May 19-21:** District Conference on Maui  
**June 10-14:** Rotary International Convention in Atlanta  
**July 2:** Kona Mauka & Kona Sunrise Installation Dinner

## Rotary Club of Kona Mauka 2016-2017

President:	Sharon Taylor	Membership & Retention:	Dave Hiranaka
Treasurer:	Eric Curtis		Carol Gigliotti
Secretary:	Carol Gigliotti		Steve Pine
Vocational:	Donna Hiranaka	Community Service:	Awa HuiHui-Graffe
Club Service:	Laura Kniffin		Bob Schaible
Programs:	Ken Obenski	Public Relations:	Donna Hiranaka
Newsletter:	Donna Hiranaka		Lisa Folden
Youth Services:	Chris Leinenweber		Joe Krawczak
	Greg Stille		Karen Wilson
Sergeant At Arms:	Ken Obenski	International Service:	Kent Nakamaru
RI Foundation:	Gary Rovelstad & Eric Curtis	Jubilee Committee Chair:	Don Taylor
President Elect:	Laura Kniffin	KMR Foundation President:	Don Taylor
Past President:	Gary Rovelstad		