



Rotary News **lava** FLOW

January 20, 2012

OUR 91ST YEAR

Reporter: Ranger Rick

The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo



President Joe Hanley opened the meeting a minute early, to acknowledge this most auspicious of months, January, the first month of the year. Appropriately, the meeting was filled with new beginnings, firsts, and new opportunities for service and growth for our members.

First, please join with me in sharing a little sympathy for those of our Club's members who have never lived or worked on the mainland. You don't know how good you have it! You have no idea what "Winter" means, when the only colors outdoors are brown and grey. You can barely comprehend the concept of the season known as "Spring", since, in your known-universe, flowers sprout year round, and not only in April, May and June. Well trust me when I tell you, today was a "Spring" day as glorious as they come, after 6 months of dull grey and brown, snow and ice, slush and mud. I hope you still have eyes to see the glory that surrounds you here. (Thus endeth the Lesson.)



Gracious greeters Cindy Boots and **John McVickar** had a fresh smile for every face that graced our door. **John** welcomed fellow Hilo Rotarians **Alan Okinaka** and **Richard Crowe** of RC Hilo Bay. **Helene Tajiri** introduced her guest, **John Kai**, of the Pinnacle Investment Group.



Jeanine Atebara gave us both inspiration and wisdom in the lessons learned from Noah and his Ark. Including: Don't miss the boat! We're all in the same boat! Ignore the critics! Build on high ground! There's safety in numbers! And, best of all: Remember, the Ark was built by an inspired amateur; the Titanic by the finest experts of their day!

Announcements:

President Joe reminded us that each of us has committed to supporting **the Rotary Foundation**, in some amount, every year of our membership in Rotary. It doesn't end when you get your first

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

Mahalo!

Paul Harris. It's the life blood of the good that Rotary does world-wide and locally. So if you haven't made a donation to **the Rotary Foundation** yet this Rotary year, please get a check in so **Joe** can stop worrying.

Guest **John Kai** made reference to enjoying Rotary "again", so perhaps he's a former Rotarian thinking about re-upping. If so, **Helene "The Jaws Killer" Tajiri** will land him. **John** made a brief introduction of a new concept in Hilo, Shared Office Space. Apparently this concept is taking off in most big cities both on the mainland and in Europe (per "The Economist" magazine) and **John** has brought it to Hilo. The concept is that sometimes one doesn't perform at one's peak when working out of an office in one's home (or in Starbucks). Sometimes one benefits from using a real office. **John** has opened the "Hilo Hub" and provides free, secure WiFi, free coffee, free copies, printing & scanning. 'Nuf said.



Alan Okinaka reminded all of a new opportunity for service: On



the weekend of February 3, 4 & 5, the **RyLA Camp** will take place at Kilauea Military Camp, benefitting 55 high school students from around the island. Help is still needed (from just 2 hours to a night's commitment depending on your ability and interest) in a few key roles: 1) Processing the students upon arrival and setting up the community room where the activities take place; 2) Nightwatchers in the dorm (keeping the young ones from swapping PJ's after hours); 3) Overseers in the National Park during the Service project on Saturday (keeping the young ones from getting lost or injured); and 4) Welcoming the students back in town Sunday afternoon watching that they're picked up by their family. See **Gail Takaki** if you can help.

Recognitions:

President Joe thanked **Jim Cheney** for chalking up another fine review of last week's post-prandial proceedings and **Mitch Dodo** for not taking any pics of blackmail quality.

Birthdays included **Bobby Stivers-Apiki** and **Gail Takaki** both on January 17th. **Bobby** wasn't present to report, but **Gail** advised us that "it was a nice day to work". **Newton Chu** turned 57 on January 19th and celebrated with a "business" trip to Key West (is that what they're calling it these days?). Following "the business", **Newton** found himself on a professional racetrack in Florida where he drove a Suzuki or Subaru sports car very, very fast. In his own words, he "chased some Mustangs around the track" and was driving so fast that he was scared, but managed not to spin out. He recommends it to everyone. **President Joe** didn't miss the key point of the story, **Newton's** car could only "chase" the Ford products, not catch them. **Newton** celebrated further by donating \$57. **Mitchell Dodo** shared the same birthday, if not birth year, with **Newton**. He admitted to

Birthdays:

- Doug Espejo January 8
- Ketura DeMattos January 10
- Bobby Stivers-Apiki January 17
- Gail Takaki January 17
- Newton Chu January 19
- Mitchell Dodo January 19

Club Anniversary:

- Yoko Hayano January 7
- Judy Gibson January 13
- Scott Brand January 14
- Bob Hanley January 14
- Stew Hussey January 15
- Nancy Cabral January 29
- Jenny Johnson January 30
- Richard Johnson January 30

Announcements:

Fri. January 27
Club Assembly

Fri. February 3
Neill Franklin

Fri. February 10
Susan Jarvi, PhD

Fri. February 17
Taipel Twins Rotary Club

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

being all of 42 years old this week and reminded us that he joined our Club 13 years ago at age 29. He was a bit shocked at "how old" the members were back then, but now he keeps hearing from others how they wish they were as young as 42 years now. **Mitchell** related the fact that he noted early on how well older members like **Russ Oda** aged, so he asked **Russ** the secret. **Russ** replied, he hung out with young people, and that kept him young. **Mitch** wondered back then, what was the benefit to him, a young man, of hanging out with all those "old" people. He never answered that question, but it begs another question, what happens when you mostly hang out with dead people? **Mitchell** capped it off with a \$50 donation to the **Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation**.

Club Anniversaries included: **Scott Brand** (1-14); **Bob Hanley** (1-14, as well) who gave \$20 in celebration; and **Stew Hussey** (1-15) who gave \$30 to cover the joy of the occasion. There were no January wedding anniversaries at all, which surprised **Joe**. (On the mainland, we'd understand the reason to be that the cold weather suppresses the urge to pro-create, so there's not as great a need for legalizing the arrangement in a hurry in the winter. Warm spring weather fosters many a surprise summer wedding!)

Happy Dollars were many:

Gail Takaki tipped \$10 and echoed **Alan Okinaka's** request for help with the **RYLA Camp**. She repeated in her own words **Russ Oda's** formula for youthful living, spending time with young people. Remember that these are virtually all **Interact** members, so they already embrace Rotary's values and they are the pool from which our community's future leaders will come. Why not strive beyond being a "knife & fork" Rotarian and give a bit more of your time, you'll be glad you did. **Gail** also thanked **Christine Dhillon** for her active involvement in the **RYLA Camp** this year.

President Joe added that he'd personally donate \$10 for every member of our club who volunteers in the **RYLA** program this year.

Stan Fortuna parted with a fin to celebrate the news that **Kamehameha Schools** has found his replacement, a **Dr. Holoua Stender**. **Stan** advised that he was happier than \$5 represents, but that he's saving up to pay his real estate



broker's fee (looking oddly askance at **Nancy**). **Stan's** motivation in retiring is that he and his wife want to be nearer to their four children and three grandchildren, all of whom are in Michigan or Chicago, so they're building a home on Lake Michigan, about equi-distant from their various progeny.

Nancy fessed up (\$100 worth to the **Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation**) that her office was pimping **Stan's** immobile estate on Reed's Island. **Nancy** further reminded all and sundry that the Rodeo is coming to town on February 18 & 19, AND that her club anniversary comes at the end of this month (when she joined, she was the **FIRST** female Rotarian in Hilo).



Football match-ups resulted in some Not-Sore-Loser **Happy Dollars**: **Cindy Boots** fetched up a **five** in honor of the **N.Y. Giants**, who despite beating the **Packers**, or perhaps because of it, should go on to great things in the play-offs. **Mike Robinson**, the perennial **Steeler's Wing-Nut**, kicked in a \$1 for his team losing so early in the season that he didn't suffer as much as usual.

Lorraine Inouye feted **Stan** with a **fifty dollar** donation to the **Rotary Foundation**. She'll miss **Stan**, but was happy to attend a luau at **Kam School** where one of her grandsons will be graduating this year. **Lorraine** also noted that both she and **Theresa English** signed up as **RYLA Camp** volunteers this year. Finally, **Lorraine** was celebrating the success of her younger sister, in the "plantation girl makes good" category since her sister's pinot noir wine earned a **Silver Medal** at **DeLoach Wines'** competition, a **Gold Medal** from the **San Francisco Chronicle**, and a rating of 92 points from **Wine Enthusiast** magazine (that's an extremely high



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Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

rating). Congratulations!

Stew Hussey sent off a **century note** to the **Rotary Foundation**. He's sad to see **Stan** go, as **Stan** acted as his Community Service chair during his regency. **Stew** was grateful to **Judy Gibson** getting him a new badge as his old one was



so laden with extra metal that he'd become a walking lightning rod. **Stew** is looking forward to adding more bling to the badge. Finally, **Stew** is off to India and Nepal in March & April and looking forward to the exploration.

Tom Olcott tossed in a **twenty** to the **Rotary Foundation** in honor of the tenth anniversary (this very meeting day) of his quadruple bypass surgery.



He had a very Rotary-style medical team: A surgeon from China, an anesthesiologist from Egypt, a cardiologist from India, and one very ugly nurse with a big nose and too much arm hair from Toledo, Ohio.

Closing the **Happy Dollars**, **President Joe**



beckoned **Mike Robinson** to the podium in order to present him with his **Paul Harris Plus Two** pin, denoting **\$3,000.00** lifetime donations to the **Rotary Foundation**. **Mike** reminded us that it doesn't have to come in huge dollops, but a dollar here, ten dollars there, does the trick. He urged every member to make a contribution, every year, no matter how modest or major.

Susan Munro introduced our speaker of the day.



Tom Goltz retired from international business several years ago. He and his wife moved to Hilo to be near their daughter and three grandchildren. Getting bored, **Tom** got his teaching certificate and

taught science at Waiakea High School for 4 years. During that time, he found much to please him, including the fact that about 90% of the student body was healthy and interested in learning. But he was shocked to the core about the other 5% to 10% of the student population who acted up and disrupted class and dis-respected the teachers, ruining the learning experience for the 90% and for the teachers.



Searching for a solution, he spent a great deal of time talking to school advisors and administrators and learned that this

problem is well known. He asked for help finding the organization Big Brothers/Big Sisters, as he had experience with them on the mainland as providing an excellent solution to the 10% who are lacking something in their homes and therefore act out and disrupt school proceedings. To his shock, he learned that Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) had no presence on the Big Island, despite having a long history on all the other major islands. E.g., BBBS has been active on Oahu for 40 years now. They currently have matched up around 600 "Littles" with "Bigs" on Oahu and Kauai. He didn't have any statistics for Maui.

So rather than giving up, **Tom** formed an Advisory Committee of Big Names, most of whom had served as "Bigs" on Oahu or on the mainland and were very happy to help launch BBBS here. Kamehameha Schools finances approximately one-third of BBBS's budget state-wide (most of which goes to pay the legally required social workers' salaries to vet, match up, and supervise the BBBS and the "Littles"). Kam Schools does not require that BBBS service only or a specific percentage of native Hawaiian children, but in fact, about 25% of the students served are of Hawaiian ancestry.

The concept of BBBS is simple: Provide a one-on-one mentoring program to kids who are not getting what they need at home, a safe place, a person they can trust, or a role-model lacking at home. All the BBBS applicants come from single parent (or less) homes. There's a huge need for

Big Brothers (as opposed to Big Sisters), because men don't volunteer as readily as women. The commitment is to meet with the "Little" 2 to 4 times a month, for up to 2 or 3 hours each time. Provide a safe environment for the children. Provide a role model as a large percentage of the "Littles" are boys living with their mothers and they have no male role models in their lives.



The Big Island chapter is launching now. They hope to enroll 50 students this year, and up to 100 or even 150 by next school year. The only limit is the number of volunteers they can get as "Bigs"

Christine Dhillon led us in the 4 Way Test. **Joe** rang us to a close.

Next week's program: Club Assembly to discuss the hot topic "How to Host a Rotary Exchange Student". (Best overheard advice: Don't feed them, or they'll just keep coming back.)



Photos by **Mitchell Dodo**



Great to live in Hilo!!!