

Rotary Club of Hilo



Lava Flow



July 16, 2021

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: the Don

Photographers: Jen Tanouye/Beverly Heikes/Genie Phillips

It was a dark and stormy night, or so she said, as Mistress of Ceremonies **Gail Takaki** welcomed us all to the 101st installation ceremony of the 101 year old **Rotary Club of Hilo** at the beautiful Nani Mau Gardens main dining room in still quaint Hilo, Hawaii. As we have done for over a century, Hilo Rotarians stood and pledged their allegiance to the United States of America, by following the lead of new member **Julie Kron**. After a short invocation by resident club minister, **Shane Okimoto**, we anxiously returned to our seats to hear what **MC Gail** had in store for us. It was going to be a very special occasion, for not only were we meeting together in person, we were going to bid aloha to **President Nancy Cabral**, and install and welcome our newest **President Beverly Heikes**. **MC Gail** also introduced us to the Rotary elite in the room, including past **District Governor Pete Muller** and his wife **Roberta**, Incoming 2022 District Governor **Randy Hart**, and Assistant Governor **Doug Adams**.



MC Gail recognized the past presidents in the room, **Alberta Dobbe**, **Helen Hemmes**, **Jim Cheney**, **Newton Chu**, **Mitchell Dodo**, **Kerry Glass**, **Randy Hart**, **Steve Handy Jr.**, and **Anna Liu**.

MC Gail let us know that we were in for a special feast prepared by the Chefs at Nani Mau, and told us to enjoy the wonderful music of bass player and saxophonist "2 times 2". And enjoy we did! The dinner was fabulous, numerous salads, fried fish, chicken and ham benedict, and about 50 pounds of roast beef. Well maybe not 50, but you get the idea.



The food was barely down the hatch when **MC Gail** called upon our newest celebrity Rotarian, **Randy Hart** to install the newest President and slate of officers. He called up nearly everyone in the room!

President
President Elect
Vice President
Immediate Past President
Secretary
Treasurer
Sergeant-at Arms

Beverly Heikes
Connie Ichinose
Kerry Glass
Nancy Cabral
Susan Munro
Patty Bray
Kelvin Watanabe

Director – Foundations **Shane Okimoto**
Director – Membership **Julie Kron**
Director – Public Relations **Marcia Prose**
Director – International Service **Patrick Smith**
Director – Community Service **Wally Wong**
Director – Vocational Service **Mike Meyer**
Director – New Generations **Jen Tanouye**
Director – Club Service **Jeremiah Leonard**
Chair, Hilo Rotary Club Foundation **Tim Beatty**
Chair, Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation **Mitch Dodo**
Chair, Dr. Sunao Wada Foundation **Mitch Dodo**
Programs Chair **Jim Cheney**
Attendance Chair **Judy Gibson**
Lava Flow Chair **Genie Phillips**
Greeters Chair **Patti Day**
Executive Director **Kerry Glass**

After all the oaths were administered, **MC Gail** called upon **AG Doug Adams** and **Past President Newton Chu** to acknowledge the service of immediate **past President Nancy Cabral** and present her with her well deserved recognitions. **The Don** immediately commandeered the microphone and launched into the actual non-factual recital of the crossing of Hilo Bay by the first organizers of the Rotary Club of Hilo in July 1920. As he did for every meeting during his term in 2002-03, **the Don** weaved the story of ships and sail, stormy seas, horse and buggies, and of course whiskey and cigars. He reminded us that in 1920 we became the 795th Rotary Club in the world, wherein now there are over 32,000 clubs. He also reminded us that in 1920 women were prohibited from joining Rotary and it was not until 1987 when the rules changed (or hell froze over depending on who told the story), and **Immediate Past President Nancy Cabral** became our first female member. Not only did Rotary change for the better, but our club changed for the better and we are now blessed with many women members and leaders. Far out!



The Don acknowledged that our club missed out on what would have been an epic installation event last year when **IPP Nancy** would have ridden in on a white horse to the standing ovation of our members and perhaps 30+ guests from the **Rotary Club of Hiroshima South**, our loyal and devoted sister club. Even though there was little fanfare for her installa-

tion, **IPP Nancy** surprised no-one by leading our club to an outstanding year, marked by the raising of over **\$100,000** and holding monthly events to emphasize our 100th year of community and international service. I think we all can agree that **IPP Nancy** did a bang up job, her loyalty and leadership was so strong **the Don** remarked that "**She would have taken a bullet for the Club**" and so he presented her with her very own bottle of **Bulleit Frontier Rye Whiskey**. Not to be outdone, **AG Doug Adams** came up and presented **Nancy** with over a million dollars worth (or so it seemed) of plaques and gavels to recognize her crowning achievements. **IPP Nancy** was on the verge of tears!

The room thundered with applause for 100 seconds as **IPP Nancy** took the stage and pledged not to cry. **IPP Nancy** was gracious and humble as she thanked everyone in the club for their incredible support during the pandemic, for without the members the club is nothing. She announced that the club won no less than six awards at the District Conference, including,

Community Service Award- Large Clubs -

First Place

Membership Grow Rotary Awards - Large Club -

First Place

Public Image Award - Large Club -

Avenues of Service Award - Wally Wong

District Governor's Citation Award

Most Innovative Club Award

And for good measure, we received the **2021 Preservation Honor Award from Historic Hawai'i Foundation!** You all look so good for your age! **IPP Nancy** profusely thanked everyone in the room by having everyone who helped, and that included everyone, stand and be recognized for their ongoing support of our fabulous club.

With that **IPP Nancy** pledged to do her best to support **President Beverly** and help her reach the goal of recruiting enough new members so that we become the largest club in all of Hawaii. **President Beverly** proudly accepted the gavel from **IPP Nancy** and then began her term with an eloquent and inspirational address to kick off her year and the new Rotary theme of **"Serve to Change Lives."** Since it is important for all members to



Birthdays:

Lisa Rantz	July 03
Aaron Hatada	July 06
Gene Tao	July 20
Sam Willocks	July 22
Eric Anderson	July 23
Cowboy Kaneshiro	July 24
Ian Kitagawa	July 27
Lara Sonoda	July 27
Genie Phillips	July 28
Mitch Roth	July 28
Treena Breyfogle	July 30
Susan Munro	July 30

Club Anniversary:

Bruce Blankenfeld	July 10, 2015 (6)
Alberta Dobbe	July 11, 2008 (13)
Connie Ichinose	July 12, 2013 (8)
Bobby Dugar	July 13, 2018 (3)
Mitch Roth	July 19, 2013 (8)
Kathy Borer	July 21, 2017 (4)
Dee Scott	July 21, 2017 (4)
Misti Tyrin	July 23, 2010 (11)
Lisa Rantz	July 26, 2013 (8)

Anniversaries:

Eddie & Portia Hara	July 1, 1978(43)
Kazuo & Miko Todd	July 03, 2005 (16)
Randy & Lydia Hart	July 17, 1990 (31)
Tom & Delia Brown	July 29, 1981 (40)

Announcements:

July 23 - District Governor Sandy Matsui
Nani Mau 12 noon

Club Administration 2021-2022

President- **Beverly Heikes**
President Elect- **Connie Ichinose**
Vice-President- **Kerry Glass**
Past President- **Nancy Cabral**
Secretary- **Susan Munro**
Treasurer- **Patty Bray**
Sergeant-at-Arms- **Kelvin Watanabe**
Foundations- **Shane Okimoto**
Membership- **Julie Kron**
Public Relations- **Marcia Prose**
Community Service- **Wally Wong**
Vocational Services- **Mike Meyer**
International Service- **Patrick Smith**
New Generations- **Jen Tanouye**
Club Service- **Jeremiah Leonard**
Hilo Rotary Club Foundation- **Tim Beatty**
Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation- **Mitch Dodo**
Dr. Sunao Wada Foundation- **Mitch Dodo**
Programs- **Jim Cheney**
Attendance- **Judy Gibson**
Lava Flow- **Genie Phillips**
Greeters- **Patti Day**
Executive Director- **Kerry Glass**

get inspired for this upcoming Rotary year, I quote **Beverly** verbatim here:

"As I take on this new role of President and we begin our Rotary year together as a team, I am looking forward to an exciting year of possibilities. Although this is not my first installation as president of a service organization, I am just as honored as if it was the very first time. Those of us who have served as President know that this is not a coronation but a conferred position of the highest of servant leadership. Thank you for the privilege to serve and, for your confident in me. Our incoming officers and directors are ready to serve and take on the day-to-day management of our club. I like to thank them for being committed to realizing our goals and visions for the club."

"While fellowshiping together earlier, what resonated with me was the feeling of excitement and energy you have when you enter a space filled with Rotarians. There is something special about a group of people coming together with shared values, a heart for servant leadership, and bound by the mission of "service above self."

*"It is because of members like you, here tonight, that we remain a very successful club 100 years after our founding. To continue to build on our legacy of service in our community, our world and into the future, we must endeavor to share our Rotary experience with others. Sharing our Rotarian story and experience is an act of service we must all participate in. Many people like you and me have a desire to be a part of something greater than we do. As a club, let us begin to share with others what we love most about being a Rotarian. Maybe it's how we come together to exchange ideas, form lifetime friendships, make professional connections or the opportunity to just have fun, all while serving to make a difference. Do remember that someone once shared his or her Rotary experience with you. Thank you, **Jenn Tanouye!**"*

*"So, going forward our focus will be two, developing and supporting initiatives put forth by our new Rotary International president, **Shekhar Mehta**. The first one is **"Each One Bring One"**. Tonight, in attendance we have 51 Rotarians, 2 soon to be Rotarians and 20 guests. Now, just imagine, if every time we came together, whether it's an event like this one, a club meeting, a social event, or a service projects; we brought someone to join us in experiencing Rotary. We would have an abundance of new members joining us bringing fresh insights, energy, heart, talent and resources, to support our goal of remaining a vibrant and impactful club. We would be bursting at the seams with diversity in every sense of the word; people of all ages, people of all colors, of various careers, of all skill sets, future leaders and more. Take a moment to think about whom you can bring or invite to our first club meeting on July 23rd. Someone from your workplace, your place of worship, or another*



organization or business in which you participate. Maybe even people you meet in everyday life; like the gym, dance class or while playing golf. You see where I am going with this. To help support our efforts, the membership committee, led by **Julie Kron**, is finding new ways to roll out the welcome mat and make a great first impression. Our goal is to make it easier for new members to be informed, connected and engaged at the very start of their journey with Rotary. "

*"The second supporting initiative that we will be implementing is **"Do More Grow More"**. Our shared commitment to making a difference through service is the heart and soul of Rotary. Four years ago, I joined Rotary because I saw it as a vehicle for greater service. Not just at the grassroots level, but as a way to truly play a part in solving humanitarian crises. Which is why I was excited to know that Rotary is a major player in the fight against polio. After living in fear of this disease as a child, I still recall how I stood in line with my family, waiting to get the sugar cube vaccine. To know that Rotary played a part in its eradication moved me. The very first service project that I participated in as a Rotarian was a joint effort with another club, painting the Hope Services Homeless Family Shelter. It was amazing to have the opportunity to work side by side with other Rotarians and community members. It was then that I committed to participating in every service project that my busy schedule would allow for. In keeping with Rotary International's goal, to do more inclusive service events and activities that bring in those outside of Rotary and foster partnership in our community, we will implement more **"days of service."***

"In addition to and in collaboration with the service projects that we already do, we now have four additional club projects to consider as put forth by our district 5000 team.

*In September - **A Rotary Aloha for Keiki Day** - we will consider a Basic Education and Literacy Project*

*In November - **A Rotary Give Thanks and Aloha Day** - a Community Economic Development Project in Partnership with another organization.*

*In February - **Rotary Heart and Aloha for Service Day**. A Maternal & Child Health Project or Rotary International Girls Empowerment Initiative!*



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

In April - Rotary Aloha "Aina" Day - An Environmental Project

Thanks for such inspiring words **President Beverly**! So fasten your seat belts everyone, and get ready to deliver more service above self! Bring a new person to Rotary each time we meet! **President Beverly** echoed **DG elect Randy Hart's** comment that with the addition of a couple dozen new members we could be the largest club in the state! Now wouldn't that be special, our historic club being the largest club in Hawaii to serve to change lives?!

After a rousing standing ovation, **President Beverly** found a new volunteer to be fined for the first time in her year and before you know it **IPP Nancy Cabral** volunteered to stand in the tradition of **Bob Grimmer** and **Russ Oda** and she made donations to all 3 club foundations. She also found a less willing ally in **PP Steve Handy Jr.** to also make a donation. C'mon **PP Steve "Footlong" Handy**, its only money!

Newbie President Beverly then called upon newbie **President-Elect Connie Ichinose** to lead us in the **4-way Test** of the things we think, say and do. And with that, the bell rang and we were off into the dark and not-so-stormy night. And that's a fact, Jack.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES