



Rotary News **Lava FLOW**

September 26, 2014 94 Years of Service Reporter: Tammy

The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

Opening Act:

Attending members of the Rotary Club of Hilo welcomed ALOHA Friday, September 26, 2014, with cheerful greeters, **Alberta Dobbe** & **Past President Alan Kusunoki**. **President Richard Johnson** called the meeting to order & **past Assistant District Governor, David C. Hurd**, lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to honor our country.

Following the flag pledge, **Marcia Prose** identified that she has been involved with Boys Scouts of America for years & years, & she is used to them saying, "Pledge of allegiance... Ready begin 1... & the salute is held until someone says 2." We can be trained, **Marcia**.

Words of Inspiration:

Following the Boys Scouts education, **Marcia** shared words of wisdom that celebrated National Pancake Day on this date (Friday, September 26, 2014):

- Life's too short to have bran flakes for breakfast
 - Life is like a pancake... it's all about how you make it
 - Blood is thicker than water, but maple syrup is thicker than blood; thus, pancakes are more important than family
- Hmmm, **Marcia**, I don't know about pancakes being more important than family...lol

Special MAHALO acknowledged for the previous week's Lava Flow reporter & photographer: **Jim Cheney** – reporter & **Bob Hanley** – photographer. Additional recognition given to **Ed Hara** & **Tammy H. Silva** for being crazy enough to coordinate, edit, & publish the ever so informative Lava Flow. Talk about good reads.

Straight from left field... **President Richard** acknowledged September 23rd as Bisexuality Day & September 24th as National Health & Fitness Day... Will it ever be **Ed Hara** & **Tammy H. Silva** Day for Lava Flow???? **President Richard**... You had **Rand Mundo** asking if what he heard was correct.

Warm Welcome:

Past President, Alan Kusunoki, welcomed visiting Rotarians from Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, **Deborah Beaver** & **Anita Cunningham**, & visiting Past Ass't District Governor, **David C. Hurd**, from the Rotary Club of South Hilo.

On this date, **Helene Tajiri** was also classified as a visiting Rotarian; her dedication shines through, especially since she attended this meeting during her leave of absence. You go girl!!!!

Last, but not least, **Julie Hugo** (a guest of **Cindy Boots**) experienced the ALOHASPIRIT of the attending Rotarians... Welcome to our club, **Julie!**

Upcoming Events:

10/03/14 – Oktoberfest *Location: Sangha Hall Cost: \$45/ person* (tickets may be purchased at hilobayoktoberfest.com)

- 10/3 – 18/14 – LaCage aux Folles *Location: Palace Theater*
 - 10/10/14 – Rotarian Vocational Visits (sign up sheet going around)
 - 10/11/14 – Ironman Triathlon Aid Station (see **President Richard**)
 - 10/18/14 – Rotary Park Work Day (ONO KINE GRINDZ to be provided by the Tuesday Club)
 - 10/24/14 - Rotary International (RI) World Polio Day - wear your polio pins, etc.
 - 10/25/14 - YWCA "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" *International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence* *Registration 7:30 a.m. Walk Begins 8:30 a.m. Ceremony 9:30 a.m.*
 - 10/30/14 - Club Social - Chicken Hekka *Time: 6 p.m. Location: Wailoa State Park*
 - 10/30/14 - DARK - NO CLUB MEETING
 - 11/01/14 - D5000 PRLS (Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar) *Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Location: Hilo Hospice Cost: \$40 / \$60 per person*
 - 11/01/14 - Big Brothers & Big Sisters "Hollywood Horror" Halloween Ball *Time: 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Cost: \$60 / person*
 - 11/09/14 - Hilo Medical Center Foundation "Wine, Cheese, Chocolate, & More" *Location: Hilo Hawaiian Cost: \$100 / person*
- *Note: October 3rd & 24th meetings will be held in the Mala Ikena Room... Hey, this is good for our brains... Changing the meeting location makes us use it (our brains) & think!!!

Go Interact Club!!!

On 9/20/14, **Waiakea High Interact Club** literally "got the drift"... They got cleaning for the "Get the Drift & Bag It" Hilo Bay International Shore Clean Up Day. A good deed definitely goes a long way. Thank you very much to ALL PARTICIPANTS! Nevertheless, each piece of trash was documented as part of the data obtained for International Clean Up Day.

A8 Friday, October 3, 2014

NEWS



Members of the Waiakea High School Interact Club and Rotary Club of Hilo members took part in a "Get the Drift and Bag It" marine debris and shoreline cleanup campaign Sept. 20.

'Get the Drift and Bag It' shoreline cleanup hosted

The Waiakea High School Interact Club and Rotary Club of Hilo members took part in the annual international "Get the Drift and Bag It" marine debris and shoreline cleanup campaign Sept. 20. "This year was great that we collected less than previous years, but still, what we collected is still not acceptable to our environment," said Ed Hara from the Rotary Club of Hilo and advisor to the Interact Club. "Everyone in our community must be vigilant and keep our aina clean, not just our shoreline." Additional cleanup areas are still available and the cleanup campaign goes to the end of October. Contact Terry Miura at the County of Hawaii at 961-8692 for more information.

Birthdays:

Yoko Hayano September 3
John McVickar September 4
Robert Fox September 5
Craig Shikuma September 9
Cel Ruwethin September 10
Cindy Boots September 14
Christina Dhillon September 14
Tim Beatty September 22
Sam Wallis September 22

Club Anniversary:

Joe Hanley September 4, 1987 (27)
James Yagi September 17, 1965 (49)
Ian Birnie September 20, 1985 (29)
Newton Chu September 22, 1995 (19)
Jerry Watanabe September 22, 1989 (25)
Tim Beatty September 27, 2002 (12)
Corey Kawamoto September 27, 2002 (12)

Wedding Anniversary:

Tim & Kanoa Beatty September 2 (13)
Helen & Don Hemmes September 2 (47)
Rand & Joann Mundo September 6 (11)
Misti & James Tyrin September 8 (7)
Alan & Zohra kusunoki September 20 (42)

Announcements:

Fri. October 4 Ms. Springer Kaye
UH Hilo Invasive Pests
Fri. October 10 Business Visitations
Dodo Mortuary
Hawaii Printing/Instant Sign Center
Smithsonian Institute
Dr. Mundo's Podiatry
Fri. October 17 Jen McGeehan, Author
Fri. October 24 - Al Jubitz, Rotary Club of Portland
House of Friendship - Peace Through Rotary
Thurs. October 30 - Club Social - Hekka Party
Fri. October 31 - No Meeting

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 Christina Dhillon
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

Let's Celebrate the Lives of Our Rotarians:

Birthdays -

- **Tim Beatty**... 9/22
- **Sam Wallace**... 9/22

Wedding Anniversaries -

- **Alan & Zohra Kusunoki**... 9/20 (42 years)... Wow, **Alan**, what's your secret???

Alan coughed up a whopping **42 - Happy Dollars** for **Zohra's** 42 years of... (fill in the blank). Oops! Just kidding, **Alan**

Club Anniversaries -

- **Ian Birnie**... 9/20 (29 years)
- **Newton Chu**... 9/22 (19 years)... **Newton**



claims to have joined Rotary right after he graduated from high school. **Newton**, have you ever watched the movie "Liar Liar" featuring Jim Carrey???

- **Jerry Watanabe**... 9/22 (25 years)

Special Announcements:

- September is NEW GENERATIONS MONTH
- August was MEMBERSHIP MONTH
- PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS INTO ROTARY

- A good way to introduce potential members to Rotary is the Chicken Hekka event... Don't be chicken... Bring a pal or 10!!!

- As a note... we have been stagnant at 69 members

- As an incentive, our club has established a guest lunch reimbursement program... For each returning guest (potential members) - 1st lunch is on you, 2nd & 3rd lunches will be reimbursed by the club

\$\$ Happy Dollars:

Jim Cheney was the very first HAPPY GO LUCKY Rotarian. He claimed that until recently, his existence was as mundane as the movie entitled "Ground Hog Day"... 3 things made him happy... However, before he could begin counting off his blessings, he was encouraged by **Alberta Dobbe** to - "Pay a lot"... What a very good call, **Alberta!** Following **Alberta's** lead, **Jim** agreed to pay \$10 each for all 3 blessings:



1) He got a traffic ticket... (How the heck is this luck???) However, he wittingly contested his ticket & identified, for the judge, that his misinterpreted reckless driving was his valiant attempt to avoid an accident... Hey **Newton**, it sounds like you have an esquire partner in the making... hehehehe

2) He has had a digestive problem for years... (Gee, **Jim**... thank you for sharing, especially to a crowd of non-health care associates during their lunch break). For this health care issue, he employed use of a combination of meds to control the problem... **Jim**, was this prescribed, recreational, or over the counter??? Nevertheless, this medication cocktail had an unexpected side effect... he dropped a total of 25 pounds in the past

6 weeks... (Now that amount of weight loss is equivalent to a 25-pound bag of rice or the weight of a midget)
3) He won \$100 worth of angus beef at Sack n' Save... (Someone from the crowd chimed in & suggested that **Jim** would be gaining the weight back with all the beef)... Please go easy on the guy; in summary... he got a traffic ticket, had gastric problems, & will be gaining his weight back... Please go easy Consequently, in all of his generosity, **Jim** donated a total of **30 Happy Dollars** to general fund. Thank you, **Jim**, for your positive outlook on life situations.

Misti Tyrin followed in **Nancy's** footsteps & donated **20 Happy Dollars** for receipt of her very first real estate check. She recognized that selling real estate is "kind of hard" so she's not sure if she will do real estate any more... **Misti** has some big ones to have made that statement in **Nancy's** presence, but that was a good move on **Misti's** behalf because, in turn, **Nancy** matched **Misti's** \$20 & demanded that she (**Misti**) sell a whole lot more!!! Hey **Nancy**, there is such a thing as a hostile working environment... lol Visitor & guest speaker, **Julie Hugo**, was \$2 happy just to be here.

Cindy Boots was \$2 happy since she heard a good joke on the radio: So-su-me... aka... sushi for lawyers (What is it pick on a liar... I mean lawyer day???)

Kindergarten Reading Program



Glen Harris shared the books that were going out for eager kindergarten readers... At that moment, a loud screeching sound was made & **Glen** was

quick to put the blame on **Jim Cheney's** GI (gastrointestinal) woes... Thank you **Jim** for a good chuckle... It's these great moments that make our meetings memorable.

Guest Speaker:

Cindy Boots had the pleasure of introducing **Julie Hugo**, a community leader & past president of the Hilo Bay Rotary Club. **Julie** is also married to former Hilo Rotary Club member, **Jeff Melrose** (now we know what **President Richard**



means when he wants the group to keep it all in the family...that's right Rotarians, bring your family members). **Julie** is a woman of many talents; she currently serves as the President of Hilo Habitat for Humanity, its chief volunteer position. She was largely responsible for the successful launching of the Habitat ReStore in November of 2009. This organization is located at 700 Manono Street in Hilo. According to **Julie**, Hilo Habitat was formed 20 years ago at the Church of the Holy Cross. In 2005, she became active with this organization.

Julie shared a picture of a home located in the Keaukaha area that was completed in 2011; the old home was demolished & a new home was built. Habitat raises money to build homes... For example, an \$85,000 HPM package home on 1 acre of land & that

includes \$10,000 for the demolition of the existing dilapidated building.

To qualify for this program, participants must meet income level criteria & have the ability to pay \$500 per month for mortgage, insurance & taxes... NOW THAT'S A DEAL!!! Participants must also never have owned their own home before. Hence, it is the goal of Habitat to break the cycle of families not owning their own homes. Habitat requires that you can pay \$500 per month; they are lenders & must adhere to the same policies as banks. They offer 20 years of interest free mortgages. That is amazing.

To start, Habitat associates will meet the families at their current living arrangements. They have met families in buses with a hole in the ground for cesspools, in their cars, & families bunking in with other families. **Julie** shared a story of an old woman who lived with her adult caregiver child; the woman & her adult child lived in an uninhabitable home. Two weeks after meeting with **Julie**, the old woman & her caregiver child moved out. This was a blessing in disguise because the bathroom floor gave out.

Julie also indicated that professional home inspector, **Jake Bierman**, give home owners skill sets on how to keep their homes in top shape. He teaches classes on how to fix your leaky toilet. This is important because as long-time tenants, families get into the habit of calling their landlords to address house-fixing needs, or, on the other spectrum, they don't call their landlords for fear of their rent going up. Aside from basic household maintenance, families are taught the art of aquaponics to help keep their food bills down & to promote self-sufficiency. However, just as a side note, Habitat does not build homes in lava zones 1 & 2 due to high insurance costs.

Julie stated that there is a family selection committee; they let the community know about this home owning opportunity. In the recent past, 300 families have indicated interest in the program & a total of 100 families showed up to the meeting; whereas, only 30 families completed applications in its entirety. Elderly individuals, people with disabilities, & families with 8 children are the metrics. However, 5 top families will be further assessed & only 1 will be picked; a running list is not kept, as families must reapply.

Julie reviewed the beauty of home ownership:

- 1) Surveys show that families thrive when they live in a secured situation
- 2) Homeowners are engaged in & give back to their communities

Julie also indicated that many groups could get in involved; for example, Hilo High athletes came out to paint a home that an albizia tree fell on. In addition to the good work that they do, they also perform deconstruction services & they will salvage lightly used construction materials & furniture, & sell everything for pennies on the dollar.

Fellow Rotarian, **Chris Tamm**, performed service above self when he closed his business - he donated everything that was unsold.

Cindy Boots asked if there's a regular volunteer list & **Julie** identified that there's a list that is approximately 500 names long where volunteers will indicate their interest & skill. In essence, the organization has only 1 employee that is the ReStore manager. The store remains profitable & makes a mammoth \$125,000 per year, selling material that would be on the way to the landfill or goods that would remain under someone's. They are also equipped with a vehicle that is used for associates to assess what you have to pick it up or not.



Talk about keeping service above self in the family, **Helene Tajiri's** daughter volunteered at the tender age of 19 years. She helped to build 7 homes in 7 days!!! Now that's the result of good parenting

Alberta asked our very own **Jimmy Yagi** if he participated in such programs.

Ever so helpful & community engaged, back in his hey days, **Jimmy** participated!!! **Jimmy** retired a couple of times; he was a meat cutter all of his life, then (in 1993) he saw an ad in the paper to volunteer to build homes. He answered the ad request & was interviewed for his skills... he told the interviewer that he had been a butcher... & he claimed that he could butcher anything... (**Jimmy**, we would have loved to be a fly on the wall at that interview...hehehehe). Out of fear, they made him a chairman of the walk-a-thon committee & doing it his way... **Jimmy** helped to raise over \$100,000 & he aided in building 3 homes. **Jimmy** also claims to still be able to butcher anything... Another great laugh!!! Thank you, **Jimmy**.



Following her presentation, **President Richard** thanked **Julie** & she was presented with a Rotary cup. Thank you, **Julie**.

Conclusion

- **Helene Tajiri** was asked to lead the group in the **4-Way Test**
- As per the wise words of our club president... "Hilo Rotary no ka oi"
- It is definitely a blessing to be a part of a wonderful group of fun-loving people!

