

Rotary Club of Hilo



LAVA FLOW



February 12, 2016

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: Tammy

Opening Act:



• True to Rotary's official motto of **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**, **Biff Kennedy** cheerfully greeted all attendees aka "Hans Solo" at the door.

• When all was settled, **President – Wally Wong** humbly asked **Sally O'Brien** to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Warm Welcome:

• Rotarians, visiting Rotarians, and guests were welcomed to the club meeting: **Lynda Gretz** – Rotary Club of Volcano, **Dr. Cliff Kopp** – Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise (guest speaker), former Mayor – **Harry Kim** (guest of **Sally O'Brien**), **Dr. Angela Fa'anunu** (guest of President – **Wally Wong**), **Keith Okamoto** (guest of President – **Wally Wong**), & **Bill Begonia** (father-in-law & guest of **Celestine Ruwethin**).

Happy Early Valentine's Day:

• **President – Wally Wong** wished everyone a



Happy Valentine's Day. He even had a special treat in store for all the female Rotarians in attendance of this special meeting... **President – Wally** called **Allan Kusunoki**, **Jim Kennedy**, **John McVickar**, & **Keith Okamoto** up to the podium & requested that each gentleman take & present a rose to the special ladies at their tables. What a way to set the bar for the significant others of each special lady!!!



Doxology:

• Just when **Allan Kusunoki** thought that he could get comfy & cozy in his seat... **President – Wally Wong** called upon him once again, but this time it was to guide the assemblage in the Doxology:

Ho'onani I Ka Makua Mau
(Doxology)

Ho'onani I ka Makua mau,
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Ke Keiki me Ka 'Uthane nó,
Praise Him all creatures, here below,

Ke Akua mau ho'omaika'i pú,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,

Ko kéia au, ko kélá au
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amene.
Amen

– Bishop Thomas Ken
1709

Mahalo:

• A special MAHALO was extended to last week's Photographer – **Kerry Glass** & Reporter – **Helen Hemmes** for manning the Lava Flow duties.

• **Mitch Dodo** & Reporter – **Tammy H. Silva** was recognized for completing this meeting's Lava Flow.

• Appreciation was also extended to **Ed Hara** for compiling the Lava Flow report & pictures for delivery to all.

*Lava Flow reporting & photo taking is a terrific way to get to know your fellow Rotarians & keep those who were not able to attend the meetings abreast on the goings on.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AS A REPORTER OR PHOTOGRAPHER & EARN ATTENDANCE CREDIT :)

Announcements:

Laupahoehoe Interact Club:

• Our newly launched Laupahoehoe Interact Club is off to a terrific start... Way to go **President – Wally** & **Reese Mates** for your vision to expand our club's services to the youth within our local community.

• We're up to 6 high school student members... Whooo hooo!!!

• The Interact students helped **Reese Mates** to distribute dictionaries to 3rd graders... This was a terrific way for our fellow Rotarians and Interact teens to serve as role models for the younger children, our future leaders of America.

Upcoming Events:

• February 13 – 14, 2016

Event: Panaewa Stampede Rodeo
Location: Panaewa Equestrian Center

*The rodeo is sponsored by Hawaii Horse Owners, Inc.

B-I-G MAHALO to **Nancy Cabral** for providing all meeting attendees with 1 ticket per person

• February 25, 2016

Event: Blue Zones Project – With Master Gardener – Bill Miller

Location: Liliuokalani Gardens & Park
Time: 9:00a – 11:30a

• February 26 – 28, 2016

Event: RYLA Camp
Location: Kilauea Military Camp (KMC)

*PLEASE SEE **GAIL TAKAKI** FOR DETAILS, DONATIONS, & VOLUNTEERING

• March 4, 2016

Event: Rotary Whale Watch – March 4th
Location: Kawaihae

• March 5, 2016

Event: Hilo Heart & Stroke Walk
Location: Liliuokalani Gardens & Park
Time: 6:30a – 11:00a

*PLEASE SEE **KERRY GLASS** FOR DETAILS & DONATIONS

• March 19, 2016

Event: District Assembly
Location: Kamehameha Schools
Time: 8:00a – 2:00p

*PLEASE SEE **PRESIDENT ELECT – RANDY HART** FOR DETAILS

• March 19, 2016

Event: Merrie Monarch – Make Over in the Gardens
Location: Liliuokalani Park
Time: 8:00a – 12:00n

*PLEASE INQUIRE WITH PRESIDENT – **WALLY WONG**

Upcoming Guest Speakers:

• 2/19/16 - **Chris Tamm**: Visits to South Africa

• 2/26/16 - **Anais Gude**: Teach For America

• 3/04/16 - **Pat Guillen**: UH Hilo Athletics

• 3/11/16 - **Heather Rosario**: Penn Fitness

• 3/18/16 - **Dr. Angela Fa'anunu**: Environmental Consulting

Photographer: **Mitchell Dodo**

Birthdays:

- Helen Hemmes February 8
- Jimmy Yagi February 18
- Lorraine Shin February 20
- Wayne Atebara February 23
- Naomi Menor February 23
- Jim Cheney February 28

Club Anniversary:

- Toshi Aoki February 1, 2002 (14)
- Chuck Porter February 4, 1994 (22)
- Michael Meyer February 6, 2015 (1)
- Bobby Stivers-Apiki February 9, 2007 (9)
- Helen Hemmes February 13, 1988 (28)
- Dirk Yoshina February 14, 1992 (24)
- Robert Fox February 24, 1984 (32)
- Eddie Hara February 27, 1987 (29)

Wedding Anniversary:

- Biff & Anna Kennedy February 4 (50)
- Lorraine & Vern Inouye February 21 (30)

Announcements:

- Feb. 19 -Member Chris Tamm
Exciting South Africa!
- Feb. 26 - Anais Gude
Teach for America
- March 4 - Pat Guillen, UH Hilo AD
The Life of an Athletic Director

- President Wally Wong
- President Elect..... Randy Hart
- Immediate Past President..... Richard Johnson
- Vice President Mitchell Dodo
- Secretary Susan Munro
- Treasurer Mike Robinson
- Sergeant-at-Arms Kathleen McGilvray
- Membership Connie Ichinose
- Public Relations Marcia Prose
- Rotary Foundations Kerry Glass
- Club Service ???
- International Service Stew Hussey
- Community Service Reese Mates
- Youth Service Tammy Silva
- Vocational Service Biff Kennedy

Paul Harris:

Kerry Glass manages the Rotary Foundation & called Allan Kusunoki up to the lectern yet again.



According to Kerry, Rotary Foundation honors individuals who make contributions for Paul Harris Fellow. Leading by example, Allan has earned a Paul Harris plus 4 honors. Kerry informed all that Allan has contributed "...five grand over 82 years as a member. Like a buck 50" regularly over the years. Kerry also noted that a lot more Paul Harris Fellows are coming up for recognition within the next few weeks... Good job!!!

President - Wally acknowledged Sally O'Brien & donated a total of \$26.50 to the Rotary Foundation in Sally's name. Sally took time out of her day to meet up with President - Wally to support Dr. Kopp at Ken's House of Pancakes during his recent homeless awareness walk around the Big Island of Hawaii. Anyhow, the bestowment was made in this somewhat odd quantity because this was the sum of the first ever Paul Harris donation. Way to go Dr. Kopp, & thank you Sally & President - Wally for supporting Dr. Kopp's good cause. It's as if it is Christmas in February!!! Valentine's Day has put the spirit of giving into our already jovial President's heart ;)



Rotary Club of Hilo Board of Directors 2016 - 2017:

- President - Wally recognized Board of Directors for 2016 - 2017 ~
- President - Randy Hart
- President Elect - Steve Handy
- Vice President - Mitch Dodo
- Secretary - Treena Breyfogle
- Treasurer - Corey Kawamoto
- Sergeant at Arms - Dirk Yoshina
- Director - Foundations - Kerry Glass
- Director - Membership - Connie Ichinose
- Director - Public Relations - Marcia Prose
- Director - International Service - Stew Hussey
- Director - Community Service - Reese Mates
- Director - Vocational Service - Cindy Boots
- Director - Youth Service - Tammy H. Silva
- Director - Club Service - Kui Costa

Teamwork
Makes the
DREAM
WORK
~ Borrowed from Pinterest

Hauli La Hanau (aka Happy Birthday):

- James Yagi - 2/18/16

Club Anniversaries:

- Bobby Stivers-Apiki.....Feb. 9 9 years
- Helen Hemmes.....Feb. 13 28 years
- Dirk Yoshina.....Feb. 14 24 years

Happy Dollars:

•Every Rotarian Every Year is designed to encourage Rotarians to support and participate in their Foundation's humanitarian and educational programs annually. Mitch Dodo donated a total of 10 - HAPPY DOLLARS Russ & Naomi Menor.

•Susan Munro just loved her rose & contributed 10 - Happy Dollars to Hilo Rotary Club Foundation... Hint - hint, Kerry... You better have something special in store for Valentine's Day?

- Dressed in a conspicuous Denver Broncos t-shirt,



Alberta Dobbe was \$20 HAPPY for the Broncos recent victory at the Super Bowl. She hinted that Treena Breyfogle & Cindy Boots had a bet going on regarding the game. We are not going to mention the details of the wager, since it may not uphold part of the 4-Way Test... #3 - Will is BUILD GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS????... LOL

- Glenn Harris was \$5 HAPPY just for getting a



visual of Alberta's partisan football shirt, & for the fact that he wore a right shoulder sling following post-op of his R shoulder. Medical staff told him that the sling would help to avert people from making contact with his right shoulder. Nonetheless, to his consternation the sling worked like a magnet and solicited right shoulder pats from fellow churchgoers as they physically expressed empathy & concern for his surgical procedure. Whoa Glenn... The sling is like putting a "DON'T KICK ME" sign on your bodice while attending in grade school.

Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker was none other than Dr. Cliff Kopp. Dr. Kopp is a member of the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise, has practiced dentistry for over 30 years, participates in parades, & donates much of his time & talents to help build gardens & play grounds for his local community. Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Kopp has made it his mission to raise awareness for the rising problem of homelessness & hunger on our island home, Big Island of Hawaii. Proactive in his attempts & to reach out to our group of Rotarians, Dr. Kopp provided a PowerPoint presentation to help build awareness & inform individuals & families of his proposal to address this somber issue. His PowerPoint presentation is as follows:

The Need for Shelters:

•Hawaii County has by far, the smallest number of shelter beds based on population, anywhere in the State of Hawaii. Based on population, we have 1/3 as many shelter beds as does either Honolulu County or Maui County.

•This disparity is becoming even greater as we watch Oahu adding hundreds of additional beds.

•82% of the homeless on Hawaii Island live unsheltered, which is more than double that of Oahu.

•In Hawaii County, as of last year's PIT Count, 73% of families with children live unsheltered. That is nearly three times worse than the situation on Maui where only 26% of families with children live unsheltered.

•In reality, 90% of families with children live unsheltered on the Big Island, while on Oahu, only 12% of families with children live unsheltered. Simply stated, there are no available beds on Hawaii Island, now or into the foreseeable future.

•Nationwide, only 3% of homeless school-age children live unsheltered. <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=homeless-children-and-youth> October 2015

•McKinney Vento Act – No Child Left Behind

•Are the unsheltered children receiving the services demanded by Federal law, such as transportation to school. The answer is no, as these children are way too spread out on such a large island.

•What % of unsheltered children are not in school is anyone's guess.

•In the past four years, the number of available beds in Hawaii County has remained at 220.

•During this same period, the number of homeless individuals has risen rapidly and is expected to once again dramatically rise this year, when the January Point-in-Time Count figures are released.

•1,800 homeless is a reasonable expected figure.

Solutions:

•Container project: Old Industrial Park, Kona

•\$1.3 million dollars for 32 beds

•Purpose: Permanent housing for the chronically homeless

•Poor location: Opposition from local businesses and landowners in the area that are overwhelmed by the homeless population.

•Too small a solution, only a 2% impact.

•Kukuiola Village: An 'ohana' concept for a large scale homeless shelter.

•300 beds

•Cost: \$2.5+ million given a corporate, community, non-profit and government undertaking.

•Transitional facility with all services, both governmental and non-profit

•Mainly self-governed and self-maintained.

Let's Get This Done!

•Positive reactions from:

Law enforcement

Local businesses

Local non-profits

HIV/AIDS Foundation

The Food Basket

Catholic Charities

Habitat for Humanity

Queen Lili'uokalani Trust

No Need:

•The Kukuiola Village concept was proposed to both County officials in late October, and to State officials in late November, 2015. There has been little to no interest, especially by the County of Hawaii.

Why Walk?

•Given that all we were reading about were the problems on Oahu, and given that our numbers are far more dramatic, on December 24th I began to walk around the island to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness, completing 227 miles on New Year's Day, at a rate of 26 miles per day for nine days.

•Four nights were spent on the roadside in a bivy sack, where there was no chance for any sleep. Can you guess why the homeless sleep in the daytime?

No Need:

•On January 22, I testified to the County Council and stated for the record much of the homeless statistics. I was taken aback by the absence of any reaction, other than that of those present in the audience and the local press. It seems Council at the present time continues to see "no need" for what is a hidden homeless problem.

•On January 27, I was given 10 minutes to present over 300 hours of work on a homeless concept to a County task force on homelessness (CHIRP).

•On January 28th, given my sense that the County continues to need a wake up call to this problem yet instead is going to let another year of inaction go into the books, I embarked in the opposite direction 250 miles around the island, walking 31 miles per day.

•Three nights were spent in the outdoors.

Why Walk?

•For years, there has been little to no work put forth by government in the area of homelessness and in particular the need to increase shelter space in Hawaii County.

•In fact, a single high school robotics team annually spends more hours on a robot than the County spends on coming up with plans to increase the number of shelter beds.

•The walk demonstrates controlled risk taking, yet failure is not an option.

•The walk demonstrates hours of hard work.

•Privately speaking, the walk permits me to have a greater empathy for the homeless in ways that most people would never intentionally allow, such as pain, loneliness, dehydration, hunger, sleep deprivation, cold, heat, rain, filth, paranoia, and even misery.

•Suffering? No, there is no suffering, only pain.

•The walk is for those in need, those who do suffer, those who are unable to have a voice.

Mothers having suffered domestic violence

Children

Families in financial crisis

Military: PTSD

Mentally unbalanced

Older teens and young adults that need supervision and understanding.

•We need to add many 100's of beds to the island's inventory.

•We cannot continue to leave it up to the non-profits, the churches, and the kindness of individuals to care for the unsheltered.

•We need to bring people into a coordinated shelter for their protection, their hygiene, their schooling, and most important, for their eventual relocation into acceptable housing.

Home at Last!

On March 1st, I will once again walk 250 miles around the island, traveling this time 36 miles per day and hopefully completing the journey in one week.



Conclusion:

•**President Elect – Steve Handy** was asked to lead the crowd in reciting *the 4-Way Test*... More like the 5-Way Test for our group of cads:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
5. HAVE FUN!!!

Reference:

Smith, J. (1991). Christian history. Retrieved July 14, 2015 from <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/1991/issue31/3118.html>

