

Rotary Club of Hilo



Lava Flow



April 23, 2021

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: Jen Tanouye

Photographer: Sam

President **Nancy Cabral** called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. **Marcia Prose** gleefully led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members, guests - including soon to be members **Laura Bass**, **Aaron Hamada**, **Patricia Day** and speaker of the day, **Kansas Hamilton** were welcomed.



Pres Nancy reported the great news that our club met the goal for the March Project of reaching the donation of 100 bags of rice to go to the Hilo Food Basket. She announced that we are a wee bit short of reaching April's project goal of getting donations of 100 packages of baby diapers and children's underwear for the Friends of the Children's Justice Center and Salvation Army. Donations are still being accepted and very much appreciated. They may be dropped off at Day-Lum or Hawaii Printing.

Hats off to **Danni Preston** who is doing a fantastic job of covering for Community Service Chair **Wally Wong** while he is on Oahu assisting **Pua**, his daughter's recovery. **Pua** is doing well and her progress has been tremendous. **Wally** and **Pua** both hope home near the end of May. Our hearts and prayers are with them.

More **RCH** service projects include the every Thursday lunch prep by the "Go Cook Em Crew" at Hawaii Island Home for Recovery. (Club members are invited to come out for a fun time and assist). We also can't forget about the "Rotarians at Work Day" happening on Saturday April 24th. Members will be cleaning up the grounds and tide pools at the Rotary Park, located one parking lot over from Ponds Restaurant, from 8am -12pm. Lunch will be provided. Also please be sure to register for the D5000 Virtual District Conference to be held on May 14-16. Kudos to **Marcia Prose** and her publicity team who have been working hard to secure ad space in our local newspapers for our club's 100th year Celebration. We can't wait to see the film that was made for the 100th Celebration. Sounds so fun! The Rotary International Convention will also be a virtual convention on June 12-16. All members are invited to register.

Another super fun event is coming up and are you ready to Party? **Julie K.** announced that we will be having RCH's first Social since Covid! Be there or be square at the: **Spring Fling Membership Mixer** at the Grand Naniloa Hula Hula Restaurant on Apr 29, 2021 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Kudos to chair: **Kimo Becker** and **Connie** for putting this together! RSVP is recommended as there is only a few openings left.

2021 Brewfest is almost here! Chair **Treena** announced that "All Hands on Deck" are needed and mark the dates for our first ever "Brewfest in a Box" Fundraiser! The creative minds of the talented 2021 Brewfest Committee, due to Covid not allowing us to have our annual in person Hilo Brewfest Event, have found a way for our club to still do our Annual Fundraiser by doing "Brewfest in a Box"! Way to Go Brewfest Committee!! • JUNE 5 – Assemble BOXES • JUNE 12 – Assemble remaining boxes if needed. • JUNE 18, 19 – Move boxes/assist with drive-through pick-up. • JUNE 26 – date of the virtual concert. SIGN-UP LINK FOR VOLUNTEERING WILL BE SENT THROUGH CLUB RUNNER You pick up --\$55 per box. Delivered* -- \$75 per box. Purchase link available at Hilo Brewfest website first week of May. SPONSORSHIPS include: BREWMASTER -- \$5000; BREWER'S ASSISTANT -- \$2500; CICERONE -- \$1000; CELLAR HAND -- \$500* *Deadline May 1 to be included in Playbill. Email: tbrey0328@gmail.com **Pres Nancy** excitedly said she will be a BrewMaster Sponsor. Woo Hoo!

Celebrating Birthdays are:

Wally Wong Apr 11,
Sally O'Brien Apr 14,
Bob Hanley Apr 16,
Joe Hanley Apr 26,
Marcia Prose Apr 28,
Alberta Dobbe Apr 29,
Steve Handy May 2,
Connie Ichinose May 5.

Club Anniversaries:

Gay Porter Apr 12 (30 yrs)
Shane Shitabata Apr 17 (1 yr)
Beverly Heikes Apr 28 (4 yrs)
Reese Mates Apr 29 (13 yrs)

Can't forget about the **Happy Dollars**.

Pres Nancy pledged \$500 to **HRCF** on behalf of soon to be returning/new RCH member - **Laura Bass**.

DGN/Randy Hart also pledged \$100 for **TRF** just because he is so happy. Ahwww!

Our fabulous guest speaker for the day was **Kansas Henderson** from the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel.

His Bio: **Mr. Henderson** was born and raised in the San Francisco area near Silicon Valley and Sanford University. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and earned a B.A. in environmental studies and tourism. After working with various Hotel operations on the West Coast, including the setup and holding many positions in the 4 Seasons in East Palo Alto, he moved to Hawaii in 2014 with his wife and daughter. He oversaw the Rooms Division at the Four Seasons Hualalai. In 2015, Kansas assumed the role of the Hotel Manager at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel (MKBH). He oversaw a \$15 million renovation of the resort's restaurants and events spaces. Plans are in the works for 2022 hopefully to do a \$120 million dollar renovation of the guestrooms, public areas and guest activity centers.



Kansas stated and we all know that Hawaii hotels and tourism is taking a huge hit during Covid. Mauna Kea Beach along with its properties were closed for seven months. However, the 1800 acres of grounds still had to be maintained. Fortunately, due to the Safe Travels Program, the costs of the ground keepers and maintenance employees were covered. Also, due to many of the owners of the Mauna Kea Residences choosing to quarantine in Hawaii, MKBH some housekeepers were able to remain employed. In Nov 2020 the slow reopening of the hotel and some restaurants began. The rebound has been phenomenal especially in the past three months. Furloughed employees have all been asked to return to work. Forecasts predict that the Hotels will be filled at almost 80% capacity all the way throughout summer. That's fantastic news and also a rarity for the Big Island Occupancy past trends. Safety of the guests and MKBH employees remains to be a major priority. State Covid 19 guidelines remain to be followed and in effect. The challenge of getting new and replacements for employees that did not return has been hard. The Annual Job Fair had hardly any applicants apply for open positions. The hotels usually have many applicants to choose from in past fairs. Kansas said he will welcome any RCH members referrals of family or friends looking for employment

Birthdays:

Jacob Bratton	Apr 06
Alan Kusunoki	Apr 07
Toshi Aoki	Apr 08
Tom Brown	Apr 10
Wally Wong	Apr 11
Sally O'Brien	Apr 14
Bob Hanley	Apr 16
Joe Hanley	Apr 26
Marcia Prose	Apr 28
Alberta Dobbe	Apr 29

Club Anniversary:

Lorraine Shin	Apr 01 1995
Sam Wallis	Apr 02 1976
Craig Shikuma	Apr 03 1992
Kelvin Watanabe	Apr 05 2019
Gay Porter	Apr 12 1991
Shane Shitabata	Apr 17 2020
Beverly Heikes	Apr 28 2017
Reese Mates	Apr 29 2008

Announcements:

- May 07 – 3 Rotary Members Vocational Talks
- May 21 – Rich Courson Genesis of Polio Plus
- June 04 – Ocean Safety Bradley Young & Nolan Agliam

Club Administration 2021-2021

- President- Nancy Cabral
- President Elect- Beverly Heikes
- Vice-President- Kerry Glass
- Past President- Anna Liu
- Secretary- Susan Munro
- Treasurer- Jen Tanouye
- Sergeant-at-Arms- Jacob Bratton
- Foundations- Shane Okimoto
- Membership- Connie Ichinose
- Public Relations- Marcia Prose
- Community Service- Wally Wong
- Vocational Services- Mike Meyer
- International Service- Patrick Smith
- New Generations- Gail Takaki
- Club Service- Bobby Dugar
- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation- Tim Beatty
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation- Mitch Dodo
- Programs- Jim Cheney
- Attendance- Judy Gibson/Dirk Yoshina
- Lava Flow- Genie Phillips

opportunities and to share the word that MKBH is now hiring.

Pres Nancy thanked **Kansas** for the great presentation and then asked **Laura Bass** to close the meeting by leading us in the **Four Way Test**


SPONSORSHIPS

BREWMASTER – \$5000
 BREWER'S ASSISTANT – \$2500
 CICERONE – \$1800
 CELLAR HAND – \$500*

*Deadline May 1 to be included in Puckin' Email: beryl1313@gmail.com

You pick up – \$55 per box.
 Delivered* – \$75 per box.
(*Mill working on logistics of delivery.)

Purchase link available at Hilo Brewfest website first week of May.



• JUNE 5 – Assemble BOXES
 • JUNE 12 – Assemble remaining boxes if needed.
 • JUNE 18, 19 – Move boxes/assist with drive-through pick-up.
 • JUNE 26 – date of the virtual concert.

LINK UP LINK FOR VOLUNTEERS WILL BE SENT THROUGH CLUB EMAIL

Covid Advice

7 Steps To Improve Your Attitude

1. Stand up
2. Stretch
3. Take a walk
4. Keep walking
5. Sound a glass
6. Fly to Hawaii
7. Never return.



Calendar of Events

- FRI 7 Meeting – Vocational Talks & Grant Presentations**
6: "LIVE" @ Coconut Grill, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM with mini menu and on Zoom
- TUE 11 Board Meeting, 5:30 PM**
on Zoom
- 14, 16 Rotary D5000 Virtual District Conference**
- 12, 16 Rotary International Virtual Convention**



Covid Operational Challenges

Staffing Concerns

- *Less than 1% of MRF's 1100 employees remain on furlough (dispart staff due to lack of groups)
- *Just MRFH lost over 40 employees in 2020 during the Covid Closure, have hired 20 since re-opening, and still have 40 positions open
- *Big Island has 9% unemployment rate, yet no applicants for open positions up and down the Coast
- *Current unemployment benefits from State and Feds, coupled with Covid tax breaks, allows for a \$18.50 hourly wage not to work

The Rotary Four Way Test
of the Things we Think, Say or Do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to All Concerned?
3. Will it Build GOODWILL and Better Friendships?
4. Will it Be BENEFICIAL to All Concerned?



Rotary Opens Opportunities