

Rotary Club of Hilo



LAVA FLOW



January 23, 2018

Reporter: HRH with Thanks to Treena

Around 90 Rotarians from all five East Hawai'i Clubs gathered together at the Grand Naniloa Hotel in the Sandalwood Room, engaging in conversations, dining, and, for some, glancing at the screen displaying photos and information about the speakers.

Speakers included **Steven Solomon**, Senior Annual Giving Officer of The Rotary Foundation (Zones 25 & 26). Also featured was **Beth Garrow**, Major Gifts



Officer (2016), with the caption "Giving is Good." You can guess the theme for the evening was "giving." However, it was photos of **Jane Goodall** and **Desmond Tutu** projected on the screen that peaked the attendees' interest. We know of **Ms. Goodall** and her work with the chimps and **Desmond Tutu's** peace initiatives. But how are chimps connected with Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation?

Assistant Governor **Randy Hart** welcomed all to the meeting around 6 p.m. by introducing the current District Governor, **Nalani Flinn**.



N a l a n i thanked all for attending and recognized the presidents of the Rotary Clubs in East Hawaii – Hilo, Volcano, South Hilo, Hilo Bay, and Pahoa. Four of the five presidents were in attendance. Yes, our president **Steven Handy** was one of them!



Then it was on to the program where the audience was treated to a high-speed journey of Who's Who/how to succeed

through Rotary/how Rotary changes lives/thank you/travel log by fast-talking/under 40, **Steven Solomon**. And we learned how chimps and Rotary International are linked.

Mr. Solomon shared his story of his introduction to Rotary as a young man in the Interact Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove in Illinois. He was awarded a Rotary and an Ambassadorial Scholarship. Through these, he met **Jane Goodall** and **Desmond Tutu** among other high-profile individuals. His involvement in **Ms. Goodall's** global youth organization, Roots and Shoots, developed into a friendship that led to **Dr. Jane Goodall's** participation at Rotary's 100th International Convention.

Somewhere along the way, with a bit of perseverance (there was a mention of being escorted by security out of a lecture being given by **Archbishop Tutu**), **Steven** was privileged to meet **Desmond Tutu**. This came about at the end of a lecture when **Steven** greeted **Desmond Tutu** in Zulu, which led to **Steven** serving as the primary contact for Archbishop **Desmond Tutu** at the Rotary World Peace Symposium.

Steven:Rotary Scholarship:Roots and Shoots:**Jane Goodall**:chimps:Rotary International. So it is a 'weak' link!!

He is the quintessential example of how one event in our lives can lead to another and then to another. And how the willingness to say, "YES, I can do that," a bit of hard work, and being in the right place at the right time can result in doing extraordinary things and meeting extraordinary people. The listing of places he has been (Chimp Sanctuary in Uganda – when he was 21 or 22 years old, Youth Day in Taiwan, Rotary Convention in

England, the Dalai Lama's Peace Summit in Canada, the District Conference in Alaska, USA, and Desmond Tutu's 80th Birthday Celebration in South Africa, the Piyali Learning Center near Calcutta, India, to list a few) and the photos of his interactions with world leaders were fascinating but also compelling evidence that Rotary International is truly international and makes a difference in people's lives. The Rotary Foundation, he noted, puts minds together to solve problems all over the world. It's an effective, ethical, global, transformational way of "changing lives, like you changed mine."

After a brief break, the program



continued with **Beth Garrow** presenting the nuts and bolts of the Rotary Foundation. **Ms. Garrow**, a certified fundraiser by training, shared her background as a Rotarian in the Rotary Club of Evanston, Illinois, noting that she was one of three women first introduced to her Rotary Club back in 1989. She has been employed with TRF since June 2016. She noted the Foundation celebrated its centennial last year, raising and outstanding \$304 million. While the "nuts and bolts" are not as entertaining as a show with pictures and popcorn, they are necessary to ensure that donations to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) are carefully tended. Very little of the gifts go to overhead; 91 percent goes to programs --water and sanitation, peace and

Birthdays:

Anna Liu January 9
Bobby Stivers-Apiki January 17
Gail Takaki January 17
"The Don" Chu January 19
"Mitch" Dodo January 19
Barb Garcia January 20

Club Anniversary:

Masao Amako January 1, 2004 (14)
Raymond McPherson January 1, 2004 (14)
Eric Anderson January 6, 2017 (1)
Judy Gibson January 13, 2006 (12)
Bob Hanley January 14, 2011 (7)

Wedding Anniversary:

Mitch & Noriko Roth January 13 (27)

Announcements:

December 22 - No Meeting
December 29 - No Meeting
January 5 - Meeting

Rotary Club of Hilo Board of Directors 2017 - 2018:

- President - Steve Handy, Jr.
- Past President - Randy Hart
- President Elect - Keith Okamoto
- Vice President - Mitch Dodo
- Co-Secretary - Treena Breyfogle
- Co-Secretary - Jan Tanouye
- Treasurer - Corey Kawamoto
- Sergeant at Arms - Shane Okimoto
- Rotary Foundations - Malcolm Chun
- Membership - Connie Ichinose
- Public Relations - Marcia Prose
- International Service - Stew Hussey
- Community Service - Wally Wong
- Vocational Service - Bobby Stivers-Apiki
- Club Service - Kui Costa
- New Generations - Gail Takaki

Foundation Chairpersons:

- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation - Tim Beatty
- The Rotary Foundation - Malcolm Chun
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation - Mitchell Dodo

conflict resolution, and basic education and literacy.

Ways to give range from simple to complex, including cash, stocks, IRA charitable roll-overs, and donor advised funds (minimum of \$10,000 in the USA only) and more, with professionals at TRF willing to help you—and provide recognition using the 4-Way Test as a guideline—should you so desire.

Funds through The Rotary Foundation go to the Annual Fund, Term and Restricted Fund, Polio Plus, and the Endowment Fund. Major gifts (\$10,000+) and Estate Gifts (of \$25,000+) matter too! The Permanent Fund of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International recognizes Rotarians as benefactors for a gift (pledge via will/trust) of \$1,000; for \$5,000 a donor becomes a member of the Bequest Society. Whew, that's a lot of funding!!!

Why give? Because the funding makes a difference in the lives of others. Ultimately our own Rotary District benefits from funds given annually via matching grants available for international projects. "Donors," **Ms. Garrow** noted, "don't give TO Rotary...they give THROUGH Rotary!" as evidenced by the fact that District 5000 currently has 28 grants in 14 countries. In contrast to "obligatory" gifts, giving can be "joyous" -- as lives are positively affected in 147 countries.

The program ended with a few questions and answers and the sharing of resource documents to be distributed to each Club president. One of the questions pertained to giving to the Youth Foundation.

Yes, TRF has the Peace Fellow Scholarships for either a two-year program or a 3-month certificate program.

At a local level, District 5000 supports the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation by providing scholarships (\$5000) to students from local high schools, with each Club currently getting to distribute a scholarship. (That guideline may change in the future, pending on available resources).

For the Rotary Club of Hilo, gifts to the Hilo Rotary Club Foundation help to support our Club's local programs.

All in all, it was a great evening, though vegetarians probably went home hungry.



Photographer: **Kerry Glass**

