



The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

On yet another beautiful Hilo day, (a well kept secret!) **Cel Ruwethin** and **Gail Takaki** cheerfully greeted all Rotarians attending the Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rotary Club of Hilo.



**President Alan Kusunoki** quickly welcomed members and guests, and then asked **Jerry Watanabe** to lead the gathering through The Pledge of Allegiance. Next on the agenda, **Alan** asked everyone to join him in singing Hawai'i Pono'i. Words of inspiration came from The Positive Christianity Website, regarding "it depends on

*how you look at it*", with the thought for the day being, "it's all a matter of perception. You'll find things to be just the way you think they are".

**Gail Takaki** welcomed **Mitchell Dodo's** guest, **Harris Hirata**, (everyone was glad to see **Harris** back for a visit to our club). **Mitch** then extended a welcome his other guests who were the recipients of the Sunao Wada Scholarships and had just recently returned from their trip to Japan. Guests were: student **Alexis Alapai** and her mother **Sandra Alapai**, and auntie **Wanda Calicdan**, along with **Hajime Hayano** (son of member **Yoko Hayano**) and **Yoko's** hubby **Yukata Hayano**. **Gail** then introduced guest **Kathleen Neilsen** who is the new Director of the Hilo YWCA.

**Bobby Stivers-Apiki** and **Mitchell Dodo** were both thanked for their combined efforts in producing the April 19<sup>th</sup> Lava Flow.

Everyone was reminded to show up ready to work on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> for the **Rotary Gives Thanks Workday** at the Boys and Girls Club.

A sign up sheet for the **Chicken Hekka Night** scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wailoa State Park was passed around the room. It's always a fun night of good food and good fun.

**The Rotary Club of South Hilo** will be having their **Hilo Huli** Fundraiser (\$45/person) on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and **The Pahoa Sunset Club's** "Service to the Community" awards banquet (\$35/person) is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Akebono Theater starting at 6:15PM.

There will be a 1-year memorial to **Richard Crowe** at the **Rotary Club of Hilo Bay's** regular morning meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Hilo Yacht Club.

Other upcoming events: **Rotary District Conference** at Turtle Bay on Oahu, May 17-19 with a registration fee of \$40/person.

Our own. First Ever, **Hilo Brewfest** is set for Saturday June 1, at the Wainaku Executive Center from 2-6PM. **Bob Hanley** has additional tickets for club members, and the price is \$40/person.

Unfortunately, **Joe Hanley** wasn't in attendance, so he couldn't be serenaded by the club for his April 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. (this might have been a good thing!) **Jon McElvaney** was noted for his club anniversary of 6 years. **Jon** was brought into the club by **Rick Newkold** on 4/20/07, and **Jon** contributed \$10 to **The Rotary Foundation**.

Thanks to **Richard Johnson's** good eye on The Tribune Herald, **Treena Breyfogle** was spotted as part of a choral group that will be performing a concert at The Palace Theater on May 12<sup>th</sup>. **Treena** generously gave \$20 to the club coffers, and hopes folks will attend the concert to hear a nice variety of song choices. Another victim of **Richard's** "eagle eye", **Mitchell Dodo** tossed in \$20 too, for his photo/announcement that he's now one of the new directors for the Waiakea High School Foundation.

**Happiness \$\$**

As always, **Nancy Cabral** seems to have some good reasons



to share her \$ with the club. She was particularly happy to see past member/past president **Harris Hirata** as a guest, and also **Ed Hara** in attendance at the meeting. Plus, **Nancy** was especially happy to see **Kathleen Neilsen**, Dir. of YWCA at our meeting, as **Nancy** loves the challenge of potential new members.

On an awesomely happy note, **Nancy** pledged a cool \$3,000 to become a "Roll out the Barrel" sponsor for the **Brewfest**, and encourages other members or business owners to "belly up to the bar" of sponsorship too. **Misti Tyrin** had \$3 to be happy that she'd been BEHIND **Nancy** as she sped off to the airport (a little late **Nancy**?) rather than being the car in front of **Nancy**. **Sam Wallis** was \$1 happy to have a good excuse to not join in the **Rotary Workday**, as he'd be attending a party for his mother-in-law's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday instead. **Yoko Hayano** made a \$20 contribution to **Hilo Rotary Club Foundation**. She shared that she and her family had helped on a project with the **Rotary Club of South Hilo** to plant 300 koa trees, and it was a wonderful and fun family experience. **President Alan** mentioned that there will be a Mauna Kea Support clean-up and silversword planting project up near Hale Pohakuloa on May 11<sup>th</sup>. It's a great opportunity to have a fun workday up on the mountain, and no need to even drive. The crew will be picked up at around 8 AM at the Institute of Astronomy Hilo Campus, and be driven up to the work area, put in a few hours of work, be served lunch and then be brought back down to Hilo Campus by around 3PM. Please contact **Alan Kusunoki** for more details if you're

Birthdays:

- Alan Kusunoki April 7
- Toshi Aoki April 8
- Tom Brown April 10
- Wally Wong April 11
- Sally O'Brien April 14
- Jenny Johnson April 15
- Tom Olcott April 16
- Bob Hanley April 16
- Joe Hanley Jr. April 26
- Ted Dixon April 28
- Alberta Dobbe April 29
- Steve Yoshida April 29

Club Anniversary:

- Jeanine Atebara April 1
- Vivian Birchall April 1
- Sam Wallis Jr. April 2
- Craig Shikuma April 3
- Gay Porter April 12
- Gerard Carter April 16
- John McElvaney April 20

Announcements:

Fri. May 3  
Club Assembly

Thurs. May 9 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm  
Hekka Social - Wailoa Park

Fri. May 10  
Jast Hegerfeldt,  
What is Multiple Sclerosis?

- President ..... Alan Kusunoki
- President Elect ..... Kerry Glass
- Vice President ..... Alberta Dobbe
- Immediate Past President ..... Joe Hanley
- Secretary ..... Richard Johnson
- Treasurer ..... William Dolan
- Sergeant-at-Arms ..... John McVickar
- Attendance ..... Judy Gibson
- Club Administration ..... Tom Brown
- Service Projects ..... Mitchell Dodo
- Rotary Foundations ..... Susan Munro
- Membership ..... Nancy Cabral
- Public Relations ..... Robert Hanley
- International Service ..... Steve Yoshida
- Community Service ..... Wallace Wong
- Vocational Service ..... Bobby Stivers-Apiki
- New Generations ..... Gail Takaki
- Club Service ..... Tim Beatty
- The Rotary Foundation ..... Susan Munro
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation .. Mitchell Dodo
- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation ..... John McVickar

interested in attending.

Visiting guest, **Harris Hirata** started off being



**\$40** happy to see so many members, but decided he'd only be **\$20** happy instead as he only recognized half of the folks at the meeting. (so like **Harris** to always add

a quirk and a smile!)

**Alexis's** family also gave a **\$20** contribution to our club as a "thank you" for the opportunity for the exchange experience.

The program for the meeting was a special treat for all in attendance. Waiakea High students,



**Alexis Alapai** and **Hajime Hayano** joined in sharing a great presentation about their recent 4 day experience visiting Japan. They were the recipients of scholarships through the **Sunao Wada Foundation** which was originally established by **Russ Oda** to promote cultural exchanges between students here in Hilo and our sister club, in Hiroshima South. **Harris Hirata** was also one of the original group of Rotarians involved in establishing the exchange scholarships. The foundation was set up to send students every other year to be housed with "homestays" set up through the 2 Rotary clubs. Next year students will come to Hilo from the **Hiroshima South** club sponsorship.

Both students thanked the club for the wonderful opportunity and the experiences that they both absorbed in their short 4-day stay. We were treated to many photos showing their travels, day by day. Experiencing the Peace Memorial Center was something that "speaks to the heart" as described by **Alexis**, and it was so touching and intense to see the destruction caused by the Atomic bomb and what the people had to go through. They also took a river tour, saw the cherry blossoms, toured the Shudo High School(an all male high school) where they attended an Interact Club meeting, and then shared a pot luck lunch with the students. **Hajime** commented that the Japanese seem to be able to accomplish much utilizing very small spaces. They also took a boat trip out to Miyajima Island, where they were put to work making delicious manju (deserts), got to get up close to some beautiful deer, and toured a Shinto Shrine and a Buddhist Temple. It was a "whirlwind" trip that encompassed so many new and old (centuries old) cultural experiences that will remain with both **Alexis** and **Hajime** for many years. They felt very sad to say their "good byes" to their host families, and felt they'd made friends for life. **Hajime** also had a little time to tour a battleship factory in Kure that "wowed" him with the size of the battleships and the submarines. The Rotarians that they both met from **Hiroshima South** were very gracious and happy to share the cultural experience with our students. (by the way, both **Alexis** and **Hajime** are interact members, and also both attended the recent **RYLA** camp at KMC) **Hajime** was sent back with a message to our club, that if possible, we should try to send more students to take advantage of the cultural exchange. **Mitch Dodo** gave special thanks



to both students for accepting the challenge of traveling alone and embarking on such an experience, and for presenting such a fantastic program. **Mitchell** also gave thanks to **Ed Hara** for assisting with student interviews, and **Naomi Menor** for her aid in booking the travel arrangements.

**Ron Dolan** led the membership in the **4-Way Test** to close the meeting.

