



Rotary News

# lava FLOW

January 6, 2012

OUR 91ST YEAR

Reporter: the "Don"

The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

It was a typical clear sunny day in Hilo as are all Chinese New Year celebrations. Not! As we have done for over 90 years, Hilo Rotarians gathered together for Chinese fellowship in the bustling port city of Hilo. Greeted with a smile and a warm handshake and



hug by **Misti "Miss AT&T" Tyrin** and **Mike "Goal!" Robinson**, the Rotary Club of Chinatown Hilo members happily accepted their badges and prepared to enjoy the Chinese New Year themed feast prepared by the chefs of the Hilo Chinese-Hawaiian Hotel.

**President Chou Han-Lee**, welcomed us and reminded us that



we are the oldest club on the Big Island and the second oldest club in Hawaii. We were founded on December 1, 1920, a few years after the Model T. He called on a mysterious non-Chinese Rotarian to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. **President Chou Han Lee** then greeted us in authentic Chinese, "**Kung Hay Fat Choy**" which meant, as **President Lee** stated, "**Congratulations and be prosperous.**" Often mistaken by non-Chinese Rotarians to be synonymous with "**Happy New Year**" its usage dates back several centuries to the beginning of the Han Lee Dynasty. While the first two words date back to the early days of his dad, **Wah Shi Han Lee**, the latter two words were added when the Chinese became more capitalistic and began driving Ford automobiles.

**President Chou Han Lee** then asked **Miss AT&T** and **Goalie Mike** to introduce our guests. Visting our club from the Rotary Club of South Hilo Chinatown, **Deborah Hughes**. **Steve "Homer" Yoshida** brought his lovely wife, **Noko Yoshida** from the Homer Downtown Chinatown Rotary Club and **President Chou Han Lee** introduces the lovely **Empress Dai Han Lee**.

**President Chou Han Lee** announced that Chinese New year is January 23, 2012, and it is special because it is the year of the **Dragon**. A fact confirmed by a suspicious looking Chinese reporter sitting in the audience. **President Chou Han Lee** announced that the special meal contained noodles that symbolized "longevity" (that's what she said) and White Chicken, well because someone ate all the dark meat. **President Chou Han Lee** pointed out that



his younger brother **Robert "Bruce" Han Lee** came up with the new table markers which sported the dragon theme and Rotary symbol, but also contains an announcement of next meeting's speaker. Very shrewd **Mr. "Bruce" Han Lee**.

**"Homer" Yoshida** then

gave us a quick summary



of his visit with the supreme leader of Rotary, **Rotary International President Tanaka**. He then told of his travels to sprinkle goodwill and gifts in Thailand and Taiwan. He announced that the sister club from Taiwan will be visiting in February and there will be great opportunity to share in International Rotary fellowship. Stay tuned.

**Richard "Midway" Johnson** gave us a delightful summary of his annual pilgrimage to Midway Island where they count Albatross nests and sleep with Rotary women. Not necessarily in that order. Are we missing something here? We all better sign up for next year's count!



Our club members **Saeko "Space Cadet" Hayashi**, **Ed "ScarletO" Hara**, **Vivian "Viv" Birchall**, and **Gay "Happily Married" Porter** all celebrated birthdays in late December. **Ted "Not Danson" Dixon** and **Steve "Subway" Handy** celebrated Rotary anniversaries. **Ron "Taxman" Dolan** and **Wally "Wingme" Wong**, celebrated wedding anniversaries.

Happy Dollars were led off by **Oregon Alum Jeanine "Quack"**



**Atebara** who wore her Oregon cheerleading outfit to celebrate the Ducks first Rose Bowl Victory in over 80 years. Yeah, big deal, only Oregon was counting anyway. **Newton "authentic Chinese" Chu** was happy to announce the Chinese Civic Association's upcoming New Year that will feature the inauguration of the Association's first non-authentic

Photos by **Mitchell Dodo**

**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 13  
**Pokice Chief Harry Kubojiri**

Sunday, January 15  
**East Hi Rotary Clubs Picnic**

Fri. January 20  
**Barbara Troegner**

Fri. January 27  
**Club Assembly**

Fri. February 3  
**Neill Franklin**

Fri. February 10  
**Susan Jarvi, PhD**

Fri. February 17  
**Eric Hagiwara**

- 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

Chinese President, **Russ "Body" Oda. Chuck "Man of Few Words" Porter** gave a short 15 minute summary of his adventures in Waikiki and Hilo when not supervised by his wife **Gay**. He gave us all lessons in how to wink at older single women, but summarized that he was happily married to **Gay**, and by God she better be happy too. Or something about why you should wear blue contact lessons. I dunno, I fell asleep during most of his announcement.

**President Chou Han Lee** told us to follow traditional Chinese superstitions for the New Year, like:

1. Clean your home before New Year
2. Don't clean your home on New Year's Day
3. Don't owe anyone any money
4. Don't lend anyone any money
5. Don't say naughty words on New Year's Day
6. Don't say the number "four" on New Year's Day
7. Don't cry on New Year's Day (even if your team loses)
8. Don't eat meat on the first day
9. Don't visit people on the Third Day
10. Don't wash your hair until the fifteenth day of the New Year.

Then with the crowd saying, **EEEEWWWWW**, **President Chou Han Lee** rang in the festivities.



We then were treated to a glorious display of Chinese Lion Dancing by the Kung Fu Studio of **Ed Yap** from Waikoloa Chinatown. His kids were a w e s o m e and even included a lion cub dance team.

With drums pounding and symbols clashing, gongs banging, the Lion worked the crowd into a frenzy.



Well, I exaggerate a bit. Rotarians gave "**Li See**" good luck money to the lion so they would have a positive outcome in the stock market this year. When all the dancing was over, the club satisfied from the festivities, Kung Fu Master **Ed Yap** gave a short hello

and invited Hilo Chinatown businesses to consider bringing the Lion to celebrate more in Hilo. With



that, **President Chou Han Lee** donated \$50 happy dollars to the Lion.

**President Chou Han Lee** then reminded everyone that next week we will have the Chief of Police speaking so any member with outstanding warrants and speeding tickets should stay at home. He then called on "**Authentic Chinese**" **Chu** to lead us in the Four Way Test. And with that, one final bang of the gong and the Chinese New Year celebration and meeting came to a close. And that's a fact Jack!



**Reach Within to Embrace Humanity**

