



Rotary News

# Lava FLOW

February 24, 2012

92 Years of service

Reporter: Ranger Rick

The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo



Can you believe it? The Rotary Year of the **Joe (Hanley)** is sadly already two-thirds behind us. Yet dry your tears little ones, for much has been accomplished, and much remains on our plate (right next to those yucky peas!). More about that later.

**President Joe** gaveled the meeting to order in a timely (thank you so much for that

**Joe!**) fashion. Being your humble reporter's last meeting in Hilo for the next two years, **Ranger Rick** felt it incumbent upon him to volunteer to lead the Pledge.

**Richard Johnson** followed with the inspirational musings of Bigvai Volcy: "Don't wait for time, make it. Don't wait for love, feel it. Don't wait for money, earn it. Don't wait for the path, find it. Don't wait for opportunity, create it. Don't go for less, get the best. Don't compare, be unique. Don't fight misfortune, transform it. Don't avoid failure, use it. Don't dwell on a mistake, learn from it. Don't back down, go around. Don't close your eyes, open your mind. Don't run from life, embrace it." To which your reporter would add, Don't think about it too long, kiss her already!

Greeter **Rand Mundo** soloed this week. Apparently our second greeter was warmly welcoming confused attendees at the Board of Realtors Conference downstairs in our normal meeting room. No matter, **Rand** not only welcomed all and sundry, but vocalized the fact of their presence in a clearly audible voice. **PDG Pete Muller** (Hilo Bay) graced our halls with his smile and the newest District 5000 Aloha shirts bearing our incoming Rotary International President's slogan for the upcoming Rotary year (so President Elect **Alan Kusunoki** HAS to buy one!). **Helen Hemmes** modeled one for the Club and the price was reasonable, doubly so for our more prominent (protuberant?) members, as the XXL size costs the same as the small size. **ADG Charlene Meyers** (Volcano). **Kenji Asai** from Japan's Tsushima Club in District 2760. **Leon Bruno** (a Past President of our Club) visiting from the Valley Rotary Club in Vermont. **Steve Yoshida's** wife **Noko** graced our happy table again. Finally, **President Joe** introduced his two guests, **Blaise DeLima** and **Tulsi Gabbard** (where have I seen that name posted lately? Oh yeah! EVERYWHERE!)

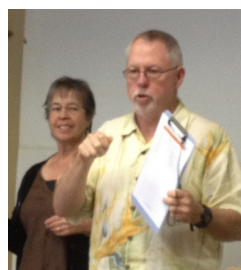
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** **President Joe** thanked **Stew Hussey**, **Chuck Porter** and **Sam Wallis** for filling in for him during his recent trip off island to see his son. **Joe** reminded us of the upcoming



District Assembly to be held Saturday March 24th on the Kamehameha campus in Keaau. All incoming board members, officers, and new members who've never attended one are heartily welcomed to attend at no cost. It's here that the District flies in its TOP DOGS to train and inspire for the upcoming Rotary year. As an extra inducement, **President Elect Alan** will jump out of a blue & yellow iced cupcake wearing a Rotary Aloha thong.

**Susan Munro** announced that we'll be doing **Keiki Vision-**

**Screening** at two schools: One on March 6th at 9:15 a.m. and a second on March 20th at 8:00 a.m. A sign up sheet was passed around, but you can also log into the Club Runner website and sign up there. **Joe** pointed out that he would have benefited from **Keiki Vision Screening** as a child and that he was held back for poor grades, when it was all due to a



vision problem. So you know that this project has a powerful impact. **Joe** reminded us of the Hilo Heart Walk scheduled for the next morning, Saturday February 25th. **Tom Brown** confirmed that there will be NO BBQ for club members participating in the Heart Walk. Apparently the irony of consuming juicy steaks and sausages after a good walk would be too much for our hearts to bear. Your reporter walked the walk and counted at least 25 Club members present, showing real heart. **Joe** thanked last week's Lava Flow scribe, **Cindy Boots**, cub photog, **Saeko Hayashi** for another excellent production.

Despite what you may have heard, **EREY** is not a Jamaican

pothead, but the acronym for the slogan "Every Rotarian, Every Year", reminding us of the promise each of us makes as a Rotarian to support the goals, locally and internationally, of Rotary. It can be a little or a lot,

but put something in the pot! In celebration of that theme, **Joe** was pleased to call **Jim** (not James, unless you're his mother!) **Cheney** to the podium. **Joe** intoned the weighty words of thanks that are due to **Jim** for the justly deserved recognition for donating enough to achieve his **Paul Harris Plus Two** pin (meaning more than 3000 of Jim's simoleans are soothing the ills of this world in the caring hands of Rotary). Thanks **Jim!**



## 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  
 Helen Hemmes February 13  
 Dirk Yoshina February 14  
 Bob Fox February 24  
 Ed Hara February 27

## Wedding Anniversary:

Lorraine & Vernon Inouye  
 February 21

## Announcements:

Fri. March 2  
 Kuma Davis  
 Canine Search & Rescue

Tues. March 6  
 Keiki Vision Testing @ Connections

Fri. March 9  
 Darren Rosario (Fire Chief)

Tues. March 20  
 Keiki Vision Testing @ E.B. deSilva  
 & St. Joseph Elementary

Fri. March 23  
 Club Assembly

President .....	Joseph Hanley
President Elect .....	Alan Kusunoki
Vice President .....	Alberta Dobbe
Immediate Past President .....	Stewart Hussey
Secretary .....	Richard Johnson
Treasurer .....	William Dolan
Sergeant-at-Arms .....	Chris Tamm
Director - Club Administration .....	Kerry Glass
Director - Service Projects .....	Mitchell Dodo
Director - Rotary Foundations .....	Susan Munro
Director - Membership .....	James Cheney
Director - Public relations .....	Robert Hanley
International Service .....	Steve Yoshida
Community Service .....	Wallace Wong
Vocational Service .....	John McVickar
New Generations .....	Rand Mundo
Club Service .....	Thomas Brown
The Rotary Foundation .....	Susan Munro
Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation ....	Mitchell Dodo

**RECOGNITIONS:** Jimmy (again, not James unless you're older than him) Yagi lapped the sun again on Feb. 18th. Joe announced that UHH was hosting a dinner later Friday night in honor of Jimmy's achievements as athletics-coach and life-coach to so many people. Showing the leadership that is so natural to him, Jimmy donated \$100 to the Rotary Foundation. Lorraine Shin, despite her sunny appearance to the contrary, is alleged to have grown a year older on Feb. 20th. She celebrated with another \$50 for the Rotary Foundation. Steve Yoshida pointed out another



a m a z i n g contribution due to Lorraine: During the three day visit by the Rotarians from the Taiwan Friendship Exchange, they stayed Chez Lorraine. They were so impressed with her hosting skills that they donated \$700 to the Penn Hawaii Youth Foundation. Although absent from the meeting, Joe applauded the annual aging skills of members Wayne Atebara and Naomi Menor, both on Feb. 23rd. Bob Fox's club anniversary fell on the same day as our meeting, Feb. 24th, but Bob was apparently celebrating the event elsewhere. Lorraine Inouye and husband Vernon celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on Feb. 21st. Despite it not being the "Diamond" anniversary, Vernon surprised Lorraine with a concert by a certain Neil on Oahu. Lorraine kicked in cash in celebration, but the amount is a state secret.

## HAPPY DOLLARS: Ranger Rick



started them off with \$20 in honor of this being his last meeting on the Big Island for two years. His wife Riki retired from HPM, having completed her assignment there. So the two are to become homeless (although not selling their Big Island home, so we're not completely rid of them) for two years in a tent on the mainland and a little chalet in the Swiss Alps (pity the poor souls). Pete Muller kicked in a dollar for the Aloha Rotary shirts announcement. President Joe was happy for seeing his son one more time before he heads off to combat duty Afghanistan. (Your thoughts and prayers are welcome.) Sam Wallis had a buck for the joy of seeing Leon Bruno gracing our meeting again, although he noted that on his last visit Leon brought some homemade maple syrup as omiyagi and apparently (HINT, HINT!) forgot the syrup this time around. Leon then piped up with \$55 for the Rotary Foundation in

celebration of his 55th wedding anniversary with his wife Ann last week. Steve Yoshida dropped \$5 of his own and \$10 from Kenji Asai in honor of the program carried out by Every Japanese Rotarian, Every Year by which they all donate to a program for planting trees in the Amazon rainforest. Steve was also happy that we have at least 8 Club members planning on visiting our recent guests in their homeland of Taiwan. Stew Hussey made news worth \$10 announcing his planned trip to Nepal and India at the end of the month and made a further donation of \$5 for having his cell phone ring during his announcement (prompting countless Club members to immediately stare into their laps and turn off their own cell phones). ADG Charlene Meyers put up \$2 for enjoying her visit with our Club and for sharing a Vermont connection with Leon Bruno: Her son lives in Vermont. Misti Tyrin hailed Nancy Cabral with \$5 in gratitude for the Rodeo tickets. Having grown up in rural agricultural town Hollister, California, Misti swore upon leaving her hometown: No more cowboys! Yet she took her young son with her to the rodeo and upon her being splashed (she got great seats!) with a mixture of . . . say, natural mineral soil mixed with some four-legged animal waste products, her son uttered one of his very first full sentences: "Uh-oh Mom, you're dirty!" Nancy replied with \$21 happy dollars in honor of the success of this year's rodeo and the fact that next year's will be the 21st such rodeo. Kerry Glass handed in \$5 in recognition of Ranger Rick being the Club President when he first joined, for their friendship and occasional rambles on the Hamakua Coast. Steve Handy had \$10 for the following glacial change at the Back Boys Table: Steve has been a Club member 8 years, today was the first time they had THREE (COUNT 'EM 3!) WOMEN at the Back Table and he was happy to have them there. To cap off a wonderful round of Happy Dollars, President Joe donated \$100 to start off his soldier son's Paul Harris account.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



**CLUB ASSEMBLY:** Gentle Readers, Now might be a good time to change into so loose clothing and do a few yoga stretches. You're going to need it for all the back-patting you're going to have to do. This was a Club Assembly for reporting on what our Club has accomplished thus far and what remains in this Rotary Year of the **Joe**.

**Keiki Dictionaries:** **Rick** reminded our club members of how much fun this is, "It's the most fun 30 minutes you can have doing a Rotary service project." No one could contradict him. Over a third of our Club's current members have handed out the dictionaries at one time or another. This year we took over responsibility for several large schools from the Pahoia and Volcano clubs, because those small clubs were serving more students than our Club, the biggest and richest club on the island. We nearly tripled the number of students we now serve! **Charlene Meyers** suggested a new twist that her club implemented this year. They gave out Rotary pins to each student as well and the students mounted them in their backpacks.

**Rotary Aloha Program (RAP):** **Rick** then talked about the program jointly carried out by members of all 5 Rotary Clubs of East Hawaii to welcome and help integrate new physicians to the island. The rural physicians residency program is set to commence any month now, depending on our hard-working (?) state legislature's timing. However, we've decided to open the **RAP** not only to the residency program doctors, but also all new doctors coming to East Hawaii. The idea is simple, if you have a hobby, passion or interest that you'd like to share with a doctor new to our island, why not invite him or her (and their spouse/significant other) to join you. You'll likely make a new friend, and they'll get to learn the secrets of the best of East Hawaii, hopefully making them more likely to want stay and practice medicine here. As **Rick** is leaving the Big Island for two years, leadership of the program is being taken over by **Paul Supp** of the South Hilo Club. If you'd like to participate in making new doctors feel welcome here, you can reach **Paul** at his cell phone 987-0717 or email at [psupp@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:psupp@hawaiiantel.net). **President Joe** added that he'd done some volunteer RAPPING on his own and it's led to the doctor and he becoming good friends and contributed in some part to the doctor deciding to relocate to Hilo, so this kind of thing works!

**Rand Mundo** gave the update for New Generations: The **Waiakea H.S. Interact Club** has been amazingly active! So much so that **Rand** passed around four full sheets of the activities of the Interact Club, including growing from 40 to 75 members and

carrying out nine service projects, including staining their pinkies purple to stimulate questions and generate the opportunity to talk about **Polio Plus** (the children in India have their pinkies stained temporarily during the inoculation campaigns so that no one is missed). 6 Interactors are at the Interact Convention along with Heroic **Ed Hara** and their faculty advisor, **Mrs. Gloria Kobayashi**. They quite rightly expect to win several awards at the convention for their club's amazing accomplishments.

**The Rotoract Club at UHH** has been very active as well: participating in service projects like the Beach Clean Up, the Rainbow Animal Shelter, the Adult Day Care Center, highway clean ups, maintaining the Facebook page for the upcoming Peace Forum in Honolulu, and the Relay for Life set for March 9th.

Finally, **Rand** reported that **Keli'i Mendonka**, an Interactor at the Convention right now, will learn what country will host him as an outbound Rotary Exchange Student (he's crossing his fingers for France). (He is going to Spain)

**Misti "Talkin' A.T. and T!" Tyrin** reported that the **Social Worker Baskets** program was a great success, raising over **\$500** and thus filling 20 baskets instead of the goal of 16. **Misti** and **Wally Wong** will attend their local convention in March and have been promised some prominent publicity for Rotary's efforts. **Misti** added that 8 Kindle e-readers were purchased and will be awarded to the 8 best readers of the schools at which we distribute the Keiki Dictionaries. The funding for the Kindles was a combination of grant money and member contributions.

**Steve Yoshida** added to his comments about success of the **Taiwan Friendship Exchange**, that the **Kenai Rotary Club of Alaska** would like to start a Friendship Exchange with our Club. **Steve** added that they have world-class fishing as an inducement to our members who like drowning worms in their spare time. **Steve** reminded the Club of the accomplishments this year in getting computers and video equipment into the Kau high school, around **\$23,000** worth, all started with **\$4000** from our club and augmented by our Taiwanese Rotarian friends and the Rotary Foundation and District 5000 matching grants. This effort got the attention of the Kona Rotary Club and they now want to help the schools in Kau as well! Imitation is the best form of flattery possible

in this regard. The Taiwan Rotarians would now like our participation in one of their international service projects, details to follow. **Steve** also pointed out that one of the clean water systems we funded in Thailand has also sparked imitation by locals in Thailand and has moved the idea of clean water further along.

**President Joe** announced the 5 Rotary Clubs of East Hawaii will hold a joint, potluck picnic in the Rotary Park on Sunday April 1st (no fooling this time). On Saturday April 28th, all 5 clubs will participate in a "Rotarians at Work" service project at the Children's Justice Center. Please sign up and be there!



**Jim Kennedy** led us in the feisty fight song of Rotary, the **Four Way Test**. **President Joe** banged the gavel to close the meeting (again in timely fashion!).

(Mahalo for the past 7 plus years I've spent with the Rotary Club of Hilo. Like MacArthur, "I shall return." In two years. **Ranger Rick**)



Photos by **Saeko Hayashi**