

# Rotary Club of Hilo



# Lava Flow



November 19, 2021

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: Helen Hemmes

Photographer: Treena Brefogle

## Opening

**President Beverly Heikes** called the meeting to order promptly at 12 noon, expressing thanks for the great crowd (a legal number!) at our location, White Guava Café, and inviting one of our new members, **Leonard (Len) Woods**, to lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. She thanked greeters **Steve Handy** and **Tim Beatty** and the "great team" **Julie Kron**, **Connie Ichinose**, and **Dee Scott** for their help.

**Steve Handy** greeted us all with "Aloha" and then welcomed **Rick** and **Riki Newkold**, guests of **Kerry Glass**, our speaker for today, **Rita Palma** from the Hawaii Island Home for Recovery (HIHR), plus **Robin Benedict** from Friends of the Children's Justice Center East Hawaii. **Cyrus Johnsen** was the guest of **Tim Beatty**. **Julie Kron** introduced her guest, **Jamie Varize**, with **President Beverly** honoring **Julie** with a "PayDay candy bar," thanks to her supporting the "Each One Bring One" initiative this year. (Later it was noted **Alan Kusunoki**, a past president of this club (but an infrequent attendee because he lives on Oahu now), was also attending.)

**Treena Breyfogle** noted "Thanks for the reminder" that she was photographer today, with **Helen Hemmes** reporter.

## Announcements and Events

**November is Foundation Month**, with "Giving Tuesday" on November 30. Contributions can be made on line or in person today.

**Wally Wong** shared the names of volunteers preparing the turkey and other food for the Thanksgiving Dinner at HIHR on Nov. 25.

**Corey Kawamoto** invited Rotarians to help with the annual Christmas Luncheon at Kamana Senior Center on Dec. 8 (starting at 10:30 a.m.).

Upcoming events include the donation of hygiene gift bags, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, and mock interviews with students.

Signing up now works for the Dec. 3, 2021, **Celebration Gala at Nani Maui Gardens**, with a salute to our membership and service (no cost to members; \$55 for spouses/guests).

**Our next meeting** at White Guava Café is on Dec. 17, with the election of our 2022-2023 Officers & Directors.

**President Beverly** then invited **Kathy Borer** to make a special announcement. She shared a request for financial support for a family whose young adult son passed away, a person who had been in a challenging state since young. Any extra donations not used would be donated to the **Rotary Club Foundation**.

## Let's Celebrate!

**Birthdays today**

**Keith Okamoto**

and later this month **Kerry Glass** and **Malcolm Chun** were shared, along with the **Wedding anniversary** of

**Kerry Glass & Susan Munro** (36 years on Nov. 22)

and **Club anniversary**

(20 years on Nov. 30) of **Stan Fortuna**. "Make it special," **President Beverly** noted.

**President Beverly** shared pertinent information from our Bylaws about deadlines and the process for voting on "Proposed Nominees for 2022-2023 Officers & Board Directors" with an email to be sent before the election on Dec. 17 (should you decide to nominate someone!). She thanked committee volunteers, with all of us present grateful to see the positions and nominees.

## Presentation of Donation Checks

**Brewfest** Committee members (**Treena Breyfogle**, chair, **Bob Hanley** and the **Bob Hanley family**, Past President **Nancy Cabral**, **Tim Beatty**, Foundation Chair and others) were then thanked, with over **\$31,000** raised to support causes. (Thanks for the most recent generous donation, **Nancy**!) We then had the fun of seeing photos taken of **Lisa Rantz**, Executive Director, Hilo Medical Center Foundation, and Rotarians, followed by a second photo of the donation for **Friends of the Children's Justice Center East Hawaii** featuring **Marcia Prose**, President, **Robin Benedict**, Program Coordinator, and Rotarians. **Lisa** has launched an "Access to Care Programs" and noted "the more voices we have" to answer the survey was important. **Robin** noted that funds donated would help provide 300 bags to foster children with various items for comfort and activities along with hygiene projects.

## Happy Dollars!

**Treena Breyfogle** donated to the **Foundation** and shared she had sent an email regarding funding and the listing of donation items for the hygiene bags to be donated to HIHR. So far **\$340** has been raised (thanks **Cindy Boots** and others!) for the purchase of products to be included in decorated bags, with her sharing one by **Helen Hemmes** and five fabulous ones by a friend of **Alberta Dobbe**.

**Gail Takaki** donated to the **Rotary Foundation** and general fund to share the update on students in Interact who turned into Board members, plus others in Interact interacting with the sister club in Japan. The Statewide virtual meeting for 2022 will be held Feb. 11-12.

**Nancy Cabral** gave \$ for the **WADA Foundation**, also sharing its purpose.

**Kerry Glass** gave funds to the **Club Foundation**, the total was \$2 greater than the sum of his age plus 2x the number of years he and **Susan** have been married. (You can do the math if you need to know the total!)

**Mitch Dodo** then gave \$ for his painful experience. He went to the Rotary meeting two weeks ago (felt just fine) and then next day at 4 a.m. despite pain headed for his flight to Honolulu. He's "alive to tell about" his kidney stone challenges, two nights at Queen's Hospital, and the advice he got to drink water...and more water. How painful!

## Program

**Wally Wong**, Community Service director, shared how our club got involved with **Hawaii Home for Recovery** and during the pandemic had Rotarians do weekly cooking on Thursdays. He then introduced our speaker, **Rita Palma**, Executive Director, Hawaii Island Home for Recovery. (Its mission is to provide safe housing to persons in need who desire to live free of alcohol and illegal drugs.)

**Rita Palma** stated she felt blessed to be with the organization since 2002. The not-for-profit helping homeless persons first was located near Garden Exchange with 19 rooms and in 2011 moved to the facility across from St. Joseph's High School at 400 Kapiolani Street with 43 rooms.



### Birthdays:

Randy Hart November 12  
Kari Hoffman November 17  
Keith Okamoto November 19  
Kerry Glass November 22  
Malcolm Chun November 29

### Club Anniversary:

Kathleen McGilvray Nov 01 2013 (08)  
Gene Tao Nov 01 1985 (36)  
Kari Hoffman Nov 02 2000 (21)  
Stan Fortuna Nov 30 2001 (20)

### Wedding Anniversary:

Gay & Chuck Porter Nov 07 1992 (29)  
Gene & Julia Tao Nov 13 1963 (58)  
Reese & Steven Mates Nov 15 2003 (18)  
Susan Munro & Kerry Glass  
Nov 22 1985 (36)

### Announcements:

Dec 3—Delayed 100th Club Anniversary  
Nani Mau Gardens  
Dec. 17—Election of Club Officers/Directors  
White Guava

### 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  
Lava Flow- Genie Phillips  
Greeters- Patti Day  
Executive Director- Kerry Glass

She noted the agency has had a lot of challenges due to the economy and pandemic and that the weekly meal once a week "really helped a lot." Thanks to photos of activities (by **Treena Breyfogle**) we saw the filling of shelves with library books, the landscaping project, the fence that needed painting, and the donation of hygiene bags, and she noted the pictures are "fantastic."

She noted that all residents have had two vaccines so far, with the Health Dept. doing the testing. Donations of items are always welcome, including men's clothing, masks, trash baskets, mops and brooms.

Questions followed. With 43 persons housed, how long can they stay? In general, they can stay up to two years. Only adults can stay, with health and factors of police and hospital activities considered. Some are not ready to leave, especially if they don't have a voucher for housing. When and where can donations be made? **Rita** noted that the office is open with donations always welcome.

At 12:58 p.m., **President Beverly** expressed her thanks to the speaker with lovely leis.

### Closing

**Dan Richards**, a new Rotarian as of Oct. 20, 2021, led us in the **4-Way Test** of the things we think, say, and do, with the fifth item, "Have fun!"

**President Beverly** ended the meeting on time with thanks to all for coming.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES