



The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

To be "red shirted" usually means you'll be sitting on the bench, or not participating. As Rotarians gathered for the Friday, February 1st meeting, any outsider would have noticed an abundance of red-hued shirts in the crowd. Far from "sitting on the bench", these Rotarians were "jumping on the bandwagon" to welcome and reinforce that February has been declared "American Heart Month".

Members were greeted by **Cindy Boots**, and recently inducted new member, **Glenn Harris**. **President Alan Kusunoki** welcomed all, and then **Cowboy Kaneshiro** was asked to lead the group in The Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, the membership joined together to sing "You're A Grand Old Flag", getting most of the words correct with the help of the printed words on the screen conveniently provided by **Kerry Glass**. In keeping with the "Heart Healthy" theme, **Theresa English** relayed some inspiring thoughts for all to live clean and heart healthy lives, as promoted by President Obama and First Lady, Michelle.

Thanks were given to **Tom Olcott** and **Chris Tamm** for their production of the Lava Flow for January 25th, and then to **Cindy Boots** and **Chris Tamm** for covering the Steak Fry Friendship Exchange Event of Monday, January 28th. **Chris** did a fantastic job of catching many attendees of the event wholly enjoying the fellowship.

Guests attending the meeting, were **Connie Kurohara** sponsored by **Nancy Cabral**, and a husband and wife duo, **Charlie** and **Lourdes Boyd**, who'd decided to attend upon recommendation from a friend.

A Sign up sheet was passed around for additional folks to register for the **Strategic Planning** meeting to be held Saturday, Feb 9th at Day-Lum Realty. Hours will be 9AM—2PM with a lunch included.

Wally Wong announced that the American Hear Walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd. A Rotary Team will be recruited for the walk, so please let **Wally** know if you'll be able to join the team, or just otherwise would like to make a donation to the cause.

The **East Hawaii District Assembly** will take place at The Kamehameha Campus, on March 16, and the **District 5000 Conference** is scheduled for May 17-19 at the Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu. The registration fee for the district conference is \$40.00 per person.

A totally new event (fundraiser) is in the works for the club. A First Annual **Hilo Brewfest**, to be held on June 1 at the Wainaku Executive Center. This event is in it's planning stage, so please contact **Bob Hanley** to get involved.

The club was recently advised that we will no longer have a source for our club flags, so **Susan Munro** is looking for a few creative minds to assist in coming up with a new "look" for our flag. Please get in touch with **Susan** if you've got some ideas.

Gail Takaki took over the mike for a mahalo to **Bob Fujimoto** for his recent donation of \$175 to sponsor an additional **RYLA** student. It looks like there'll be close to 42 students participating this year, so **Gail** also asked for additional Rotarian volunteers for the **RYLA** weekend March 1-3.

Toshi Aoki celebrated his 11th club anniversary, and was \$55

happy to donate to **The Rotary Club Foundation**. **Tammy Silva** was called to step forward and receive her **Paul Harris award**. **Tammy** was totally surprised to accept her pin, and thanked her anonymous donor who'd contributed extra points to help **Tammy** reach her goal. A recent article in the



HTH reported that our own **Russ Oda** will be inducted into the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame for his many achievements in his chosen field of Architecture. **Russ** was happy to donate \$100 to the **Sunao Wada Foundation**. Earlier in the meeting #1 member **Bob Fujimoto** had donated \$100 to the **Hilo Rotary Club Foundation** and was recognized for his 62 years of membership in the club.



Kerry Glass gave a short presentation to introduce a new project that the club will be undertaking which will be coordinated with the Rotary Club of Pahoia Sunset. The project, **The Pu'ala'a Trail Project**, will be to build an historic trail and cultural center down near and along an old Hawaiian site in the Puna district. Pictures were shown of the recent visiting group of International Rotarians who are also supporting the project. Donations from the sister clubs have already exceeded \$7,000. In a special ceremony on Monday, March 28th, a tree was planted by the representatives of the visiting

Birthdays:

- Helen Hemmes February 8
- Jimmy Yagi February 18
- Lorraine Shin February 20
- Wayne Atebara February 23
- Naomi Menor February 23
- Jim Cheney February 28

Club Anniversary:

- Toshi Aoki February 1
- Chuck Porter February 4
- Bobby Stivers-Apiki February 9
- Dirk Yoshina February 14
- Bob Fox February 24
- Ed Hara February 27, 1978

Wedding Anniversary:

- Lorraine & Vernon Inouye February 21

Announcements:

- Fri. February 8
Bill Hanson
HI County Civil Defense
- Fri. February 15
Beth Trowbridge
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- Fri. February 22
Stephanie Nagata
Office of Mauna Kea Management
- Fri. March 1
Club Assembly
- Fri. March 8
Speaker ?
- Fri. March 15
Doug Simons - Exec. Dir. CHFT
Laser Adaptive Optics on Mauna Kea

- 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

sister Rotary Clubs. Susan Munro and Kerry Glass also donated \$250 toward the project, and Richard and Jenny Johnson gave a matching \$250 donation. Anyone wishing to support the project should make their checks to: Rotary Club of Pahoia Sunset, as they are the primary club on this project, and donations are tax deductible.

Russ Oda was again in the spotlight when



called upon to give a short vocational talk about himself. Seeing Col. Randy Hart at the meeting, inspired Russ not talk about his career in Architecture, but about the career path in the military that he ALMOST took! It seemed

that Russ was drafted back in 1951 which was right about the time the Korean War was taking place. He was attending his farewell party at Schofield Barracks when his friends talked him into trying for Officer Candidates School which would get him a higher paying salary. Great idea for sure! Russ then led the enthralled audience through his journeys and quite comical experiences on the trip from Pearl Harbor, HI to Pittsburgh, CA and then onto Fort Riley KS. Especially the part of bunking in the brig and his relationship with the communal "commode". Once Russ had made it through his trainings, he decided he wanted to get married to Aki, and because he had the rank from his OCS training, they were able to live on a "whopping" \$300/month

salary. At that point, Prez Alan was hinting for Russ to wrap up, so Gene Tao could also give a "short" vocational talk, but then Gene demurred and said he'd give up his time for Russ to finish. Gosh, Russ can surely make life sound fun! He eventually became an assistant financial officer and was in charge of a 1.6million \$ payroll. He and his co-worker would go to get the cash (all in \$20 bills) and were given guns with blanks to protect themselves from hijacking. They would also have to count out each persons pay by hand, so he gave us a new meaning for "green thumb"! As the war was wrapping up, he and many other pals came to realize that there wasn't much job security in the military, so decided to take advantage of the GI Bill. He and Aki took his last paycheck and headed cross-country toward Eugene OR. They decided to "blow the whole bank" on their journey, so ended up in Eugene ready to start school with only \$15 left by the time they'd reached Oregon. They used one of their last \$5 bills to wire home to borrow \$200 to start school, and that's how Russ ended up with a career in architecture rather than the military.

Jerry Watanabe was called on the lead the members in the 4-Way Test.



Happy New Year greeting from the Chinese Civic Association of Hawaii - President Russ Oda

Photos by Jim Cheney