



## Rotary Club of Hilo Steak Fry

The much anticipated Rotary Club of Hilo Steak Fry was welcomed by a perfect Hawaiian evening in paradise as temperatures began to fall; attending guests were kissed by the coolness of the ocean breeze, dimming rays of sunlight, & good company.

We, Rotarians, really know how to have fun!!! This enjoyable event was full of intermingling of old & new friends alike.

Before we really got this party started...**President Kerry Glass** exhibited his true salesmanship by offering attending club members a discounted price for the upcoming Lobster Fest. He identified that the tickets for the Lobster Fest were normally sold for \$50 per ticket; however, the promotional price were at an all-time low \$50 per ticket...That's correct...still at \$50 per ticket. He suggested that Rotarians buy tickets & attend, or purchase tickets & don't attend. This was a very nice try, Prez...You might have waited to make this suggestion toward the end of the night; after attendees were well juiced up with their favorite adult drinks before promoting ticket sales for the tasty lobster gala.

To launch this gathering, the evening was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by none other than our very own **President Kerry**. He hospitably embraced the evening by welcoming long-time friends of 43 years from **Hiroshima South**. **Sam Wallis** chimed in & led the blended group with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

Following our country's pledge, **Dirk Yoshina** led the patriotic group to the Japanese Anthem; the anthem was blended by the countrymen resonated & sang their homeland song, & the United States anthem was proudly sang by Rotarians.

A big MAHALO was extended to **Corey Kawamoto** for the mouth-watering meal which consisted of grilled steak, Portuguese sausage, grilled shrimp, tasty boneless skinless chicken, rice, salad greens, macaroni salad, pupus, & a load of desserts. **Russ Oda** was called up by **Dirk Yoshina** to deliver the group toast. To promote communication, **Toshi Aoki** acted as translator for the event; English to Japanese language & Japanese language to English.

The extent of this 43 year long relationship has been of exchanging ideas & Rotary projects to be continued by current & future Rotarians as the years go on. With this in mind, **Russ Oda** suggested that the blended group collaborate on a project to highlight & reflect both clubs historic beginning. He also proposes that both clubs submit the completed venture to Rotary International for global recognition...What a fantastic idea, **Russ!**

In the Japanese language, **KUMPAI** means cheers. In recognition for the kindness & generosity offered to our visiting students & families, the host families & all visitors were asked to gather together as an expression of heartfelt gratitude & picture taking. **KUMPAI** to our host families?

**Russ Oda** also wanted to recognize a very good friend, **Masao Amako**. **Masao** is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Hilo; he regularly visits Hawaii from Japan (approximately 28 times). According to **Masao**, he has a lot of good times, enjoyment, & collective memories from his numerous trips to Hilo. During **Masao's** 75th anniversary, he visited the Big Island & played golf at the Volcano Golf Course where he made a hole in 1! **Masao** was so happy that he reported it to the local newspaper. He was also very impressed with the beauty & amenities of the Mauna Lani Golf Course. As a leader, **Masao** strives to promote the relationship with the Rotary Clubs of Hiroshima & Hilo.

To further promote good will amongst both clubs, an exchange of gift was orchestrated by the 2 presidents. **President Kerry** verbalized his appreciation & was thrilled to accept the visiting guests. He was in awe of the people who have been in the club for many years & engaged in this special relationship; very few clubs go far back as our clubs have. In fact, **Masao's** father was an initial part of this loving relationship.

With much dismay, **President Kerry Glass** & **Susan Munro** opted to refrain from paying a visit to Japan with the most recent organized **Rotary Club of Hilo** visit; they heeded to the statewide warning of not visiting Japan around the time of the devastating tsunami event. Nevertheless, **President Kerry** & **Susan** are determined to make up for their missed opportunity by being a part of the **April 2015 Rotary Club of Hilo Japan visit**. This is a very special event that will take place during 4th month of the year; the blooming of the cherry blossom...This should be a sight for sore eyes!

Following **President Kerry's** edict, **Naomi Menor** translated for the Japanese Rotary Club President; during his speech. He acknowledged **President Kerry** did very good job of presenting; however, he talked too much...Next time...Short & sweet, Mr. President.

Gifts were finally exchanged, & our **President Kerry** was very proud to bestow upon our guests a specially made Koa wood dish with the Rotary emblem embellished on it.

"Aloha" ~ Per Japan's Rotary President; he thanked our club for the welcome party, upholding & promoting the relationship since 1971, & gratitude for the host families. He also acknowledged that the United States flag, which was sent to them in 1981 from the late **Senator Daniel Inouye**, is also placed at their Rotary meetings. This United States flag is meaningful to them, as it promotes their friendship even more.

In closing, **Mitch Dodo** recognized that he recently visited Japan, & this event is fitting because he is currently 43 years of age; the exact number of years that are reflective of the clubs relations. He even acknowledged that our very own **Russ Oda** could be his father. **Mitch** acknowledged the multi-generational relations between

Birthdays:

Corey Kawamoto August 1  
Misti Tyrin August 1  
Sandra Song August 27  
Jerry Watanabe August 28

Club Anniversary:

Kui Costa August 6  
Wally Wong August 6  
Cel Ruwethin August 12  
Lorraine Inouye August 28

Wedding Anniversary:

Glenn & Anne Harris August 1  
Gail & Gordon Takaki August 2  
Kui & Ryan Costa August 2  
Jenny & Richard Johnson August 30

Announcements:

- Fri. Aug. 23 Julie Mitchell, Ex. Dir. Ku'ikahi Mediation Center
- Fri. Aug. 30 Ian Hatch Social Media & Internet Marketing
- Fri. Sept. 6 Brewfest Recap
- Fri. Sept. 13 Club Assembly Speakers
- Fri. Sept. 20 Lt. Col. Eric Schwedo Pohakuloa Training Area Update
- Fri. Sept. 27 TBA
- Fri. Oct 4 Club Assembly Speakers
- Fri. Oct. 11 Glen Harris Achieving Your Dreams

- President ..... Kerry Glass
- President Elect ..... Richard Johnson
- Immediate Past President ..... Alan Kusunoki
- Vice President ..... Alberta Dobbe
- Secretary ..... Susan Munro
- Treasurer ..... Corey Kawamoto
- Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Cindy Boots
- Membership ..... Nancy Cabral
- Public Relations ..... Robert Hanley
- Club Administration ..... Tom Brown
- Service Projects ..... Mitchell Dodo
- Rotary Foundations ..... Alan Kusunoki
- Club Service ..... Tim Beatty
- International Service ..... Steve Yoshida
- Community Service ..... Wallace Wong
- New Generations ..... Glenn Harris
- Vocational Service ..... Bobby Stivers-Apiki
- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation ..... John McVickar
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation ..... Mitchell Dodo
- The Rotary Foundation ..... Alan Kusunoki
- Attendance ..... Judy Gibson
- Greeters ..... Helene Tajiri
- Programs ..... Treena Breyfogle
- Lava Flow Editor ..... Tammy Silva

Russ, himself (Mitch), & his daughter (Marissa). Their travel arrangements were completed by our very own Naomi Menor of Naomi's World Travel Services; following this statement, Mitch openly asked for a \$20 marketing service fee.

Nevertheless, following this worldly trip to Japan, Mitch was pleasantly surprised by his daughter, Marisa, of her drawing that reflects the friendship between Japan & the United States. The memorable trip to Japan left an impression on his daughter of the 2 countries as friends. Mitch asked his daughter for her permission to give her drawing to the visiting friends from Japan for 43 years of friendship & an additionally 43+ years of more friendship. Mitch is certain that the next generation will nurture this ongoing relationship.

At closing, a picture was taken of Japan's Rotary Club members with President Kerry Glass positioned in the center of the visitors. Gifts were distributed by President Kerry to the visiting guests.

Adhering to the Rotary Club of Hilo's way to traditionally close a meeting, President Kerry asked Mitch Dodo to lead the troop in the 4-Way Test. Sam Wallis was acknowledged for shining the bell that was a gift to our club in the year of 1981. Susan Munro & members of the The Bad Boys Club was introduced for their contribution in making this event a huge success.

As said by President Kerry, "Gong the bell... Have fun!!!"



Photos by Gail Takaki