

Rotary Club of Hilo



LAVA FLOW



December 14, 2018

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: Bobby Stivers- Apiki

Photographer: Ann Liu

Christmas/Hanukkah Message

“Gracious Eternal God, this is the season of light: light from the festive glow of the Menorah, warmth from the Yule log fire, radiant beams from the tender face of the babe born in Bethlehem.

In this the darkest of months, we give thanks for the light you bring to humankind. We give thanks for the light this Rotary Club has shed throughout its long history on so many others, both here at home and throughout the world.

We ask that we are nourished by food, fellowship and reflection on our past . . . and energized to convey your perpetual light . . . forward into the future”. - Craig W. Johnson, Austin Rotary

CALL TO ORDER:

Keith Okimoto, Club President of the Rotary Club of Hilo conducted today's amazing, inspiring, heartwarming, warm-fuzzy, fellowship end-of-the-year meeting! We were treated with delightful holiday songs by guest **Benson Medina**, President of the Rotary Club of South Hilo and later welcomed by

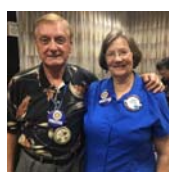


special guests from the north pole, our very own **Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus – Kerry Glass** and **Susan Munro** sponsored by **Mike Meyer**. **Mrs. Claus** brought holiday treats, while **Mr. Claus** wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” and invited us to take a picture with him for a \$5 donation that will be added to the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Drive.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Guest President, **Benson Medina** dressed in red with a Santa cap not only cheered us with holiday songs, but **Benson** also opened the meeting with the Pledge of Alliance.

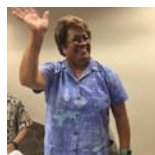
TODAY'S GUESTS:



Greeters **Cathy Gray** and **Jim Cheny** welcomed Rotary International Hawaii District 5000 Past District Governor 2017-2018,

Nalani Finn and Rotary Club of South Hilo Club President, **Benson Medina**.

PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR **NALANI FINN** PRESENTATION. We are honored to have the Hawaii Rotary District 5000 Past District Governor at our meeting today. In a special presentation **PDG Flinn** presented Past



Club President **Steve Handy** the 2017-2018 Certificate of Appreciation Rotary Presidential Citation -



“**MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD**” for the good work during the year. **PDG Flinn** also presented Certificate of Appreciation to **Charlene Meyers** for **FINANCIAL SUPPORT to End Polio Now**. “You have the champion of End Polio Now **Charlene**



Meyers,” stated **Flinn** and “you have to lead the way and be the example and your club was the example”. Rotary Club of South Hilo **Benson Medina** was also presented a Certificate of Appreciation by **PDG Flinn**. Congratulations to



Steve, Charlene and **Benson!** **PDG Flinn** contributed \$20 to **End Polio Now** and **Flinn** said, “I feel right-at-home being with you today”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Congratulations to:

Wedding Anniversaries

Marcia & Garry Prose,

49 years – December 1

Club Anniversaries

Jim Cheney, 30 years – December 1

Tina Jimenez, 4 years – December 5

Upcoming Events:

January 4, 2019. **Stew Hussey's Paul Harris Recognition Program** will be honored at our January club meeting. January 12, 2019.

University of Hawaii Hilo Vulcan's vs HPU Basketball & Tailgate Game with East Hawaii Rotary Clubs. Join the fellowship and support the Vulcans. Welcome Home! Our very own **Wally Wong** who returned from the Hikinalia's Voyage to California promoting Malama Honua – caring for our Island Earth.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING.

President Keith announced the club raised \$1,450 exceeding the other East Hawaii clubs for the Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to those who rang bells for this worthy organization.



Charlene Meyers announced any increments of \$25 donations to **End Polio Now** will receive a “color changing coffee mug”.

Birthdays:

Cathy Gray December 13
Michael Meyer December 15
Reese Mates December 19
Eddie Hara December 24
Gay Porter December 31

Club Anniversary:

Jim Cheney December 1, 1988 (30)
Tina Jimenez December 5, 2014 (4)
Shane Okimoto December 9, 2016 (2)
Joshua Countess December 15, 2017 (1)
Harry Kim December 16, 2016 (2)
Steve Handy December 19, 2003 (15)
Judy Gibson December 31, 2005 (13)

Wedding Anniversary:

Marcia & Garry Prose Dec. 1 (49)
Keith & Leigh Okamoto Dec. 19 (26)
Ron & Glynnis Dolan Dec. 22 (45)
Wally & Malia Wong Dec. 22 (25)
Cathy & Jerry Gray Dec. 25 (42)
Robert Fox & Nina Buchanan Dec. 27 (10)

Announcements:

December 21 - No Meeting
December 28 - No Meeting

Rotary Club of Hilo Board of Directors 2018-2019:

- President – Keith Okamoto
- Past President – Steve Handy
- President Elect – Anna Liu
- Vice President – Mitch Dodo
- Co-Secretary – Treena Breyfogle
- Co-Secretary – Jan Tanouye
- Treasurer – Corey Kawamoto
- Sergeant at Arms – Genie Phillips
- Rotary Foundations – Malcolm Chun
- Membership – Connie Ichinose
- Public Relations – Marcia Prose
- International Service – Sally O'Brien
- Community Service – Wally Wong
- Vocational Service – Bobby Stivers-Apiki
- Club Service – Kerry Glass
- New Generations – Brittany Luna
- Program Chair – Mike Meyer
- Attendance Chair – Judy Gibson
- Lava Flow Chair – Susan Munro
- Greeters – Cathy Gray

Foundation Chairpersons:

- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation – Tim Beatty
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation – Mitchell Dodo
- Sunao Wada Foundation – Mitchell Dodo

Marcia Prose reported the 2018 Craft Fair was a huge success and thanked everyone for their support.



Interact Club wrapped gifts, 40 Salvation Army Angle Tree donations were recorded and over 45 "tell me more about Rotary" inquires were received.

Kathy Borer, Social Worker asked for help in locating two missing youth, 13 and 16 years old. Contact **Kathy** for details.



Mike Meyers invited everyone to see him in the Gilbert & Sullivan "Christmas Carol" performance at Kilauea Theater Dec. 14-23.



Helen Hemes was delighted to read at Kauamana School kindergartners and to be featured in the school's newsletter.



Thank you **Maureen Poirier** for your Christmas treats.



2019-2020 NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

President Keith announced nominations are almost completed and the slate of officers and voting will be announced at next's month meeting.

\$ HAPPY HAPPY DOLLARS \$

Generous members are happy members! Thank you to all.

Mitch Dodo announced that on behalf of **Roxanne Oda-Ching**, the **Russ & Akiko Oda Estate** made a **\$2,000** donation to the **Hilo Club Rotary Foundation**.



Helen Hemes - \$20 for walking the 10K in Honolulu with husband **Don**;

Mike Meyer - \$5 End Polio, \$5 TRF for his new cycling jersey;



Genie Phillips - \$25 elated her husband is with her this holiday season.



Kathy Borer - \$100 for returning from China with her daughter.



Keith Okimoto - \$25 to End Polio;



Alberta Dobbe - \$25 for the great work by the Social Committee for senior luncheon at Kamana Senior Center and asked to know how long has this project been offered.



Maureen Poirier - \$50 for selling her home and going back to Arizona with family for the holidays.



Beverly Heikes - \$30 for those that helped her earn her **Paul Harris** pin.



Malcolm Chun - \$25 for testing his truck at **Chuck Porter's** new car wash facility, soon to have its grand opening.



Ana Liu - \$25 to End Polio.

Nancy Cabral - \$100 her cowboy son is back home and donation in honor of **Nancy's** grandchild, **Charlee Ann Cabral**.



BE THE INSPIRATION

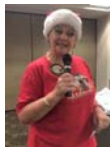
Treena Breyfogle - \$20 for Salvation Army Bell Ringing and now that **Wally** is home, chairing the Community Service committee.



Lorraine Shinn - \$200 for her son, **BJ Penn's** upcoming MMA fight Dec. 29.

NANCY CABRAL CONTRIBUTES \$1,000 TO END POLIO NOW.

In an emotional plea to **END POLIO NOW**



Nancy Cabral "walked the talk" with a donation cheered on by her fellow Rotarians and guests.

Nancy stated, "Our club can solve the problem at home and around the world". Thank you **Nancy!**

SEVENTEEN (17) MEMBERS & \$1,885 RAISED TO END POLIO NOW

The following members generously contributed to **END POLIO NOW** and while a few names are repeated Happy Dollar contributors, each needs to be recognized and applauded for their kind hearts and making a difference. **NANCY CABRAL, \$1,000; BOB FOX, \$200; MITCH DODO, \$100; KATHY BORER, \$100; TAMMY SILVA-LEGACY HILO, \$100; JIM CHENEY, \$80; CONNIE ICHINOSE, \$50; MAUREEN POIRIER, \$50; ALBERTA DOBBE, \$25; HELENE TAJIRI, \$25; SALLY O'BRIEN, \$25; KEITH OKAMOTO, \$25; ANA LIU, \$25; MALCOLM CHUN, \$25; JIM KENNEDY, \$25; HELEN HEMMES, \$25; MIKE MEYER, \$5.**

TODAY'S PROGRAM:

END POLIO NOW. by **CHARLENE MEYERS.**

Charlene Meyers has lived in Volcano since 2001. Her first visit to Hawai'i was in 1975 and a love of the island began at that time. She is a retired caterer, who has always enjoyed photography. Retirement allows time to photograph the beauty and natural forces of Hawai'i. **Charlene's** images have appeared in several publications, one is a signature image of the Island of Hawai'i Visitors Bureau. Also she has nearly 7000



volunteer hours in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, mostly leading hikes for visitors including school groups. **Charlene** is an active Rotarian; a club past-president, an Assistant District Governor for 3 years and District Polio Plus chair for the past 4 years.

"Polio is a disease that has been around a long, long time. And this is why Rotary years ago decided we needed to stop this paralyzing disease for ever in the world and it takes a group such as Rotary to do this. In the early 20th century, polio was the most feared disease," stated **Charlene** in her opening remarks. In a powerful and informative presentation **Charlene** educated all of us about the importance to end polio and the tremendous effort Rotary has contributed to eradicate this disease.

Key points include:

In 1979 Rotary International funded a program to immunize all the children in the Philippines and polio was quickly eradicated in that country. Then in 1985 **RI** initiated the **Polio Plus** program with the goal of polio eradication around the world.

There are now only 2 countries that have never stopped polio transmission and global incidence of polio cases has decreased by 99%. Pakistan & Afganistan.

The **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** continues to match each dollar Rotary contributes 2-1. We Rotarians have given millions.

We are able to do this because clubs have fund raisers and projects. Members make donations. Also Rotary sends teams of members and non-members to help in the vaccination efforts yearly.

Rotary clubs are divided into Zones. Hawaii is one of 12 districts in Zone 26. How well are we doing with our part? Zone 26 is #1 in the world in Polio Plus giving and #3 in the world in overall giving. As a Zone we can be very proud but our district is one of the lowest in donating to polio this year. Our club is doing well but we have a way to go to meet our goal. We must continue to work toward the goal of eradicating polio and soon so no more children have to be paralyzed ever again anywhere in the world. Also, the way the

world travels, it could be brought back to our country. Not all children are receiving the vaccination by the choice of their parents. 8 children out of 100 are not being immunized. This puts our country at risk too.

Charlene's presentation include much more. Donations are accepted on line: **ENDPOLIO.ORG** and double points are earned for \$50 or over by the end of the year. "Remember, zero is the magic number," concluded **Charlene's END POLIO NOW** presentation.

Alberta Dobbe testified that her brother had polio and appreciated Rotary taking this disease on;

Mike Meyer stated, "Give me love when wearing my End Polio cycling jersey; and contributions continued with **Bob Fox** contributing \$200 while Legacy Hilo and **Tammy Silva** contributed \$100. **Tammy** also stated Legacy Hilo will sponsor the 2019 Hilo Christmas Parade.

HILO HAWAIIAN HOTEL STAFF APPRECIATION.

President Keith presented the club's Appreciation Gift to head waiter, **Kealoha** with over \$607 for the hotel's staff services during the year. **Kealoha** extended his appreciation on behalf of the hotel staff.

Mr. & Mrs. Claus

"Ho Ho Closing". "Everyone has been wonderful today and this year. **Santa** wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas along with **Mrs. Claus.**"

FOUR WAY TEST: **Mr. Claus** led the merry members in the final "**4 Way Test**" for 2018. **President Keith** adjourned the meeting at 1:01 PM.

