



# August 27, 2012

## THE CHANNEL MARKER

### Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor

Celebrating 62 Years of Service!

#### IN THE WAKE MEETING REPORT Aug 20, 2012

#### CALL TO ORDER

President **Doug Taylor** welcomed members and guests to the 2860<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor where we pursue *Peace Through Service*.



*Jeff Deer*

*Doug Taylor*

*George Topic*

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Jeef Deer**, a member since August 1, 1981 and sponsored by **Herb Robish**. President **Doug Taylor**, a member since February 13, 1984 and sponsored by **George Topic**, gave an inspirational quote for the day “People with many interests live, not only longest, but happiest”

**George Topic**, who was inducted on February 6, 1967 and sponsored by **Wally Backus**, led us in singing “God Bless of America”

#### RECOGNITION

Sergeant-at Arms **Stefanie Wilson** welcomed distinguished guests: **Harvey Gray** (District Newsletter) Rotarian Guests Within District 5000: **Alan Lloyd**- Windward (Calabash Member).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“I CAN” donators: **Stefanie Wilson** and **Alan Lloyd**

#### HAPPY BUCKS

**Les Hunkele**, \$20, reunited with a cousin who used the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor website to locate him. **Stefanie Wilson**, \$20 for successful travels to Santa Barbara, CA for a great teachers seminar and Boston, MA for Academy of Management Conference. **Stefanie** also happy about the new UH West Oahu campus located in Kapolei that

#### Rotary International [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

President ..... Sakuji Tanaka  
**District 5000**

Governor ..... Chester “Chet” Dal Santo  
Asst. Dist Governor ...Yollette Nishimoto  
Chartered June 14, 1950



**Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor**  
[www.pearlharborrotary.org](http://www.pearlharborrotary.org)

#### Club Officers

- President..... Douglas S. Taylor
- President-Elect..... Lester M. Hunkele III
- Vice President..... Kimberly B. Moore
- Secretary..... Tsurumi Hamasu
- Treasurer..... Stella Kimura
- Past President..... Connie G. Kraus
- Sergeant-at-Arms..... Stefanie Wilson

#### Directors

- Club Service..... Ernest G. Anderson
- Service Projects..... Shirley Robinson
- International Service... William H.Q. Bow
- New Generations..... Willa Gardner
- Membership..... Raymond Noh
- Public Relations..... Elle Kaanaana

#### Interest Clubs Sponsored

- Aiea High School
- Farrington High School
- Moanalua High School
- Radford High School

#### Sister Clubs

- Hiroshima Southeast, Japan
- Tokyo Osaki, Japan
- Avachinsky, Russia

#### Meeting Schedule

**Mondays, 12:00 Noon**  
**Oahu Country Club**  
**150 Country Club Road**

Channel Marker Published by  
Harvey Gray

## IN THE WAKE

held its' Grand Opening on August 18. **Steve Dyer**, \$20 for being in Seattle on Monday where he had dinner with cousins who reside there. **Doug Taylor**, \$20, for our successful D5000 Club Meeting last week with District Governor, **Chet Dal Santo**.



*Stefanie Wilson*

### PROGRAM

President **Doug Taylor** introduced the speaker of the day, **Alan Lloyd** who talked about the Island of Niihau. Niihau is the seventh largest of the inhabited Hawaiian Islands in the U.S. state of Hawaii, having an area of 69.5 sq miles. Niihau lies 17.5 miles southwest of Kauai across the Kaulakahi Channel.

**Elizabeth Sinclair** was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on 26 April 1800 also Known as "**Eliza**". She was one of six children born to **William James**, a successful merchant, and **Jean Robertson McHutcheson** (sometimes spelled "**McHutchison**"). **Eliza** married Captain **Francis W. Sinclair** (1797-1846) of the Royal Navy on January 13, 1824. They had three sons and three daughters. **Sinclair** was considered a master navigator, best known for saving the life of the **Duke of Wellington** in rough seas while escorting him on his return from the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The **Sinclairs** moved to New Zealand, arriving in 1841, they settled in Pigeon bay in 1843. **Eliza's** husband and her oldest son, **George**, disappeared at sea in 1846 during a business trip headed towards Wellington. Her husband was carrying all the family's cash and produce supplies. After the disappearance of her husband, **Eliza** and her five children were left to survive on their own in Pigeon Bay. With her children marrying and producing grandchildren, the Sinclair clan needed more land, and **Eliza's** son **Francis** helped plan a new voyage towards that end. They sold their property in New Zealand and sailed to the Pacific Northwest of the United States with the goal of acquiring property in British Columbia.

In early June 1863, the *Bessie* arrived in Victoria, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. The **Sinclairs** found the land wild and undeveloped with thick

forests, making the effort required to clear land for agriculture close to impossible with their limited labor and resources. The new arrivals also found the Native Americans different from the Māori they were familiar with in New Zealand. **Eliza** set her sights on California, but an acquaintance named **Henry Rhodes** recommended that they avoid the rough oceans during the winter as it would make anchorage difficult. Rhodes suggested that they sail to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) instead, since his brother lived in Honolulu.

At the age of 63 years-old, **Eliza** led 13 members of her family to Hawaii, arriving in Honolulu Harbor on September 17, 1863 on the vessel *Bessie* captained by her son-in-law, **Thomas Gay**. The 300-ton barque arrived fully provisioned, with Merino sheep, one cow, hay, grain, chickens, a grand piano, books, and clothing. That year members of the **Sinclair-Robinson-Gay** clan began looking for land to purchase for ranching. When offered the island of Niihau by King Kamehameha IV, members of the Sinclair family traveled to visit the island and decided to buy it.

A final purchase price of \$10,000 in gold was agreed upon, but Kamehameha IV died on November 30, so Royal Patent No. 2944 shows his brother, Kamehameha V, completed the transaction on January 23, 1864, giving fee simple title to **James McHutchinson Sinclair** and **Francis Sinclair** for the government lands in Niihau. She later bought additional lands at Hanapepe and Makaweli on the island of Kauai. Her descendants, the **Robinson** family, continue to own and maintain the island of Niihau.

Niihau was key to Japanese plans for Hawai'i conquest. **Keith Robinson** solved a mystery that has captured his interest for 55 years. He wanted to know the U.S. military man who came to his family's island of Niihau years before the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. That man was U.S. Army Air Corp. Lt. Col. **Gerald Brant**. **Brant** played a key role in monitoring the plowing of about two-thirds of the island from 1933 to 1941 into furrows to blunt a possible invasion by the Japanese military and to prevent the launching of enemy air attacks on the Hawaiian Islands after the Pearl Harbor tragedy.

## IN THE WAKE



**Brant's** involvement was significant because he was a protégé of Gen. **Billy Mitchell**, an outspoken advocate of American air power before World War II who had predicted a war between Japan and the United States. **Mitchell** also predicted an enemy air attack would overwhelm Oahu at 7:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning. The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred at 7:53 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941 — a Sunday. Connecting **Brant** with the land furrowing plan the **Robinsons** implemented at their own expense from 1933 to the summer of 1941 has enabled him to further understand his family's war contribution.

Niihau was the linchpin of the whole potential takeover of the Hawaiian Islands, so the **Mitchell** faction asked the Robinson family to dig the furrows. Between 1933 and 1937, three Niihau men cut the furrows with plows pulled by mules or draft horses. The pace of the Niihau project accelerated after the Japanese military sunk the USS Panay on the Yangtze River in China in 1937. At the time, the Navy gunboat was escorting tankers, and relations between the United States and Japan plummeted. The **Robinsons** realized things were heating up, and they purchased a crawler tractor and plowed the rest of the island (from 1937 to the summer of 1941) with furrows. In all, an estimated 50 square miles of the island were dug up, including slightly-sloped areas where enemy planes could land.

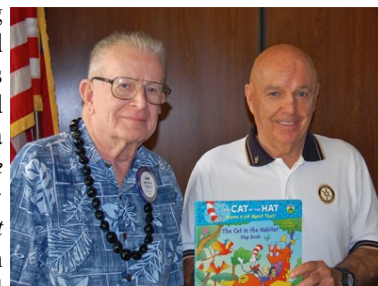
Niihau played a small role during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In what has come to be called the Niihau Incident or Battle of Niihau, an off-course Japanese pilot crash-landed on the island and was captured by locals. The pilot escaped with the assistance of local Japanese residents, but was later recaptured and killed. Despite its self-imposed isolation, Niihau has a long-standing relationship with

the U.S. military. There is a small Navy installation on the island. No military personnel are permanently stationed there, but the U.S. military has used the island for training special operations unit.

Niihau has approximately 130 permanent inhabitants, nearly all of whom are Native Hawaiians who live in the island's main settlement of Puuwai. Some support themselves largely by subsistence fishing and farming, others depend on welfare, and generally lead a rural, low-tech life. All residents live rent-free, and meat is free. Niihau has no telephone service, no automobiles and no paved roads. Horses are the main form of transportation; bicycles are also used. There are no power lines; solar power provides all electricity. There is no plumbing or running water on the island. Water comes from rainwater catchment. The **Robinson** family established most of these conditions. There is no hotel or general store; barges deliver groceries from Kauai, often purchased by relatives, with free shipping. Many residents of Niihau were once employees of Niihau Ranch, farming cattle and sheep until the **Robinsons** shut down the operation in 1999. It had not been profitable for most of the 20th century. Niihau's owners have offered half-day helicopter and beach tours of the island since 1987, although contact with residents is avoided and no accommodations exist.

Since 1992, hunting safaris provide income via tourists who pay to visit the island to hunt eland, aoudad, and oryx, as well as wild sheep and boars. Any meat the hunters do not take with them is given to the village.

President Doug Taylor thanked Alan Lloyd for his presentation and asked him to sign a book titled "*The Cat in the Hat: Knows a lot about that!*" by Tish Rabe which will be donated to Aiea



*Alan Lloyd & Doug Taylor*

Elementary School to promote literacy.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Bill Bow** led us in the 4-Way Test.

## ROTARY HISTORY

## ON THE HORIZON Upcoming Meetings & Events

### Past R.I. Presidents

(Continued from August 20)

2002-03

Bhichai Rattakul

Rotary Club of Dhonburi,  
Thailand

RI Theme: Sow the Seeds of  
Love

“By sharing the gift of Rotary,  
we find fulfillment by helping  
others. It is only then that we  
understand the true meaning of  
Rotary and its ability to touch  
the heart.”

The Rotarian , August 2002



2003-04

Jonathan B. Majiyagbe

Rotary Club of Kano, Kano  
State, Nigeria

RI Theme: Lend a Hand

“We all start as strangers, but  
if we come together in  
service, we are all members  
of the same family — the  
family of Rotary.”

The Rotarian , July 2003



2004-05

Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Rotary Club of Shades Valley,  
Alabama, USA

RI Theme: Celebrate Rotary

“True humanitarian service is  
about having the courage, the  
vision, and the practical  
knowledge to commit to  
projects that might at first  
seem like dreams.”

2005 RI Convention



2005-06

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar  
Rotary Club of Göteborg,  
Sweden

RI Theme: Service Above Self

“I would like to be modern. I  
would like to recycle, and I  
also want to promote  
continuity. Therefore, I have  
chosen the best motto ever  
created for Rotary  
International, yet one that you  
will not find on the walls of this room: Service Above  
Self.”

2005 International Assembly



### August

#### Membership & Extension Month

**Aug 27:** Jen Chahanovich, CEO of Pali Momi Medical Center

### September

#### New Generations Month

**Sept 2:** Polo Day, Pot Luck Picnic, Hawaii Polo Club Field at Mokuleia

**Sept 3:** Dark Labor Day

**Sept 10:** Hero's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Honolulu Country Club

## THE 4-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?

'Oia 'i'o i keia o'lelo

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Kupono ia ka kou

3. Will it BUILD GOODWILL and  
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Kukulu lokomaika'i a me pilialoha maika'i a'e

4 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Pono ia ka kou