

Rotary Club of Hilo



LAVA FLOW



February 3, 2017

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: HRH

President **Randy Hart** welcomed all to the weekly meeting, calling on the Club's honoree of the day, **Jimmy Yagi**, to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. Earlier, **Charlene Meyers** and **Alberta Dobbe** welcomed Rotarians and guests. Posted on the screen was our Rotary theme, "If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, travel together."



Joining the Club today were visiting Rotarians Past District Governor (PDG) **Pete Muller** and **Mary Begier** from the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay and numerous guests of Rotarians: **Marcia Prose** with **Hollyn Johnson**, Hawaii Tribune-Herald photographer; **Anna Liu**, **Corey Kawamoto's** guest (with her lunch paid by **Stew Hussey**, per **Corey**); **Don Hemmes** and **John McVickar**, both big "Jimmy Yagi fans" according to **Helen Hemmes**; **Chris** and **Mary Billoft**, guests of greeter **Charlene Meyer**; **Mary Bicknell's** guest **Conny Waiau**, **Susan Munro's** guest **Cathy Gray**; **Eric Yoshimura**, guest of **President Randy Hart**; and **Jimmy Yagi's** guests **Nathan Furuya** (his good friend from Japan), **Jeanne Yagi**, **Kirby Yagi**, and **Barbara Mukai**.

President Randy recognized **Biff Kennedy** for serving as reporter and **Dustin Acdal** as photographer for last week's meeting. Mahalo plenty!

Announcements

Rotarians are urged to support **Rotaract's** car washes at NAPA on Feb. 11 and Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information will be forthcoming about **Interact's** clean-up project in Laupahoehoe on Feb. 18.

Do let **President Randy** or **Past President Wally** know if you have a site to be cleaned up for the Club's getting a Matson grant.

Kerry Glass announced that 61 of 82 members (74%) have now given to **The Rotary Foundation (TRF)** this year, with the Club at \$9,670 in donated funds, or 88% of the \$11,000 goal. He's happy to announce an incentive: the **Richard and Jenny Johnson 2 for 1 Points Match**. Yes, with a minimum gift of \$50, your gift will now—until the points run out—earn you 1 point per dollar from TRF plus 2 points per dollar from **Richard's** and **Jenny's** matching funds. Thank you, **Richard** and **Jenny!**

Recognitions

For this generous offer, and for their generosity as **Paul Harris Fellows** over the years, **President Randy** presented a token of the Club's appreciation



(a koa paddle with inscription) to **Richard** and **Jenny**, who have sold their home and are leaving next week for new adventures.

New Member Induction

President Randy invited **Corey Kawamoto**, sponsor, to introduce **Anna Liu**, a student majoring in business with a concentration in finance at UH-Hilo. She's been a part of the family business, Happy Valley, has media marking experience, and will be employed as an appraiser with **Stew Hussey**. Welcome, **Anna!** (**Bob Fox** added to the welcome with the cheer that UH-Hilo was a "great school!")



More Announcements

There is no meeting on Feb. 17, and there are just six openings left for the dinner on Monday, Feb. 20, at **Toshi's** new restaurant, Aomatsu, a Vocational Committee-inspired event for our Club members.

Connie Ichinose and **Marcia Prose** demonstrated that Rotarians could look great and make masks for the Mardi Gras Membership Mixer on Thursday, March 9, 5 to 8:30 p.m., at Kenichi's Restaurant (cost of \$25 per member/spouse with potential members/guests free).



Alan Kusunoki, Assistant District Governor (ADG), urged Rotarians to save the date for the Rotary Foundation reception on Feb. 17, prior to the District Assembly on Feb. 18. Information on the venue will be forthcoming.

Happy/Sad Dollars

Biff Kennedy donated \$100 to announce that as of tomorrow, **Anna** and he will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Jim Kennedy gave \$40 for the contributions that **Richard** and **Jenny**—"good friends, good people"—have made to the community (via the CERT program, for example) as well as to the Club.

Jeremiah Leonard shared that he is glad to be back from Los Angeles after attending his grandmother's memorial service. (While the occasion was sad, he was glad to get to know his relatives better.)

Glenn Harris donated \$200 to announce he was sad to see **Richard** and **Jenny** go, and **Mary Bergier** also expressed regrets (donating \$10), noting that **Richard** had taught her how to use a chain saw!

Pat Guillen donated \$51 in honor of **Jimmy Yagi**. (Check out his comments in the program!)

Nancy Cabral noted with a \$100 donation that the community was losing "gems" this week, as this morning's paper carried the news of **Fred Koehnen's** passing, and **Richard** and **Jenny** were leaving. (Was that an "alternate fact" of their moving to Catalina Island and that we as Rotarians would be welcome to visit?) She urged Rotarians to buy two tickets for Zonta's Fashion Frenzy ("for your wife and her girlfriend") being held Feb. 9-11, with **Chris Tamm** quipping, "Will **Bob Fox** be on the runway?" She'll be giving each Rotarian one ticket for the upcoming Rodeo at Panaewa Equestrian Center the weekend of Feb. 18-21.



Don Hemmes donated \$10 to share fun remembrances of playing basketball with **Jimmy** and a tongue-in-cheek story that **Jimmy** had taught Golden State Warrior **Seth Curry** the proper form for his set shot (with **Tom Brown's** (\$5 happy) noting that **Don's** accolades had stolen part of his speech!). **PDG Pete Muller** gave \$51 to the **Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation** for 51 years of knowing **Jimmy Yagi**—that **Jimmy** was the first person he met in Rotary some 40 years ago.

Genie Phillips was happy (\$5) to announce that she took the State real estate exam and passed. Congratulations!

Corey Kawamoto gave \$100 to **The Rotary Foundation** to start our newest member, **Anna Liu**, on her way to becoming a **Paul Harris Fellow**.

Marsha Prose donated \$5 to announce she had copies of the February edition of the Palace Theatre's newsletter to share—featuring three movies this month with Oscar nominations.

Charlene Meyers gave \$20, announcing that as District PolioPlus Chair she had meetings on Oahu last week plus also attended the 100th anniversary celebration of **The Rotary Foundation**. District 5000 is part of Zone 26, which is ranked #3 in the world for contributing to PolioPlus. She also expressed her best wishes to **Richard** and **Jenny**, noting that **Richard** was one of her presidents when she was ADG.

The Program—**Jimmy Yagi Day**... Toast **Tom Brown** (Yes, we enjoyed the humor!)

President Randy introduced **Tom Brown**, a past president of our Club, past ADG, and the founder of "The Good Boys" table.



Birthdays:

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

Club Anniversary:

Toshi Aoki February 1, 2002 (15)
Chuck Porter February 4, 1994 (23)
Michael Meyer February 6, 2015 (2)
Bobby Stivers-Apiki February 9, 2007 (10)
Helen Hemmes February 13, 1988 (29)
Dirk Yoshina February 14, 1992 (25)
Robert Fox February 24, 1984 (33)
Keith Okamoto February 26, 2016 (1)
Eddie Hara February 27, 1987 (30)

Wedding Anniversary:

Biff & Anna Kennedy February 4 (51)
Lorraine & Vern Inouye February 21 (31)

Announcements:

Feb. 10 -Jason Dela Cruz
Dept. of Health



Rotary Club of Hilo Board of Directors 2016 – 2017:

- President – **Randy Hart**
- Past President – **Wally Wong**
- President Elect – **Steve Handy**
- Vice President – **Mitch Dodo**
- Secretary – **Treana Breyfogle**
- Treasurer – **Corey Kawamoto**
- Sergeant at Arms – **Dirk Yoshina**
- Rotary Foundations – **Kerry Glass**
- Membership – **Connie Ichinose**
- Public Relations – **Marcia Prose**
- International Service – **Stew Hussey**
- Community Service – **Reese Mates**
- Vocational Service – **Cindy Boots**
- Club Service – **Kul Costa**
- New Generations – **Gail Takaki**

Foundation Chairpersons:

- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation – **Lisa Rantz**
- The Rotary Foundation – **Kerry Glass**
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation – **Mitchell Dodo**

Tom Brown called on Rotarian **Pat Guillen**, UH-Hilo Athletic Director, who noted that the community, the job, and **Jimmy Yagi** the Coach were the incentives for his taking the job at UH. **Jimmy**, he noted, was “great” as a coach—not just for his win and loss records but for how as a coach he developed student athletes and was instrumental in the formation of Vulcan Athletics.



Eric Yoshimura, a former Rotarian with our Club and past basketball coach at Pahoa High, then shared pertinent remembrances. He noted that he had played in a group with **Jimmy**, a great coach and a great player. **Jimmy** invited him to help with the Vulcans Camp, where **Eric** learned a lot about **Jimmy's** coaching philosophy of knowing the basic fundamentals. **Jimmy** philosophy of “Go back to the basics” served him well, he noted, and was instrumental in Pahoa’s winning the States in 2010. He expressed his thanks to **Jimmy**, “Coach, mentor, and good friend.”



Tom Brown's subtle and overt humor were part of the fun for the PowerPoint presentation of “**Jimmy** Through the Years,” starting with photos of young **Jimmy**, **Jimmy** in high school (“all that hair”), and in college. **Jimmy** attended UH-Manoa on a Basketball scholarship with **Ah Chew Goo** as his college coach. Then there were photos of **Jimmy** in Europe with a wine casket holding 70,000 liters of wine and supposedly in Brussels (because **Jimmy** ate “mussels”) and on a gondola ride. Yes, **Jimmy** traveled the world for his basketball camps in Japan, China, Great Britain, Germany, France, and Italy, plus there was the photo of **Jimmy** in 2015 at the **Jimmy Yagi** Summer Hoops Camp in Hilo, Hawaii!



Basketball fans could appreciate (more than some of us who do not have **Jimmy's** athletic gifts) photos of **Jimmy** (looking short in height) with NBA stars, including **Rolando Blackman**, **Tony Parker**, **Dirk Nowitzki**, and **Kobe Bryant**.

Tom Brown quipped that **Jimmy's** teams played Division 1 Schools with “no direction” in their names (the #1 schools, in other words)—like the Rotary Clubs of Honolulu (#1) and Hilo (#2 in the State). And did you know that the basketball from the game played with University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is still in the basketball hall of fame? There were no 3-point scores in those days, yet the total team points were 275—164 for UNLV and 111 for the Vulcans. And what about those crowds in attendance? Seats were even added to the stage at the Civic Auditorium to accommodate the packed crowds. UHH vs. Louville, UHH vs. Chaminade, UHH vs. Georgetown, UHH vs. Oregon State....and more.

One photo, **Tom** said, epitomized the effects of **Jimmy's** coaching—two basketball players hugging—in a perfect hug!

Jimmy, **Tom** said, never had to worry about his safety when recruiting, because the “coconut wireless” let community members know that **Coach Jimmy** was there to help somebody—to give somebody a chance. He and his car were watched over.

And then there was one more photo prior to the

presentation of the Certificate of Appreciation—of **Jimmy** and **Corey Kawamoto** (not!) but someone of renown in a photo taken in Japan.

Alberta Dobbe chimed in to note that the “coconut wireless” also knew that **Jimmy's** most important trait was his “respect for the players.”

President Randy Hart expressed thanks to **Jimmy** for being a great Rotarian, a great Coach, and a great asset to this community, with all joining in for a standing ovation.

Jimmy Yagi then was invited to respond, with his sharing that his mother had told him that to succeed you cannot do things by yourself—you need the help of others. He thanked **Cindy Boots** and **Tom Brown** for their leadership in planning the program, along with the **Rotary Club of Hilo** for playing an important part in helping him succeed.



He shared that he had found a few more basketballs (in addition to the 500 previously distributed) to give away today, among them to **Tom Brown** (“Have a ball!”), **Cindy Boots**, **Russ Oda**, **Newton Chu** to give to **Bobby Fujimoto**, **Nancy Cabral** (first woman in the Club), **Stew Hussey** (who has inspired **Jimmy** with his background as a Navy Seals Frogman and with his passion for Rotary International), **Nathan Furuya** (his friend from Japan), **Chuck Porter** (with all his adventures, and with **Chuck's** responding that **Jimmy** was his mentor in that his actions needed to pass the **Jimmy Yagi** test of “what if **Jimmy** knew”), **Walsh Hanley** (a Rotarian no longer with us, but represented now in the Club by his sons **Joe** and **Bob Hanley**), and to **President Randy Hart** (as the Club helped expand his life as a basketball coach). **Jimmy** ended by noting that Rotarians backed him up in his career as coach, also giving **President Randy** a sign, “We’re #1.” What a classy way to share his appreciation!

President Randy expressed his thanks to **Connie Ichinose**, who ordered the fabulously decorated carrot cake, and invited **Jimmy** to do the honors of cutting the cake.



In Closing

Time running short and with an invitation to stay and visit with **Jimmy** while eating cake, **President Randy** called on the Club’s newest member, **Anna Liu**, to lead the Club in the **4-Way Test** of the things we think, say, or do, (plus #5, Have Fun!) and the meeting was adjourned.



Photographer: **Kerry Glass**