



The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

Under sunny, blue skies with cottony clouds, **President Joe Hanley** gonged the pre-**St. Paddy's Day** meeting to order. Sporting a sage green shirt for the occasion, he quickly motioned **Tom Olcott** to lead our club's gregarious members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In honor of **St. Patrick's Day** and being that the Prez views himself as somewhat saintly and part-Irish, he recited the Irish "Prayer of Protection" and "It's Wishing I was Irish."

Arousing round of applause went out to greeters **Helene Tajiri**



and **Richard Johnson**, who announced our sole visiting Rotarian, **PDG Pete Muller** - Rotary Club of Hilo Bay. Guests of Rotarians included: **Lori Kamimura** of Hilo High School, hosted by **Corey Kawamoto**, **Tammy Silva** (lunching next to **Ted Dixon**), hosted by **Helene Tajiri**, and Waiakea High School

Interactors **Jay Noda**, **Hajime Hayano** (**Yoko Hayano's** son), and **Akil Marshall**, hosted by **Gail Takaki**.



Akil, Jay & Hajime with Gail

Announcements: This weekend on Sunday March 18th - Rotaract's Kilauea Iki hike which should be fun. **Joe** praised brother **Bob Hanley's** crafty table toppers showcasing the **District Assembly** to be held March 24th, 8am - 2pm at Kam Schools in Keaau. Next Friday's meeting will be our **club assembly**. Hopefully, no April showers for the April 1st **East Hawaii Rotary Clubs' picnic!** April 28th is the date for our 5 Club **Community Service Project** at the Children's Justice Center. **Kerry Glass** announced that Keiki Vision testing is on the 20th--we need more volunteers so please sign up.

Kudos went to last Friday's Lava Flow scribe, **Mitchell Dodo** and ace photographer **Kerry Glass** for their time and talent.

The quick pace of this meeting went to wharp speed with no birthdays, wedding aniversaries or club anniversaries to celebrate.

We zoomed into **Happy \$\$\$\$**, starting with **Sam Wallis**, who enthralled us with an automotive tale involving interior lights not going off and **Joe's** and **Bob's** sister **Mary's** service and expertise saving the day on a late Thursday afternoon. An appreciative and much relieved **Sam** chortled to **Mary**, "I bet your brothers wouldn't even do THAT for us!" (evidently, she showed **Sam** the breaker

switch underneath the car). This reporter believes he plunked \$5 into the coffers, along with \$5 from **Joe** and \$5 from **Bob**.

Not to be outdone with all things automotive, **Chuck Porter** gave \$20 (instinctively this reporter's fingers started to cramp, sensing a long, drawn out monologue approaching) because **Sam** is such a good guy as well as the fact that **Chuck** is half Irish. For \$20, his tale took a long and windy road to who knows where--you just had to be there.

John McVickar gave a **St. Paddy's \$5** and shared that he had family in northern Ireland dating back to the 1300's! This reporter was so impressed that she missed the next member's account - her notes indicate something about an Irish town named "Lioues" and the name Bob. **Alberta Dobbe** was happy to have a half Irish granddaughter, giggling that her name this day was O'Dobbe. **Joe** also plunked down another \$5, happy that **Alberta** gave him a green Shamrock necklace that adorned his neck. **Mike Robinson** threw \$1 into the Leprechaun's pot o' gold because his mother's maiden name was O'Reilly and he was happy to start with a clean slate. **Theresa English** was happy because "**English**" is Irish! **Pete Muller** was \$5 happy because when he visited **Joe Hanley** yesterday, **Joe** was actually in his office and with **Joe's** son in Afghanistan, he hopes his son will return home soon. **Joe** then gave \$20 for his son volunteering to serve our country and that his combat infantry badge is well earned. **Sam** then threw in another \$5 because his wife's maiden name is Omeo which is the name of a county in Ireland.

Without further ado, **Gail Takaki** along with her band of Waiakea High Interact leprechauns, **Jay**, **Hajime** and **Akil** (all recent **RYLA** camp participants) began their presentation, complete with great visuals. **RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Academy**

AWARDS - As **Gail** looked back on the 4 years she has been actively involved with **RYLA**, she believes it is a great template for a rich program in adventure and learning. She proceeded to read a letter from student **Scott Fetz**, HPA about his amazing experiences as a student participant as well as a youth facilitator. With her eyes beaming, **Gail** said that we do good things at **RYLA** and she hopes that there would be continued continuity with the program. It's a chance to meet other Rotarians, share our skills with each other as well as with the students. There were 52 students from 9 different schools in attendance which is a big turnout. Just 7 past student participants were selected from last year's attendees to be youth facilitators this year.

LISTENING SKILLS - **Jay** described the square dancing activity and how difficult it was to keep up and to hear ALL the words and instruction. Having never square danced or danced at all, now he may just square dance at the junior ball! He was pretty shy but after his **RYLA** experience, he discovered that it's okay to just be yourself and express yourself. This activity really brought home the meaning of teamwork. **Gail** stated that the emphasis was on listening. One

Birthdays:

Bob Fujimoto March 6
Helene Tajiri March 25

Club Anniversary:

Cindy Boots March 7
Tom Brown March 17
Naomi Menor March 18
Laurie Ball March 18
Theresa English March 18
Chris Tamm March 24
Helene Tajiri March 25
Gail Takaki March 28
Doug Arnott March 30

Wedding Anniversary:

Sam & Sandra Wallis March 1
John & Kamali McElvaney March 19
Jerry & Sandy Watanabe March 19
Helene & Harvey Tajiri March 23
Akira & Emiko Watanabe March 25
Doug & Mary Espejo March 29

Announcements:

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

Fri. March 23
Club Assembly

Sat March 24
East Hi District Assembly
Kamehameha School
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sun. April 1
East Hi Rotary Picnic

- 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

can listen to oneself but there must be special attention when 8 people are involved so there are no collisions, etc. Lesson about teamwork: Form - Storm - Norm - Perform. Every fun activity has learning packed into it.

SEEING - What each person sees is so different. It may not be true. We need to explore difference perspectives and communicate to get a better picture and understanding.

TRUTH FAIRNESS - Many factors are involved and we are all placed in different situations; this goes beyond "equal." They reviewed 4 different profiles of students wanting to come to RYLA and had to make selections. What a challenging exercise!

THINKING HATS - The attendees created their own hats and were taught that there are 6 "thinking" hats and each represents a particular style of thinking.

PARK EXPLORATION - 4 groups went to different sections of the park with rangers who shared their great knowledge and skills about the land, culture and value of the park. Akil went into the rain forest and learned about the legends, plants and ferns. He found it really interesting, enjoying just letting go and absorbing everything...the Hawaiian legends, just sitting and reflecting in the moment, aware of all 5 senses. It was such a great experience in learning and self exploration.

SERVICE - They worked hard uprooting ginger. Two years later, it is just phenomenal how fast the forest grows.

CAMP LIFE - Hajime reported that the learning is so much fun because it doesn't take place in a typical walled-in classroom and it's very "hands on." His first year at RYLA he was very scared but ended up having a great time. This year, he returned as a youth facilitator--in the role of teacher and mentor to students. It was different and it reminded him of how great it really was. Nothing is "top down" but a very collaborative, group effort. He said it was a great learning experience.

There were many Rotarians from our club involved. We did see photos of Alan Kusunoki (he looked awake but not very alert on screen) and Christina Dhillon (she looked like she was enjoying a well earned nap in the forest).



Jay thanked our club for our donations of time and \$\$\$, saying that it was the first time he had a chance to go anywhere by himself. Hajime thanked our club for the learning opportunities and Akil thanked our club because he originally thought it would be a waste of his time but his thinking totally changed because of this experience. Jay confessed that he just moved from the mainland and that his cousin who is president of WHS Intertact Club forced him to join. He thought it would be boring but it turned out great.

Gail concluded that RYLA may move to the west side of the island and that Rick Newkold and Gail--the little but extremely talented and mighty committee of 2 will long be remembered. She worked seamlessly and smoothly with Rick handling logistics and Gail handling the program. She thanked our club for the monetary donations, gasoline, time, talent for this latest RYLA event and hopes that it will continue to inspire our young people. Cindy gave a special heartwarming tribute to Gail. Joe pledged a \$100 donation to the Waiiaka Interact Club which was wonderful but then he said something like..."compliments to you...this will help you deal with people like us (!!!????)...you'll become one of us..." Okay.....

Sam ended our meeting with an Irish joke...punch line "Irish man walks out of a pub." See Sam for details.

Alberta announced that gently used prom gowns, evening wear, etc. are being solicited by the Children's Justice Center for their youth.

And Cindy Boots led us all in the 4 Way Test!



Photos by Scott Brand

Reach Within to Embrace Humanity