



# TIKI WA'HA ROTARY CLUB OF ALA MOANA



Lend a Hand

JUNE 10, 2004

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTE "WHAT DOES ROTARY MEAN TO ME?"

RICH COURSON

By Sam Shenkus



I was born in Danville, Illinois and raised in Rossville, a small town of 1,400 about 150 miles south of Chicago. During my junior and senior years at Rossville High School, I had a lot of dental work done on many cavities by Doc Bush, our hometown dentist. Doc Bush was always recommending dentistry as a great career, but I had always been interested in architecture. Doc was very persistent, gave me a tour of his lab and stressed how he created crowns, dentures and bridges. I was starting to get interested, and when I found out that architects required strong math skills at a career fair, I reevaluated my architecture goals. I was never excited about math, but I always enjoyed science; so when I graduated with 51 fellow seniors from Rossville High School, I attended Eastern Illinois University majoring in pre-dental. I kept thinking something else would generate my interest, but I finished the three year program and went on to the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in Chicago. I graduated in 1969 with my DDS, Doctor of Dental Surgery, and joined the Army as a dentist with the rank of Captain. My first tour of duty was at the Letterman Hospital dental residency program in San Francisco. After one year, I was transferred to the Bangkok Army Hospital for three years. In 1973, I was transferred to a two-year residency in prosthodontics at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. In 1975, I transferred to Fort Lee in Virginia and practiced as a Prosthodontist for the Army until 1978. I left the Army, traveled around the world and then based on strong recommendations from old Bangkok friends living on the Big Island, I came to Honolulu in 1979. During my first four years in Hawaii, I gained experience and opened my own practice in 1983. By 1985, my business was growing and my Bank of Hawaii banker in Kaimuki invited me to his West Honolulu Rotary lunch meeting at the old Ranchhouse. I was impressed with the high ideals of Rotary, but I needed a more convenient location and asked my racquetball buddy Marty Zais about his Rotary meeting. Marty was a fellow dentist and when I joined him for lunch at the Ala Moana Club, I immediately felt comfortable and welcome. I became a Rotarian in 1985, but I'll never forget my indoctrination with Ed Liu and discovering that meetings were weekly, not monthly commitments. In 1991, my bride to be Tina, came back into my life after her dental school graduation and residency and we married in 1996. After all these years, I have come to realize that the more involved I became in Rotary, the more rewarding Rotary has become to me personally. With all my traveling, living in Bangkok and learning the cultures of the world, I have come a long way from Rossville and especially enjoy the international aspects of Rotary. As a Rotarian, I can proudly support my community, the community of the world and I look forward to many more years of service with my fellow Rotarians.

ALA MOANA HOTEL

- LUNCH -

THURSDAY NOON

## JUNE PROGRAMS

17th

Levi McClain  
Soy Milk Distribution

24th

Installation Dinner  
for  
Milton Miyakawa  
and officers



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Rotary Year 2003-2004  
President Tony Wong  
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Vice President Clayton Wong  
Past President Kristine Blancq  
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Treasurer Kevin McCrary  
Sargent at Arms MaryAnn Berry  
Club Svc. Glenn Tsumura  
International Svc. Bob Hayashi  
Community Svc. Glenn Tsumura  
Vocational Svc. Candice Naito  
Club Service Milton Miyakawa  
Fellowship Com. Bridgette Adams  
New Generations Clayton Wong  
Membership & PR Sam Shenkus  
Attendance Wally Young  
Fund Raising Dave Berry  
Fnds (Rotary & HRYF) Rich  
Courson  
Indoctrination Dick Bento  
Club Historian Ethel Ching



**Happy 32<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to the Rotary Club of Ala Moana! Yes, its again our anniversary, and President Tony did the honors by “cutting the cake”.**

**The Four-Way Test**  
*Of the things we Think, Say and Do*

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



On the regular note, Drusilla Tanaka and Carol Tom from the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center visited our club. The center services seniors (persons 60 or older) from Ward Avenue to Ft. Shafter, one of the poorest areas in urban Honolulu. The center also makes “out of district exceptions” in return for 300 hours of community center services performed over a 3 year period. As both Drusilla and Carol put it, Lanakila Center is the “best kept secret in Honolulu”.

The center annually receives about \$123,000 from the State, however they still have a \$75,000 annual deficit. To make up this difference, the center members fundraise and search for matching grant opportunities. They have a “Meals on Wheels” program at the center, the members can get a well balanced lunch for \$1.25. The center also has many programs, crafts, cultural, educational, community service, etc.; Many are free, but some are at a nominal cost.

Carol said the member’s motto is: “We learn, we play, and we serve.” She added that the members have places to go to, things to do, and people to see, and the members lead active, productive lives as long as possible. In addition, the members have a great deal of pride, dignity, and independence. In closing, both Drusilla and Carol stated that the center and its members are low maintenance people with simple needs – Just keep their center open!

The center is open on weekdays from 7:00 AM – 3:45 PM, and is also open 2 Saturdays per month. For additional information, please call Catholic Charities Hawaii Elderly Services – Oahu Office (ph: 595-0077) between the hours of 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM, on weekdays. Please also visit their website at [www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org), for more information.

## **KEEP THE DATE OPEN**

**Intallation Dinner  
Thursday June 24th  
Hale Koa Hotel  
6:00 P.M.**

**No luncheon meeting that date.  
More details are on the way.**

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**With Regrets: I intended to be at the Installation Dinner; However it is on Thursday and I have Liquor Commission hearings on that day. However, I expect to soon be able to rejoin you for the luncheon meetings. Thanks to you who have made it possible for me to contiuue to do the Tiki Wa'Ha. Gene Carson**