

Rotary Club of Hilo



Lava Flow



Special Edition – April 4, 2020. Editor: Susan Munro

No Friday meetings until May (earliest). The Special Edition of the Lava Flow will gather club information and news from our members until regular meetings resume. Thank you all for your input. I've edited some entries for length. I hope I've not done damage to your text.

Message from the President

Aloha Rotarians,

As People of Action, we are most comfortable when we are fully engaged in the world – moving freely, meeting openly, and offering helping hands. These are difficult times for us.



While we are no longer meeting in person, we are committed to serve our community safely as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

The International Rotary Convention and our Brewfest 2020 are canceled. The Brewfest decision was made with careful consideration to protect our community and to limit person-to-person contact. We are looking forward to having an amazing comeback in 2021 for Brewfest with Nancy as the President.

All of the East Hawaii Clubs are working together to assess community needs. Stay tuned as we will need your kokua during this uncertain time.

Having adequate resources will help our health professionals battle COVID-19 and protect themselves as they are serving on

the frontlines. If you have original unopened mask and gloves in stock that can be used to protect our healthcare workers and patients across the state, please contact Lisa Rantz. This would be GREAT for Rotary, our healthcare system and our community! Best way to reach Lisa is via email lrantz@hhsc.org or her cell 808-430-1807.

This unprecedented challenge is also an opportunity for Rotarians to find new, meaningful ways to lead, to connect, and do good in the world.

Anna Liu

East Hawaii Rotary via Zoom

Benson Medina, president of the South Hilo club, will host East Hawaii Rotary Zoom meetings every Thursday at noon.



*March 26 meeting. Our club was represented by had about 30 participants from the East Hawaii clubs. From RCH: **Bobby Dugar, Connie Ichinose, Nancy Cabral, Kerry Glass, Susan Munro, Stan Fortuna, Julie Kron, Kimo-Jim Becker, Shane Okimoto, Anna Liu, and Sally O'Brien.** **Deb Nichols** said that their club is refunding ticket purchases for their*

fundraiser that was scheduled for March 31st. See her if you bought a ticket and want your money back. One topic of discussion was how our clubs can help during these times. Various ideas were floated, and everyone liked **Charlene Iboshi's** suggestion that the club Community Service chairs communicate to develop a coordinated project.

April 2 meeting. Our own **Randy Hart**, District Governor Designate, ran this meeting, and introduced special D5000 guest District Governor **Eric Kaler**. [Wow, there are some advantages to virtual meetings.] There were 34 attendees, including, from our club: **Jen Tanouye, Maureen Poirier, Charlene Meyers, Kimo-Jim Becker, Lani Olds, Patrick Smith, Jacob Bratton, Patty Bray, Anna Liu, Nancy Cabral, Susan Munro** and **Kerry Glass**. As you may have heard, RI has put aside \$1 million for pandemic-related projects, and grant proposals have already been allocated. There may be more \$ from RI later, too.

Giving Locally

You might be inspired to do some good in the community. Here are some suggestions:

Give to local non-profits. The [Hawaii Food Basket](#) accepts online donations. There is a link on their home page. The **Salvation Army** has a link that lets you donate directly to the [Hilo Corps](#). The [Hawaii Community Foundation](#) has established the Hawaii Resilience Fund. Read about it and donate via the link on their home page.

Support local businesses. Shop at local stores. Order takeout (or a gift card) from your favorite restaurant

And don't forget to thank the clerks and service people! They are keeping business going, and also trying to stay safe.

*And finally, the usual Happy Dollar choices are accepting donations: [The Rotary Foundation](#). Use the link above or send a check payable to The Rotary Foundation to Rotary Club of Hilo, PO Box 7476, Hilo 96720. Write "Polio Plus" or "Annual Fund" in the memo line. You get double matching points through May. **Hilo Rotary Club Foundation** and **Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation** are also accepting donations. Send checks to the club's address above.*

News from our Members

Genie Phillips sent us a tale of her adventures in residential real estate, starring a goat. *[This all happened a few months ago, but Genie tells it well!]* See the separate pdf attached to your email.



Beverly Heikes sent an update on her son Kenny's college selection journey. In addition to the \$240,000 Gabelli Presidential Scholar award he was offered by **Boston College**, he has *also* been accepted by, and offered money by: the **University of Chicago** (a four year \$138K merit scholarship); **University of Rochester** (a four year \$80K merit scholarship); **Johns Hopkins University** (a \$20K merit scholarship); **University of Southern California** (\$20K merit scholarship); **Cornell University** (\$28K scholarship. He hasn't made a choice yet. Wow!!!

Helen Hemmes:

"I'm spending my time enjoying the plants and flowers in our yard, pulling weeds,

going through my files, and checking out my Rotary skirts with the hope of sharing some for our Club's centennial celebration. The t-shirt—with the text, "It is what it is."—is a recent gift from my husband."

Connie Ichinose:

"I've been self isolating for about 3 weeks now. My 90 year old mom lives with us so we have to be extra careful. I've been going out once a week for groceries, necessities, etc. I've been tackling cleaning...ugh. Also doing Zoom exercise classes about 4X/week and making masks (see attached). I'm sending out to all our kids and some friends. Galen goes to the office 2X/week and works from home 3 days. He will be retiring from Helco on April 13 and starts his new career as the GM for Hawaiian Earth. It's a private company, commissioned by the county to promote and produce compost for farmers as well as the public. Right up his alley! It's something he's always been passionate about so he's looking forward to it!"



Eric Anderson:

"One of the most important things I've learned about ministry over 30 years is that it is about presence. Now I'm practicing a ministry of presence without being present. It's very difficult. Church of the Holy Cross members now attend Sunday worship in their homes, watching a live stream over the Internet, praying for one another, wishing they could talk story face-to-face. We're sending note cards to the homes of those without technology so that they know they're remembered. I'm singing a song every Wednesday live over the Internet to make that musical connection. I've been on

so many video conferences with friends and colleagues. I will be so grateful when we can meet again on a Friday with a handshake or a hug."

Mike Meyer:

"I am considered an essential worker. My hours have been cut by 20% but I will manage. I have been a remote worker since 2011 so this not a change. I had an Argiope spider on the lanai for a few months. These are the black and yellow ones that sit like an "x" in the web. Unfortunately, she disappeared a few days ago but left behind an egg sac that hatched. So now I am "pop-pop" to a collection of spiderlings. This has been an



interesting diversion... I am healthy and still pushing the pedals hard! My shadow does not practice social distancing!"

Randy Hart:

"Just donated \$100 happy dollars for no one in the club having COVID 19."

Danni Gardner:

"It's difficult for many people during this time. It's much worse for the homeless. Would anyone be willing or interested in helping me purchase supplies to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips, and bottled water? I'd

like to make 100 bag lunches to feed the homeless.”

Danielle Bratton:

“The Salvation Army are currently distributing food bags Tuesday and Fridays at 9 am. We are partnering with the boys and girls club to feed 40 people per night Monday to Friday at our location. Lt Jacob is at the office every day handling donations and overseeing feeding. We are still in desperate need as we have tripled our output of bags in the last 3 weeks. I am at home with our two wonderfully rowdy boys using my hidden teacher talents. I do miss the meetings and getting to see everyone and hear all the crazy stories and adventures. Also I love happy 5’s and hearing the Commentary from our beloved peanut gallery. Miss everyone and hope all is well!”

Cindy Boots (long-distance member):



“I got a very cool surprise today when my great-nieces came over to leave me an awesome message, spreading cheer to my heart and my neighbors too ❤️. I’m very happy to be living close to so much family. We can’t all gather together right now, cause it’s way more than the 10 people maximum 🙅. It’s great to know we’re all close to support family and friends. Wishing Aloha to all my Hawaii

Rotary Ohana ❤️. Be safe, cautious and stay healthy. Support others as you can and when you can.”

[Tim Beatty reports that Cindy sent a note with a check to HRCF, to commemorate her 23 years with the club She said she hopes to be here for the 100th Anniversary celebrations later this year.]

Shane Okimoto:

“I have been working to keep my church, Waiakea Baptist Bible Church, encouraged. We post content (sermons, Bible studies, praise music) on YouTube under the church's channel, meet via Zoom, and encourage the "buddy system" among church members to stay connected to one another and help meet one another's needs.”

Charlene Meyers:

“Besides getting some long walks in, I am baking and sharing with the neighbors. It keeps me busy and active. I am also working on a “coffee table” book of my lava images. Time will tell how this goes. If you have interest or questions please be in touch. I would like input. Stay safe and well everyone. “

Jeremiah Leonard:

“Fortunately I mostly work from my home office; since construction is still considered an essential activity, we are continuing our renovation to Big Island Educational FCU but our project at the National Park has slowed down. Some sad news: my mother-in-law passed away Tuesday. My wife and I were able to be with her and are thankful she is no longer suffering; She did not have COVID 19. We are thankful to Mitchell Dodo; he is a very kind and compassionate person. When plan to have a celebration of life for her and eventually bring her ashes

back to Cebu. Our daughter continues her school from home with assignments from Haili Christian School. What a great school, our daughter is not even through kindergarten and she can read. Amazing. Miss all of you at Rotary.”

Nancy Cabral has 100 Happy Dollars for lots of reasons:

“My 92 year old father and 88 year old step-mother have **survived Coronavirus** and are recovering at home in Calif. Glad I was able to help when they got released from the hospital in Japan.

“PETS - President Elect Training Seminar was wonderful last month in Calif. Lots of great ideas....and although so much has changed in a month, I know, that we will combine our resources to help our community in this time of need!

“I got to visit with my two granddaughters and their parents, my son and daughter-in-law. Unhappy that my Cowboy son had a major knee injury when a steer rolled over him. Happy I was on the mainland and able to help. Hoping he will change his career.

“Happy to be back in Hilo with an Essential Service Business. And hopeful that my staff will continue to work even though they would rather be home.

“Hopeful that our world will recover and that all in our community will stay healthy and safe!”

Stan Fortuna sent a “Report from the Headmaster” from his home in Michigan:

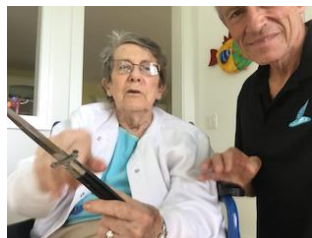
“My annual visit home to Hilo was 100% set: an ultramarathon and attendance at the annual Kamehameha Hawai'i Senior Awards Ceremony, but ... barring a miracle...

“Sharing some photos: Some of our grandkids (4 others not in the photo).



“Support crew at the Run Rabbit Run 100-miler in Steamboat just this last summer

“From our vacation to Barcelona and Madrid last fall



“Nancy’s near 90-year old mother laying down the law last summer (wielding an illegal weapon at that), she was no one to mess with, and we miss her dearly”

Pete Muller (honorary member) reports that he and Roberta are staying home and following the doctor’s orders to focus on inner peace, and enjoy those bottles of wine they have been saving...

Patty Bray:

“HMC Foundation office is working remotely. With the Hilo Medical Center, we are doing a COVID-19 Community Drive to collect personal protective equipment (PPE) where donations of masks, gloves, gowns, shoe covers, scrubs (new and

used). Donations may be dropped off at the Human Resources office at 140 Rainbow Drive.”

Lani Olds is one of our newest members, with a Corporate membership for Homelani Memorial Park. She wanted to give us some information about her company: “Homeland Memorial Park and Kona Memorial Parks is an essential business (i.e., open these days). We offer in-person appointments or we can do everything over the phone. We offer Skype presentations, or email and phone to convey options. Give us a call at 808-961-6051 and we can provide information”

Chuck and Gay Porter:

“We didn’t make it back to Hawaii before the shutdowns and are now parenting grandkids as my daughter is a Portland hospital doctor and she wanted to get the kids out of town and sent them to us in Utah for a while. Lucky to be here. No known cases



“Social distancing, mule style”



within several hundred miles.”
“Home schooling started today. I need to develop more patience. Working on it.”

And in Closing...

We will publish another Special Edition Lava Flow in two weeks. Until then:

- Send me material for the **News from Our Members** section.
- Our club’s board will have a Zoom meeting on April 9. Not limited to Board Members. Kerry will send you the link if you want to attend.
- Attend the East Hawaii Rotary Zoom on **Thursdays at noon**. You should have an email with the link.
- We are targeting to have a general club meeting via Zoom on **Friday, April 17, at noon**. Details pending.

