



Rotary News **Lava FLOW**

August 22, 2014

94 Years of Service

Reporter: Helen

The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

"Aloha." President **Richard Johnson** welcomed all, noting our Club was the oldest and largest on the Big island, and calling on **Coach Jimmy Yagi** to lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Quips were made about the "inspiration" moment being the "perspiration" moment as **Corey Kawamoto** walked to the podium for two great quotations on friendship, one by Anonymous from the **Mitchell Dodo** collection ("That sounds deadly to me," quipped someone), and the other by C.S. Lewis.

Kerry Glass and **Susan Munro** served as greeters, with **Susan's** introducing **Nancy Cabral's** guest **Marcia Prose**. Per the Log of Visiting Rotarians, **NingWang-Sugai** was also present.

President **Richard** recognized **Cindy Boots** reporter, and **Tammy Silva**, photographer, for the superb job on the last issue of the Lava Flow. Tammy coordinates the Lava Flow, and **Ed Hara** serves as publisher.



Up Coming Events.

Lobsterfest Fund Raiser on Sept. 1, Labor Day, at Cooper Center in Volcano. Tickets need to be reserved today (just \$50 for lobster and \$30 for shrimp) with payment okay next week. Thanks, **Kui**, for handling ticket sales! (The date was subsequently extended to Sept. 27.)

District Governor's Visit on Sept. 5. **DG Laura Steele's** visit on August 8 was postponed due to Topical Storm Iselle with the cancellation of the meeting as well.

Oktoberfest on Oct. 3. Tickets are \$45/individual for the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay's annual event at Sangha Hall.

The YWCA "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" on Oct. 25 seeks to raise awareness of rape, sexual assault, and gender violence, with walkers (at \$25 each) and donations encouraged. Contact **Kerry Glass**. Yes, it was **Susan Munro** who contributed \$50 for the event if **Kerry** wore high heels this year and not just pretty slippers.

In the News.

"New Transport Van for Hilo Medical Center Patients." Rotarian **Tom Brown** is featured with representatives of the HMC Foundation in the photo. Why is **Tom** in the photo? **Tom** noted he was still working for Mass Transit at the time and helped get the funding.

"3.7 Seconds to Glory." Congratulations went to **Nancy Cabral** for her son **Cody's** winning time in taking down at steer at the Eugene, Oregon 4th of July celebration.

Celebrations.

Corey Kawamoto said he was recognized earlier for his birthday with **Toshi's** singing "Happy Birthday" to him in Japanese, so he was off the hook for \$\$.

Misty Tyrin's birthday on August 1st was also announced.

Glenn Harris donated \$20 for sixteen years of happy marriage (on 8/1), though he and **Anne** celebrated the day 3000 miles apart.

Gail gave \$34 to the **Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation** for thirty-four years for **Gordon** and her anniversary (on 8/2).

Kui Costa and **Wally Wong** each donated \$20 for their Club anniversaries (on 8/6), each four years with the Club (for **Wally**, many more collectively). **Donald Straney**, honorary member (with four years), and **Cel Ruwethin** (with three years) were recognized in absentia.

Announcements.

August is Membership and Extension Month. The Club is down to sixty-seven members as of July 1 with the two persons not renewing this year. Bring a friend to Rotary!

D5000 Rotaplast Team to Romania in Spring 2015. Each Club is asked to give \$450+ to the cause of treating lip and palate anomalies. \$350 was quickly raised thanks to **Jenny Johnson** (\$100), **Cindy Boots** (\$100), **Susan Munro** (\$100), and **Treena Breyfogle** (\$50), with others giving as well later in the meeting. **Cindy Boots** reminded the Club of its support for **Tom Brown's** going with **Dr. Paopao** to Western Samoa and that Rotarians should support the cause because it is really necessary. Donations will also be accepted at the next meeting.

\$Happy Dollars\$

Cindy Boots gave \$100 to thank the Rotarians for their friendship and help in time in need, with the provision of a generator and phone calls. Power is still off at her home but expected back soon.

Gail Takaki gave \$10 to announce that Big Brothers/Big Sisters was having a Hollywood Horror on November 1st, as bowling for kids is out with Hilo Lanes now closed. Save the date, and please kokua when asked.

Lorraine Inouye was happy (\$50 to the Rotary Foundation) for the August 9 primary results, with her taking all the precincts.

Nancy Cabral gave \$100 to give thanks for her son **Cody's** steer wrestling in Eugene, Oregon, and to share that of some 200 Day Lum rentals in Puna, there were 22 homes with some damage, including one house cut in half by the neighbor's fallen Albizia tree.

Alberta Dobbe said had two \$5 bills for D5000's Rotaplast effort in honor of her youngest child's 55th birthday. He's off celebrating in Las Vegas.

Treena Breyfogle gave \$50 to the Club Foundation, thankful for Rotarians **Kerry Glass** and **Susan Munro** who checked on her house after Tropical Storm Iselle and put a tarp on her roof.



Birthdays:

Corey Kawamoto August 1
Misti Tyrin August 1
Jerry Watanabe August 28

Club Anniversary:

Donald Straney August 3, 2010 (4)
Kui Costa August 6, 2010 (4)
Wally Wong August 6, 2010 (4)
Cel Ruwethin August 12, 2011 (3)
Lorraine Inouye August 28, 2009 (5)

Wedding Anniversary:

Glenn & Anne Harris August 1 (16)
Gail & Gordon Takaki August 2 (34)
Jenny & Richard Johnson August 30 (45)

Announcements:

Fri. September 5 - District Governor
Laura Steelquist
Fri. September 12 -UH Basketball Coach
CE Coleman
Fri. September 19 - Doug Simons
Canada France Hawaii Telescope
Fri. September 26 -Habitat for Humanity
Julie Hugo
Fri. October 24 - Al Jubitz, Rotary Club of Portland
House of Friendship - Peace Through Rotary
Thurs. October 30 -Club Social - Hekka Party
Fri. October 31 -No Meeting

President Richard Johnson
President Elect Wally Wong
Immediate Past President Kerry Glass
Vice President Mitchell Dodo
Secretary Susan Munro
Treasurer Corey Kawamoto
Sergeant-at-Arms Cindy Boots
Membership Christina Dhillon
Public Relations Alberta Dobbe
Rotary Foundations Alan Kusunoki
Club Service Tom Brown
International Service Jenny Johnson
Community Service Misti Tyrin
Youth Service Glenn Harris
Vocational Service Biff Kennedy

Lorraine Inouye shared the story of the looting in Puna, with her friend's son having a generator, a rental, stolen, and that farms took a beating with up to 80 percent loss valued between \$1 to 2 million, with flowers being in short supply for the next several months. Alberta Dobbe encouraged Rotarians to give to Hawaii Island United Way, which is collecting funds, and encouraged the Club to show its support. Steve Handy then announced that the Hilo Rotary Club Foundation had donated \$1000 to the Food Basket for Puna Relief.

Program

Jim Cheney introduced Hilde Shetler, Executive Director, for the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii (VASH) Hawai'i Island, and Jeanine Acia, East Hawai'i Program Director. Hilde has experience as a retail business owner and as an economic development specialist and vice president for the Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Area Economic Development Corporation. She also served president of the Rotary Club of Post Falls. (Time didn't permit Jim to share all her community service and honors, nor the fact that she lived and worked on Guam and Oahu many years ago.)



Hilde shared a compelling recent case story and covered key points about the agency. Its mission is to share the aloha spirit with visitors affected by adversity. One of VASH's handouts, "Enjoy our island Safely," speaks to its services: "VASH services help visitors cope with and recover from such things as crime victimization, medical situations, or the death of a loved one during their stay on the Hawaii's Big Island." The five part-time staff and numerous (around 50) volunteers islandwide assisted 1,247 visitors in 2013, a total including 25 death cases with a financial impact estimated at \$1,632,323 dollars. There are Visitor Assistance programs as well on Oahu, Maui, and Kau'ai, each with its own governance.

Most referrals for service reach VASH via the police department and hospitals, but they are accepted from any source. The services provided depend on an assessment of circumstances and needs. Volunteers serve on the board plus provide direct assistance such as transportation, with financial and in-kind donations such as gift certificates and rate reductions making the services possible.

A Rotarian was instrumental in getting VASH started on Oahu, and Rotarians in our Club including Alberta Dobbe, Mitch Roth, Cindy Boots, Jim Cheney, and Ian Birnie, along with Prosecuting Attorney Jay Kimura, got VASH formed in 1999 with services starting in 2000. Initially there was some reluctance, as officials didn't want people to know there was crime in Hawaii! Ian Birnie was instrumental in getting the medical component added.

Photos by **Jim Cheney**

Jim Cheney is now the Treasurer, with other key volunteers and/or donors including Nancy Cabral, Lorraine Inouye, Kerry Glass, and Susan Munro.

Is the program working? Yes, per Jeanine, Program Director, based on feedback from visitors. "Everyone is so nice." "You're all such angels." "Hawaii is good. I can't wait to come back."



Requests generally go out via text for an easy and quick response. Cindy Boots—who earlier noted how appropriate the inspiration was in that you truly know who your friends are in adversity, with thanks to her friends in Rotary—shared that helping is often short-term and meaningful to the visitor, such as her providing transportation from the hospital to a hotel for a woman whose spouse was hospitalized. (Cindy, thanks too for your donation of \$100 to VASH Hawaii Island.)



VASH East Hawaii contact information is as follows:
P O Box 76129, Hilo, HI 96720.
Phone: (808)756-1472,
email: east@vashbigisland.org

In Closing.

President Richard called on his sponsor, Gay Porter, to lead the Club in the 4-Way Test of the things we think, say, or do (and the Fifth of "Have Fun!"), and the meeting was adjourned.

