President Connie Kraus welcomed members and guests to the 2,833rd meeting of the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor where we look toward the future, keep our hearts in the present, and Reach within to Embrace Humanity!

Providing our inspiration was Bruce Fink, inducted May 4, 1998 and sponsored by John Scudder.

Leading us in the pledge of allegiance was Gene Kraus, inducted March 29, 2004 and sponsored by Bob Deibler.

Our song leader today was Jeff Deer, inducted August 1, 1981 sponsored by Herb Robisch. Jeff led us in singing a rousing Jingle Bells.

Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Kim Moore welcomed Current District 5000 Leadership: Donna McLaughlin, Interact Chair; Kim Moore, RYLA Co-Coordinator Oahu; Bruce Fink, HRYF Board Member; Harvey Gray, District Newsletter. Rotarian Guests within District 5000: Alan Lloyd (Windward). Guest Speaker: Lani Almanza.

Bruce Fink introduced our military guest, Marcos A. Banda, CS2 (SW) USN stationed at Pearl Harbor. He entered the Navy in February, 2004 and his Assignments have been: Boot Camp, Great Lakes; CS “A” School, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas; Cook On Watch, Watch Captain, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN 69 Norfolk, VA;
Watch Captain, Records Keeper, USS Mobile Bay CG 53 Yokosuka, Japan; He was stationed at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor in January, 2009 where he was a Watch Captain and ADMIN PO in the Silver Dolphin Bistro Galley. He has just completed an 18 month Tour in IRAQ and will be reporting for duty on the USS Makin Island LHD8, home ported in San Diego. Marcos was born October 24, 1983, in El Paso, Texas. He is studying at the American Military University and is single.

CELEBRATIONS

Member Inductions: John Doty, inducted Dec. 12, 1985 was sponsored by Robert Clark. Member Birthday: George Topic, Dec. 11, 1937; we all sang “Happy Birthday” to George. Member Wedding Anniversary: Steve and Junko Dyer, December 14th. Spouse Birthday: Honey Jean Katsarsky, December 14th.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


HAPPY BUCKS

Bill Bow, $20 to the Club, he apologized for not attending the Heroes Luncheon due to an important meeting with a client. Bee Clark, $5 to the Club, “Go Packers”. John Doty, $20 to the Club, for Sam Heard who covered for him at the Egg Nog table during the Heroes Luncheon. Bruce Fink, $20 to HRYF, this is his last meeting in 2011. Les Hunkele, $20 to the Foundation for being back from his Seoul trip, it is not snowing here. Hooray! John Mihlbauer, $5 to the Club, for the completion of Dudley’s trip. Kim Moore, $20 to the Club, for being OBE (Overcome By Events) at work and thanks to Ernie for covering for her at the Seniors luncheon. Doug Taylor, $20 to the Rotary Foundation, because it is great to see Donna. George Topic, $5 to the Foundation, he is thankful to Gene for finding his name tag. Lauren Tolentino, $5 to the Club, she is happy that everyone has made her feel so welcome.

Jeff Deer announced that by a majority vote, the slate of Officers and Directors for 2012-2013 was approved.

It was a week of many Rotary activities that focused on what we do best: making a difference in our community.

President Connie thanked everyone involved in making the Heroes Luncheon a success, Lauren Tolentino and Harvey for creating the certificates, Willa Gardner for greeting each Hero with a kukui nut lei, Gene and Lauren for doing a great job at the reception desk, Augie Rey for entertaining us during lunch, Jeff and Steve for their reading of the bios, Pat Middleton for her beautiful centerpieces, Sam Heard for serving the Eggnog, and John McLaughlin for taking the photos.

John Doty, announced that Pearl Harbor Swirls will be held Saturday, March 3rd. The committee is gearing up to jump in. Solicitation letters for the auction will be sent to everyone soon after the holidays. A Save the Date flier will be ready soon for members to email to invite their friends and everyone else to attend the fundraiser.

Seniors Christmas Luncheon Chairman, Ernie Anderson, reported that on Friday, December 9th the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor came together again as one to feed over 75 senior citizens, English language students and staff at the Susanna Wesley Community Center in Kalihi. This yearly project has been going on for over 40 years, according to club historians! This is one of those projects that requires very little club money as our members come together to contribute, money, food, and of course, their time.

Lopaka Brown provided the entertainment again this year. He does such a good job at getting the seniors to dance, sing and just have a good ol’ time! He was there for well over 3 hours. This year he refused to take any remuneration as a thank you for the support we gave him when his guitars were stolen.

The buffet of holiday foods was impressive; roast turkey, baked ham,
mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, rice, salad, green bean casserole, desserts including pies, haupia pie, red velvet and carrot cupcakes and of course, juice and water. Our turkeys were donated by C&S Wholesale Grocers. Rotary friend Thelma Halemano roasted the turkeys, baked the hams, made the mashed potatoes, dressing and gravy and delivered it all to the Center.

We invited five Interactor Club members from the Farrington H.S. to help us with the set-up, serving and clean-up. They were terrific in mingling with the Kupuna and making them feel loved. Mahalo to: Rita, Courtney, Jonah, Aric and Audrey. They really are good kids.

Our Rotarian volunteers and food donors who deserve a huge Mahalo are:

Gene and Connie Kraus, John and Donna McLaughlin, Ernie and Pat Anderson, Pat Middleton and friend Craig Hara, Will Gardner and daughter Nay, Sam Heard, Doug Taylor’s assistant Anita, Jeff Sarver, Stella Kimura, Bill Bow, Ellie Kaanaana, Raymond Noh.

Keiki Eye screening took place on December 8, 2011, at Aiea Elementary School. Only fifteen students of thirty had permission to take the eye tests, and a few were found to have a problem seeing the tests. The feedback from the teachers about this project is very positive. This is truly a worthwhile project.

Shirley Robinson thanks all the Rotarian’s who volunteered their time for this important service to the third graders, Pat Middleton, Craig Hara, Connie Kraus, Gene Kraus, Bill Bow, Sam Heard, Anita (Doug’s assistant), Willa Gardner, Jeff Sarver, Debbie Deibler, Alan Lloyd, and Shirley. Last but not least, thank you to Dr. Okamura, the eye doctor, who took time
out of his busy schedule to monitor the exams. Alan Lloyd and Debbie Deibler read to the some of children who were waiting for their eye exams.

Jeff Deer introduced Lani Almanza of the American Cancer Society. She is the Regional Director of Development for the American Cancer SociPacific, Inc.

Lani began her career with the American Cancer Society 6 years ago while her youngest son, Jacob, was terminally ill from brain cancer. She was born and raised in Hawaii, received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Communication from the University of Hawaii at Manoa focusing on Organizational Training and Development. Prior to coming to the American Cancer Society, Lani's professional experience included education, ranging from preschool to adults, retail management, consulting for personal and professional development. She is married to Joaquin Almanza, is a mother of four and grandmother of three with one more due to arrive any day.

The AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY – Lani’s presentation centered on the four ways in which the American Cancer Society helps people:

Stay well – cancer prevention and early detection, such as campaigns to quit smoking, information on cancer screenings or how to live a healthier life style.

Get well (treatments) – helping to understand and “navigate” cancer treatments including transportation to/from treatments as well as a place to live while away from home for treatments.

Find cures – assisting in cancer research breakthroughs for medications and prevention tests, as the largest private funder for cancer research.

Fight back (legislation) – lobby lawmakers and communities for laws and funds for these purposes.

The biggest effort is on helping people get well. The Society is in receipt of many requests for research funds but cannot fund all of them. The Society seeks private donations, as well as volunteers.

President Connie thanked Lani for her presentation and asked her to sign a children’s book, How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss, which will be donated to Aiea Elementary School in her honor.

Les Hunkele led us in the Four-Way-Test.