



The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo



President **Richard Johnson** welcomed us all with the greeting, "Aloha kakou," calling on **Mike Meyers** to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. **Tim Beatty** and **Yoko Hayano** served as greeters.

Past President Mitch Dodo gave the words of inspiration, noting it was **President Richard's** last day as 2014-2015 president. The quotation, "Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody," was dedicated to Richard—who has made us feel special. Thanks, **President Richard!**

President Richard recognized **Jean Sugiyama**, reporter, and **Kerry Glass**, photographer, for volunteering their talents for the June 19 issue of the Lava Flow.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests. **Tim Beatty** called on Rotarians to introduce their guests: **Cindy Boots**, former **Mayor Harry Kim**; **Kui Costa**, her son **Reese** and **Dennis Simonis**; **Rand Mundo**, **Ian Pearson** and **Elena Pearson**; and **Lisa Rantz**, **Dan Brinkman**, Regional CEO, and **Kurt Corbin**, Chair Elect (eff. July 1) of the East Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). (Did I hear correctly that the **Pearsons** are both in Rotaract and that **Elena** is a graduate of Waiakea High School?)

Announcements of Upcoming Events.

Do check out the listing of events at Club's website at www.hilorotary.org. For starters, there is no meeting on Friday, July 3, due to the installation dinner of **President-elect Wally Wong** at Imiloa, on Sunday, June 28, 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, July 7, 10 a.m., Rotarians are invited to attend the Groundbreaking for Hilo Bayfront Trails at Mo'ohau Bandstand.

On July 17 and July 18, Rotarians are invited to assist Friends of Liliuokalani Gardens to thin bamboo gardens.

Tim Beatty asked Rotarians to sign up as greeters for upcoming meetings. Please kokua.

Wally Wong encouraged Rotarians to help at two community service projects, for the **Hawaii Home for Recovery Garden Cleaning** project on Saturday, July 11, at 7 a.m., and on Saturday, July 25, 6 a.m. to 12 noon, at the **Matson Clean-up Fundraiser**, with 20 to 25 people needed to help clean up, with the Rotary Club getting \$1,000 in thanks from Matson.

What a great fundraiser!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Biff Kennedy was recognized for his birthday on June 21, along with **Lorraine Inouye** (June 22) and **Glenn Harris** (June 26) in absentia. (Thanks, **Biff**, for the \$25 for Fiji Literacy 2016!)



Cindy Boots gave \$30 for the 2016 Fiji Project, grateful for **John** and her 30th wedding anniversary. Recognized in absentia were **Bobby** and **Alice Fujimoto** (64 years) and **Theresa** and **Bob English** (43 years).

Recognitions and Happy Dollars

Chris Tamm was \$20 happy to **The Rotary Foundation** that **Bob Fox** was going to pay his Club dues next year. (Not! **Bob Fox** commented, "There was a pig flying.") Seriously, he expressed regrets that this was the first time he would be missing the annual induction of Rotary officers and directors.



Marcia Prose was \$5 happy to distribute the July issue of the Palace Theatre's monthly program.



Lisa Rantz gave \$25, thankful that **Kurt Corbin** was the newly elected chair of the HHSC.



Nancy Cabral proudly announced, "I'm a Grandma!" Her new granddaughter, **McKinley Mae Cabral**, is "just precious" and now a sustaining member towards becoming a **Paul Harris Fellow**, thanks to Grandma's \$100 donation.

Program

The Call for Leadership in Addressing Hawaii Island's Health Care Crisis

Cindy Boots briefly introduced our speaker, **Mayor Harry Kim**. **Harry Kim** began his talk with excerpts from a memo sent by **Dan Brinkman**, CEO, East Hawaii Region of HHSC, to Hawaii Island State legislators and Hawaii County Council members, as follows: "I would like to officially notify you that the Board of Directors of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and the executive management team have finalized plans to implement service cutbacks and a workforce reduction that will take effect as early as July 1, 2015."

For the East Hawaii region (the area between Ka'u and Hamakua), "Planned closures include Home Care Services and one wing of adult inpatient psychiatric care at Hilo Medical Center. Service cutbacks will reduce the number of long term care beds available at Hilo Medical Center, Ka'u Hospital and Hale Ho'ola Hamakua. Additional cuts will be necessary in many departments and as many as 87 people, or approximately 7% of the workforce, will lose their jobs as a result of these planned closures and cutbacks."



Birthdays:

Jeanine Atebara June 1
Jean Sugiyama June 2
Ian Hatch June 3
Chuck Porter June 4
Judy Gibson June 6
Kathleen McGilvray June 7
Dirk Yoshina June 14
Biff Kennedy June 21
Lorraine Inouye June 22
Glenn Harris June 26
Ron Dolan June 30
Russ Oda June 30

Club Anniversary:

Mitchell Dodo June 04, 1999 (16)

Wedding Anniversary:

James & Jeanne Yagi June 7 (35)
Yoko & Yutaka Hayano June 12 (21)
Cel & Shoshanna Ruwethin June 14 (10)
Cindy & John Boots June 21 (30)
Bob & Alice Fujimoto June 23 (64)
Theresa & Bob English June 25 (43)
Mike & Phyllis Robinson June 30 (36)

Announcements:

July 3 - No Meeting
July 10 - Club Administration Day
Welcome President Wally / Board &
Committee members
July 17 - Reese Mates - Shelter Box USA
July 24 - K.T. Cannon-Eger
Project Lillioakalani Garden 100th Anniversary
2017 update
July 31 - Susan Scott
Aloha Social Services Bangladesh

President Richard Johnson
President Elect Wally Wong
Immediate Past President Kerry Glass
Vice President Mitchell Dodo
Secretary Susan Munro
Treasurer Corey Kawamoto
Sergeant-at-Arms Cindy Boots
Membership Connie Ichinose
Public Relations Alberta Dobbe
Rotary Foundations Alan Kusunoki
Club Service Tom Brown
International Service Jenny Johnson
Community Service Misti Tyrin
Youth Service Glenn Harris
Vocational Service Biff Kennedy

For West Hawaii, the Kona Community Hospital will need to eliminate 34 positions to office its budget deficit, along with the closing of its 18-bed skilled nursing service due to reduction in force.

Mayor Kim noted that Hawaii Island leads the State in population growth, some 25 percent increase in a ten-year period and that the deficit of \$7 million in Hilo (East Hawaii) and \$6 million (in Kona) simply cannot be made up by "tightening one's belt." After awhile, one simply can't cut more.

He urged—begged—Rotarians to play an immediate lead role in calling together Rotarian leaders islandwide, along with other community leaders, such as the Chambers of Commerce, for a "coming together" to "stop the slide" in health services right now and appeal for additional funds. He noted that Hawaii Island is not Oahu or Maui in terms of square miles and annual income and that Oahu-centric legislators need to understand why the needs of Hawaii Island are so different from Oahu and Maui. Key health administrators are willing to meet with community leaders and can verify the impact that the "closures" will have on services and the effects for the Hawaii Island community.

Update on the Fiji Literacy Project

Kui Costa introduced the program with a fun



video produced by her son, **Reese**. Thanks, **Kui** and **Reese**!

Steve Handy introduced the team – **Corey Kawamoto**, **Cowboy Kaneshiro**, **Kui Costa**, **Reese Costa**, and **Dennis Simonis** – that went to Fiji in March 2015 with the mission of assisting Fiji in meeting needs to the greatest extent possible with **\$2,500**.

His PowerPoint included photos of the team with concierges from the Hilton, noting that the Hilton is now partnering with Rotarians through an outreach program that helps disabled children. He noted that Fiji does not have ADA laws and that vocational, educational, and farming programs get minimal funding (around \$25,000 Fijian dollars – around \$12,500 USA dollars) annually. A key emphasis is to teach young people—now numbering around 187 children at



the Main Centre for Special Education—how to grow food so they do not starve. Extra food can be sold, with the dollars used to subsidize operations. The Rotary team's purchasing a tilling machine (cost of \$1000 Fijian dollars or \$500 USA dollars) would help in the "farm to table" growth of organic products.

The team learned that a retired nun from Melbourne had come with some school supplies, but more were needed and supplied – "...pencils, erasers – got it all. Cool!"

The Rotary team donated personal funds to buy balls for the rugby team, with rugby practice now a year-round operation.

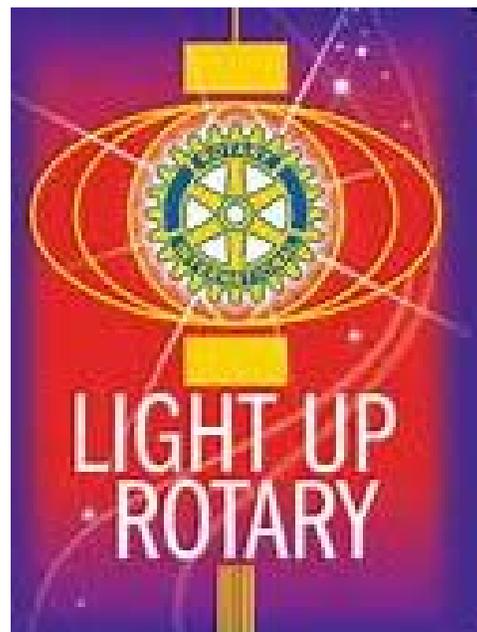
Also shown were photos of the main community center for "The Village of Peter," a housing development for those who live in dire economic conditions. Residents need to meet various requirements to qualify, such as a willingness to send their kids to school, including kindergarten. The program also accommodates families not accepted due to religious intermarriage.

All in all, three local schools were helped, relationships fostered, and the mission accomplished. **Steve** thanked Rotarians for their support over the years, which has "helped out hundreds of people." Thank you, team!

In Closing:

Lisa Rantz's guest, **Kurt Corbin**, noted that **Dan Brinkman** and he would be willing to speak to the Rotary Club of Hilo about health care financing. Costs keep rising, with Medicare and Medicaid payment amounts decreasing—resulting in deficits. Funding is truly a matter of priorities, and access to health care is important.

President Richard called on **Past President Gay Porter** to lead the Club in the **4-Way Test** of the things we think, say, or do, and the meeting was adjourned.



Photos by **Mitchell Dodo**