



*The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo*

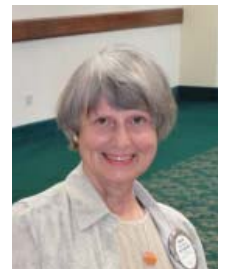
On this beautiful 39<sup>th</sup> day of the year, President **Alan Kusunoki** called to order the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Hilo at 12:10 p.m. A good-sized group convened in the Mokuola Room of the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel repeating tales of their recent Groundhog Day and Super Bowl Sunday get-togethers. Always friendly **Kui Costa** was requested to lead the club in the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by group singing of "America the Beautiful", of which pleased the ears of **President Kusunoki**. He then proceeded to enlighten us with his inspirational thought of the day, a quotation about the upcoming Chinese New Year focusing on achieving



one's happiness within an hour, a day, a month, a year, and a lifetime, of which he connected to the long-running theme of Rotary International; "Service Above Self". Greeters for the day included **Lorraine Shin** and **Bob Hanley**, of which **Bob** was recommended to come up and introduce our visiting Rotarians; **Mary Begier** and **Richard Cunningham** from the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay; **Jeanne Snow** from the Rotary Club of Traverse City, Michigan and her guest (and daughter-in-law), **Dayna Oda-Kell**; and guests of our club members **Theresa English** who invited **Elizabeth** and **Roger Hansen** and member **Helene Tajiri** who invited her guest, **Rob Kelso**. After a few words from our guests and visitors were shared about their home clubs, President **Kusunoki** thanked **Cindy Boots** for being the "Lava Flow" reporter at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and **Jim Cheney** for his photography skills. Announcements were next on the agenda beginning with the President inviting all members to attend the "Strategic Planning Session" on February 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m.

at **Nancy Cabral's** office in Hilo, Day-Lum Realty. 15 members have already signed-up to date who will all receive free lunch for attending and 100 points towards their next (or first) **Paul Harris Fellowship Award**. Could life get any better just for attending? **Wally Wong** announced about forming a "Rotary Walking Team" from our club members to participate in the upcoming American Heart Association Heart Walk on March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday). See **Wally** for the details and to sign up! The annual East Hawaii Rotary Clubs District Assembly will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) at the Kamehameha Schools Campus in Keaau from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the meeting next week. The annual District 5000 conference will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> thru May 19<sup>th</sup> (Friday thru Sunday) at the Turtle Bay Resort Hotel in Kahuku on the island of Oahu. A \$40.00 registration fee is currently being collected to attend along with ideas for what kind of item our club can donate to the Silent Auction. Extra rice paddles were brought by the President to distribute to members who didn't receive one for donating to the recent "Rice Rally" fundraiser project. \$15.00 donations were also being collected for those who wanted a paddle and didn't have a chance to donate yet. Finally, our club will be holding a fundraiser on June 1<sup>st</sup> named "Hilo Brewfest". This will be a beer tasting event held at the Wainaku Executive Center in Hilo with details forthcoming soon.

**BIRTHDAY AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** were next on the agenda with **Helen Hemmes** being honored today for her birthday. She was sung the traditional "Happy Birthday" song by club members and graciously donated **\$67.00** for the occasion. No wedding anniversaries to announce. Club anniversaries included **Richard** and **Jenny Johnson** on January 30<sup>th</sup> and **Chuck Porter** on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Both sponsored by Past-President (and wife of **Chuck**) **Gay Porter**. The **President** fined himself **\$5.00** for being remiss and forgetting to mention **Richard** and **Jenny's** club anniversary last week.



**HAPPINESS DOLLARS:** The floor was then opened up for **Happiness Dollars** to which **Gail Takaki** raised her hand first in donating **\$5.00** for announcing the RYLA sign-up sheet was being circulated and volunteers were still needed to be chaperones on the bus to/from the event and for the 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. shift to monitor attendees. **Lorraine Shin** was **\$50.00** happy for her recent trip to Washington, D.C. along with her son **BJ Penn**. **Lorraine** detailed the brief trip day-by-day and was honored and impressed by the fine treatment they received the entire time. **Albert Jeyte** of the Rotary Club of South Hilo was happy for an undisclosed amount to announce the 2013 Group Study Exchange (G.S.E.) Team from Poland coming to visit East Hawaii Rotary Clubs on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are being sought to house the five members of the team. **Richard Johnson** was **\$20.00** happy for his recent trip to Midway Island where he and **Jenny** make their annual visit to count the Albatross population. This year

**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 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

they were accompanied by **Kerry Glass** and **Susan Munro**. The 17 "counters" counted approximately 507,000 active nests on three islands. This was up about 100,000 nests from last year, but the overall count was still down due to the devastation of the 2011 Tsunami in the area. **Russ Oda** was **\$10.00** happy for coincidentally meeting his cousin, **Dana Oda-Kell**, at the Rotary meeting today and another **\$10.00** happy for mentioning she was a former "Miss Aloha Hula" in an undisclosed year. **Eugene Tao** was **\$10.00** happy for the upcoming Chinese New Year on February 10<sup>th</sup> and invited the audience to attend the festivities at the Mooheau Park on Saturday. **Tammy Silva** was **\$40.00** happy about her daughter recently becoming a member of a local Soccer team. **Nancy Cabral** was **\$21.00** happy to host the Strategic Planning Session at her office on Saturday with her recently installed audio/visual equipment and for the upcoming Panaewa Stampede Rodeo to be held at the Panaewa Equestrian Center on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday and Sunday). **Nancy** invited everyone to attend and will even give each member of the club one free admission ticket! She was also happy about the County of Hawai'i recently covering the bleachers at the Equestrian Center.

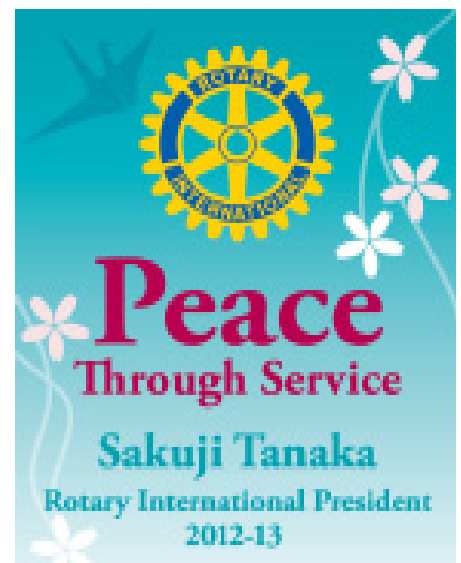
**GUEST SPEAKER: Susan Munro** was next up to introduce our program speaker for the day, **Mr. Bill Hanson** of the Hawai'i County Civil Defense. The focus of **Mr. Hanson's** presentation was entitled "Community Resiliency – The Ultimate Goal" He spoke of the potential for natural disasters to occur on the Big Island and how the local first responders may become overwhelmed in such a situation. Citing numerous facts and figures **Bill** informed the audience out of the 3140 counties in the United States, Hawai'i County is number one in having the potential for facing the greatest number of natural disasters, including tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, lava flows, hurricanes, and drought, just to name a few. Our local first responders consist of limited numbers when viewed from an island-wide perspective. 430 police officers for the island (1 for every 420 residents), 425 firefighters (1 for every 40 residents), 15 ambulances (1 for every 12,000 residents), and 71 emergency sirens on the island to cover 4004 square miles with an audible range of a quarter-mile each, and 31 Hurricane Shelters. Also considering 98 percent of the goods we consume are imported, a natural disaster has the potential to disrupt the daily supply chain and a life-style we are accustomed to would be no longer. Based on our limited resources, in the event of natural disaster it would become very important we learn to become self-sufficient. The skills of knowing how to fend for ourselves and then be able to administer basic care for other in need would become critical to survival. For this reason **Bill** encouraged the audience to get involved in the formation of a local area "Community Emergency Response Team" (C.E.R.T.). When at least 20 interested community members can be secured the Hawai'i County Civil Defense will do an intensive training course in preparing attendees how to react in emergency situations often times faced in a natural disaster. Some questions and answers followed and **Mr. Hanson** was presented the traditional "**Gerard Carter Handmade Koa Pen**" as a gift for his time and presentation.



**President Alan** announced the speaker for our meeting on February 15th would be **Beth Trowbridge** of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.

The "Four-Way Test" of the things we think, say, or do, was administered by **Sam Wallis** and the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

EVERY  
 ROTARIAN  
 EVERY  
 YEAR



Photos by Gail Takaki