

Rotary Club of Hilo



LAVA FLOW



May 11, 2017

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: Tammy

An Extraordinary Merriment:

The meeting held on Thursday, 5/11/17, was no ordinary club meeting. It was a very special event that celebrated our distinguished "GOLDEN GUYS" of the



Rotary Club of Hilo, **Bobby Fujimoto, Jimmy Yagi, & Russ Oda**. The meeting venue was just as exceptional since it was held at the Rotary Park a.k.a.

Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Park. Attending members were greeted by the sunlit afternoon, a gentle kiss of the ocean breeze, two Rotarian beauties (**Cindy Boots & Connie Ichinose**), & a tasty lunch courtesy of Subway?.



According to President - **Randy Hart**, the Rotary Park was initiated 14 years ago, in 2003, when hard working members of the Rotary Club took the lead to invest sweat equity and clean up the once squalid park; hence its alias, Rotary Park. In fact, most recently, club members took the time to tame the canopied lauhala tree that stands tall & proud overlooking the water's edge. Nonetheless, it is this kind of action that is reflective of the very heart & soul of the club & its collective theme of **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**.



With this in mind, the **Rotary Club of Hilo** is proud to identify and acknowledge three very special club members whose combined years of service tally up to over 160 years of loyal Rotary experience. Each of these celebrated members uniquely contributed to Rotary in their own particular way.

According to **President Randy**, **Bobby Fujimoto's** pecuniary contributions allowed the club to extend its service and aid both locally & internationally. **Jimmy Yagi's** basketball prowess has afforded him the inimitable opportunity to impress core values and work ethics upon the youth of Hawaii. For **Jimmy**, basketball was used as a tool to teach commitment, dedication, & hard work. As for **Russ Oda**, he was



christened by **President Randy** as the "young one" in the group; however, don't be fooled by his youth because **Russ** has architecturally put his stamp around our quaint town of Hilo. Aside from designer talents, in 1970, **Russ** took on a key role in founding the **Rotary Club of South Hiroshima**. With this, **President Randy** acknowledged that his years of service as a Rotarian is not quite half of these honorable men. Distribution of the Certificates by **Mayor - Harry Kim**: In addition to the tasty lunch & the brief introduction by **President Randy**, it was a delight to have **Mayor - Harry Kim** present the certificates honoring each of our notable Rotarians.

Mayor Kim announced that, the day prior, he attended the very first Japan-Hawaii Economic Summit held at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows. This assembly identified the special tie between Hawaii & Japan; awakening a hope that the United States, as a whole, could establish an analogous relationship with the world. The governors of Hiroshima accredited Hawaii to being the gateway for the rest of the world. **Mayor Kim** verbalized that it would have been fitting for these three men to have attended the summit... Hmm... Let's keep this in mind for next conference.

Mayor Kim avowed that it is our goal to leave this place that we call home a better place; however, he admitted that one can only take a look around & see that these gentlemen have done just that... "They damn well are leaving this place a better place!" These men have dedicated their time, talents, & monies to achieve this goal.

According to **Mayor Kim**, **Bobby** was well above his time; when he was 40 years of age, he thought that **Bobby** was 60. As for **Jimmy**, **Mayor Kim** hated that guy. Years back, he (**Mayor Kim**) was asked to play senior basketball, & prior to the game, he told himself that he could run **Jimmy** to the ground. It was his intent to guard against **Jimmy**; however, after witnessing **Jimmy's** bad boy basketball skills, he decided that he wasn't going to guard him... **Jimmy** must put his basketball money where his mouth is at? Moreover, **Mayor Kim** went on to say that you couldn't even buy a ticket when **Jimmy** coached at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Lastly, **Mayor Kim** affirmed that our



notorious **Russ Oda** always does his best to make Hilo a better place... He sure does, especially with his jesting!!

Following the distribution of the certificates, The Don - **Newton Chu** alluded to the great friendship that our club has with Mayor - **Harry Kim** & our long standing history. He noted that during **Harry's** first tenure as mayor, the Bay Front soccer field pavilion was erected as a result of our club's partnership with the county, & at no cost to the county. Furthermore, the **Rotary Club of Hilo** will help enable **Mayor Kim** & the County of Hawaii to secure a peaceful solution for the Mauna Kea project... I Mua **Rotary Club of Hilo** ?

Thank you **Mayor Kim** for your time & dedication to our club. Your friendship & continued partnership is greatly appreciated. We look forward to future endeavors as a collaborative team.

Closing:

In conclusion of the meeting, **President Randy** identified that as a tribute to their accomplishments and benevolence as club members, three palms were



planted in each of their honor & a special plaque was made for these three gentlemen, **Bobby Fujimoto, Jimmy Yagi, & Russ Oda**.

Additionally, a large handicap accessible bench will be situated in the park in memory of the late **Akira Watanabe**.

We are proud members of Rotary. Members of the **Rotary Club of Hilo** continues to strive to provide charitable services to advance peace within our community & around the world. From this commemorative event, we recognize the unique talents that each member brings to the club. As a member of this club, continue to lend your time & talents... Your efforts are deeply appreciated & do not go unnoticed. Mahalo to each & every one of you for choosing to be a part of something special, the **Rotary Club of Hilo**.

Birthdays:

Steve Handy May 2
Stew Hussey May 2
Connie Ichinose May 5
Patty Terada May 13
Richard Johnson May 16
Anita Tatum May 24
Donnie Demuth May 25
Ian Birnie May 28

Club Anniversary:

Kerry Glass May 1, 2009 (8)
Susan Munro May 1, 2009 (8)
Ian Kitagawa May 12, 2006 (1)
Stan Fortuna May 20, 2016 (1)

Wedding Anniversary:

Toshi & Kahori Aoki May 1 (34)
Nancy & Al Cabral May 1 (28)
Gerard & Kathleen Carter May 1 (33)
Steve & Shari Handy May 3 (19)
Barb Garcia & Eric Bowman May 10(9)
Connie & Galen Ichinose May 17 (2)
Joe & Diana Hanley May 26 (33)
Jen & Stefan Tanouye May 29 (12)

Announcements:

May 19- Michelle Carvalho
Partners in Development
May 26 - No Meeting

Rotary Club of Hilo Board of Directors 2016 - 2017:

- President – **Randy Hart**
- Past President – **Wally Wong**
- President Elect – **Steve Handy**
- Vice President – **Mitch Dodo**
- Secretary – **Treana Breyfogle**
- Treasurer – **Corey Kawamoto**
- Sergeant at Arms – **Dirk Yoshina**
- Rotary Foundations – **Kerry Glass**
- Membership – **Connie Ichinose**
- Public Relations – **Marcia Prose**
- International Service – **Stew Hussey**
- Community Service – **Reese Mates**
- Vocational Service – **Cindy Boots**
- Club Service – **Kui Costa**
- New Generations – **Gail Takaki**

Foundation Chairpersons:

- Hilo Rotary Club Foundation – **Nina Decker**
- The Rotary Foundation – **Kerry Glass**
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation – **Mitchell Dodo**



Photographer: **Stew Hussey**

