

Rotary Club of Hilo



LAVA FLOW



March 3, 2017

Chartered: December 1, 1920

Reporter: the "Don"

It was a typical beautiful sunny day in Hilo, Hawaii, and in Washington, DC it was **RUSSEL ODA DAY** in case you lived under a rock. As we have done for over 95 years, Hilo Rotarians gathered together for fellowship and *"Service above Self"* in the quaint Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

Greeted with a smile, and warm handshakes by Greeters **Helen "Mushroom" Hemmes** (she does have a mushroom named after her!) and **Bobby "Mc" Stivers**. We Hilo Rotarians happily accepted our badges and prepared to enjoy the feast prepared by the chefs of the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

Our "veteran" fearless 96th President **Randy "not Gary" Hart** asked Past President **Wally "Hokulea" Wong** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. God Bless America! Da Prez reminded everyone that our Club's theme for the year is *"If you want to travel fast, travel alone, if you want to travel farther, travel together."*

Also, under the leadership of Rotary International President **John Germ** our Rotary International theme is *"Rotary Serving Humanity."*

Da Prez then brought up **Helen "Mushroom" Hemmes** to introduce our guests. Visiting from Rotary Club of Hilo Bay was **Pete "not Roberta" Mueller** and **Art "not Barry" Taniguchi**. Visiting from Honolulu were guests of **RUSSELL "Body" ODA**, spouse **Aki Oda**, daughter **Roseanne Ching**, and grandson **Riley Ching**. Also joining us were **Russell's** old Rotary friends and past-presidents **Harris "Huh" Hirata** and **Eugene "Chairman" Tao**. **Gail "Furukaki" Takaki** brought her husband

Gordon Takaki. **Malcolm "not X" Chun** brought **Christian Fisher**. Honorary Member **Mayor Harry Kim** sent **Roy Takemoto** to pay tribute to the **RUSSELL** dude. **Susan "not Glass" Munro** brought soon to be member, **Cathy "50 shades" Gray**.

To speed things up **da Prez** got right down to business and called up **Susan "not Glass" Munro** to introduce our newest member of the Rotary Club of Hilo, **Cathy "50 shades" Gray**. Welcome **Cathy!** You are lucky number 85 (don't worry "50 Shades" is not your official nickname) and we are lucky to have you!

Da Prez thanked **Cindy "not Steelers" Boots** and **Stew "Navy Seal" Hussey** for last week's lava flow. And also mahalo to our fearless lava flow coordinator **Tammy "Sterling" Silva** and **Ed "not Portia" Hara** for the publishing. Also, we need more lava flow writers, so contact **Tammy** and sign up today!

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Announcements!

Hey we were real busy a couple weeks ago when **Past Prez Wally "Hokulea" Wong** led us all in a cleanup at Laupahoehoe Point Park. We partnered with the Interact Club at Laupahoehoe Charter School. It was great to see **Da Prez Randy** and first lady out there, as well as **Trina "da minah" Breyfogel**, **Wally "Hokulea" Wong**, **the Don** and others.

Don't forget the upcoming **Relay for Life** with our **Rotaract Club** on March 10-11.

Also there is a **District Assembly** for all of you true blue Rotarian Officer types on March 18 at Kamehameha Schools. We

cover your lunch so contact in-coming Prez **Steve "Subway" Handy** to get more details.

On March 19th there is the **Hilo Marathon**, and the **Rotaract Club** needs some volunteers.

And finally, don't forget the upcoming **Mardi Gras Social** at Restaurant Kenichi on Thursday evening March 9! Be there or be "Laisse les bons temps rouler!"

Corey "Po" Kawamoto announced the upcoming **Chile Cookoff** at the AJA Hall near the Muni Golf Course on March 23. Do we like to party or what?!

See **Kerry "not Munro" Glass** about the April 1 **Hilo Heart Walk**.

See **Wally "Hokulea" Wong** about the April 8 **Laupahoehoe Music Festival** for their **Interact club**.

Finally on April 15 there is the **Rotary Club Cleanup**. Whew, talk about Service above Self! Go Hilo Rotarians!

HOW HAPPY ARE YOU?

Boy was the club happy, especially about it being **RUSSELL "Body" ODA DAY!**

Mike "skinny" Myers was happy he rode 50 miles on his bike.

Naomi "travelin'" Menor was happy that **Russ "Body" Oda** was her first boyfriend in Hilo, or something like that.

Helen "Mushroom" Hemmes was happy for the Girls Day candy that **Gail "Furukaki" Takaki** brought.

Marcia "Palace" Prose was happy that Taiko drummers were coming to the Palace Theater.

Chris "not Barbara" Tamm was happy he was leaving the USA to go to Panama and Peru.



Birthdays:

Bob Fujimoto March 6

Helene Tajiri March 25

Club Anniversary:

Cindy Boots March 7, 1997 (20)

Tom Brown March 17, 1989 (28)

Naomi Menor March 18, 1988 (29)

Tammy Silva March 23, 2012 (5)

Chris Tamm March 24, 1995 (22)

Helene Tajiri March 25, 1994 (23)

Donnie Demuth March 27, 2015 (2)

Gail Takaki March 28, 2008 (9)

Wedding Anniversary:

Sam & Sandy Wallis March 1 (48)

Charlene & Amos Meyers March 7 (46)

Mitchell & Karen Dodo March 12 (12)

Jim Cheney & Xia Ying Sun March 18 (12)

Jerry & Sandy Watanabe March 19 (28)

Helene & Harvey Tajiri March 23 (49)

Announcements:

March 9 - Mardi Gras Mixer - Kenichi's

March 10 - No Meeting

March 17 - Club Assembly

March 18 - District Assembly

March 23 - Chili Cook-Off - AJA Hall

March 24 - No Meeting

March 31 - Dr. Lisa Keith - Rapid Ohia Death

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 - **Lisa Rantz**
- The Rotary Foundation - **Kerry Glass**
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation - **Mitchell Dodo**

Pat "AD" Guillen was happy the UHH Vulcans athletic program got an "A+" and that the Softball season was about to begin.



Harris "Huh" Hirata was happy to be back at the club to honor his old pal, **Russ "Body" Oda**.



Jim "Gemini" Kennedy was happy that the **RUSSELL** man designed his Gemini telescope and also helped design the Gemini South buildings in Chile.

Gail "Furukaki" Takaki was happy that the **ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS "RYLA"** was such a success that she thanked a whole list of people including but not limited to **Pat Aiona Cars, Steve "Subway" Handy, Mary "da Bookie" Bicknell, Shane "da Rev" Okimoto, Jennifer "K&J" Tanouye, Bobby "Mc" Stivers, Judy "not Mel" Gibson, Eric "not Pamela" Anderson**, and others. Whew, sorry if I missed you, I couldn't write that fast.



Eugene "Chairman" Tao was happy to be back at the club to honor the **RUSSELL** man.

Art "not Barbara" Taniguchi was happy to be here to thank the **RUSSELL** man for all that he has done for the community, including his work with the Japanese tea ceremony community.



Joe "Mr. Ford" Hanley was happy to honor his first drinking buddy, **RUSSELL**.



Jennifer "K&J" Tanouye was happy for **RYLA**.



Lorraine "BJ" Shin was happy for **RUSSELL** as well.

Stew "Navy Seal" Hussey was very happy to go on and on about the greatness of **Rotary Foundation** and **Rotary Values**. His speech



was so moving we let him speak for about 20 minutes about it, at least it felt like it. Thanks **Stewster!**

Biff "not Jim" Kennedy was happy to donate a ton of money to the **Rotary Foundation** in the name of the Salvation Army, the Hawaii Island Food Basket and the Friends of the Children's Justice Center. Wow, thanks **Biffster!**



Mayor's assistant **Roy Takemoto** came up to quickly congratulate the **RUSSELL** dude for all that he has done for the County of Hawaii during his 88 years in Hilo. Whew!



And then we introduced to Past President **Tom "da Bus" Brown** who treated us to a fantastic video program created by our very own **Trina "da minah" Breyfogle**. This short video summed up the amazing career of our very own legend, Badge #3 **RUSSELL ODA!**



Shigeyasu Oda, fondly referred to as "**Russell**" or simply "**Russ**," was born in Hilo to parents **Shigemmu K. Oda** of Paukaa and **Tsuruyo Yamamoto Oda** of Hilo.

He married wife **Akiko** in 1952 and they have one daughter, **Rosanne A. Oda-Ching** who is a school counselor on Oahu.

A graduate of Hilo High, **Russ** attended the University of Michigan and later Woodbury College before being drafted by the Army in 1951. He trained at the Army Officer Candidate School, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Army Officer Finance School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana and was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant in 1954.

After leaving the military, **Russ** went to the University of Oregon to study Architecture under the G.I. Bill. He became interested in building and architecture having been exposed to this line of work through his fathers contracting business,

Photographer: **Bob Hanley**

S. K. Oda, Ltd. A part-time summer job in Honolulu with **Ken Roehrig**, AIA (his fathers friend) inspired him to pursue architecture as a career. It was at the University of Oregon that he met his future business partner **Harrell McCarty** who was assigned to an adjacent drafting table in one of his classes. **Russ** earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1959 and after gaining valuable job experience in Oregon he returned to Hilo in 1962 to work in the family business as a designer.



In 1967 **Russ** and **Harrell** established **Oda/McCarty Architects Limited** and in 2004 merged with **Durrant Media Five**.

Russ retired in 2009 but remains active as a consultant with **Fleming & Associates**.

The prolific work of **Oda/McCarty** is visible throughout the Big Island. Many familiar buildings designed include Hilo Main Post Office, Waiakea High School, Central Pacific Bank, Bank of Hawai'i Kona, Kealakehe High School, Shinmachi Tsunami Memorial, W.M. Keck Observatory Headquarters, County of Hawaii - One Pauahi, Waikoloa Elementary School, Hale Anuenue, Mauna Lani Golf Club House, HPM Building Supply, Big Island Candies, Hilo Judiciary Complex, Gemini North and South, and many more.

Their work has been recognized by the American Institute of Architects and published in many national magazines, including Sunset Magazine and Los Angeles Times. His very first project in Hilo (and one of his personal favorites), the Wailoa Center, was designed for the Department of Land and Natural Resources in 1970 because it was a creative process that incorporated many natural elements.

Russ was also honored for his work at the White House by **First Lady Rossyln Carter**.

Russ has a long professional and civic relationship with UH Hilo. His firm designed nearly all of the astronomy support facilities in university park, including the Imiloa Astronomy Center, Joint Astronomy Center, Subaru Telescope and the UH Institute of Astronomy. He has also served on the UH

Hilo Advisory Committee for 8 years during a period of tremendous growth for the university.

In 2008 **Russ** and his wife **Aki** established a need based endowed scholarship at UH Hilo in memory of his grandmother **Kem Oda**. **Kem Oda** was born into poverty near Fukuoka, Japan and was not formerly educated. She immigrated to Hawaii in 1898 and worked in the Paukaa sugar cane fields with her husband **Chujiro Oda**. She also raised **Russ** from infancy through age 16. It was not until age 63 that she was able to learn how to read and write Japanese Katakana with the help of her grandson **Russ**. **Keru Oda** understood that a good education would lead to opportunities for future generations. Today her descendents are successful engineers, teachers, architects, doctors, bankers, nurses and realtors. Through this scholarship, the **Oda** family honors her legacy and helps others who need assistance in pursuing their dreams.

Da Bus then called up **Russ'** daughter **Roseanne Ching**, who gave us a short "Did you know" summary of how wonderful her father is. He is kind, happy and gracious and most of all a loving man who currently serves as the caregiver for **Aki**. We then heard from **Russ'** grandson **Riley Ching**, who left us with **Russ'** most favorite sayings; **"Smile."**



"It costs nothing, but creates much. It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None are so rich they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits.

It creates happiness, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friends.

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged,

borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no earthly good to anyone until it is given away."

Ah dear **Russell**, so true, and you are so true to us for sharing your smile with us at Rotary for all of these years. We love you buddy!

Da Prez then asked the man of the hour, **RUSSELL "BODY" ODA** to lead us in the **4-way test**, and then we shared cake with the **RUSSELL** dude and then we were out of there. And that's a fact Jack.

