



Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

"Peace Through Service"

The Coffee Press

September 11, 2024

This week: Vibrant Hawai'i

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The Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise meets the 2,3,& 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 am
 Papa Kona Restaurant
 75-5770 Alii Drive
 Kailua Kona HI.
 For additional information contact
 Vernon Lowrey
 573-465-2874 or
konasunriserotary@gmail.com



Our guest speaker this week is club member Toni Symons, who will be sharing information about Vibrant Hawai'i. (the following information is from the website vibranthawaii.org)

OUR VISION:

Vibrant Hawai'i is a growing community that commits to individual and collective 'auamo kuleana to increase equitable opportunities to build wealth: a reservoir of human, social, cultural, and financial abundance that we contribute to and draw upon.

OUR MISSION

Our kuleana is to:



- Convene conversations so that all wa' a travel toward a common goal
- Build community awareness, will, and action from the foundation of our shared values
- Shift deficit narratives, systems, and policy that perpetuate poverty and inequity, and,
- Implement strategies that are developed and resourced by the community and reflect native intelligence.

Welcome Toni!

RI President's September Message

The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked

down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games

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RI President's September Message - continued

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when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother

was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

Stephanie Urchick
President Rotary International
2024 - 2025



"For me and my family personally, September 11 was a reminder that life is fleeting, impermanent, and uncertain. Therefore, we must make use of every moment and nurture it with affection, tenderness, beauty, creativity, and laughter."

DEEPAK CHOPRA

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September 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---|--|--|-----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Meet N Eat Kealakehe Intermediate School 4:30 to Pau | 4  | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Happy Anniversary Al/Nancy Jubitz | 11 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Board Meeting 5:00 via Zoom | 18 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am | 19 | 20 | 21 International Peace Day Dedication of Peace Garden 4:00 - 6:00 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am | 26 Sunrise to Sunset Peace Pole Dedication | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

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CLUB NEWS



Paul Harris
Founder of
Rotary



Stephanie
Urchick
Rotary
International
President
2024 - 2025



Ted Faigle
District 5000
Governor
2024 - 2025



Scott Unger
West Hawai'i
Assistant
Governor
2024 - 2025



Vernon
Lowrey
Rotary Club
of Kona
Sunrise
President
2023 - 2025



"Building Healthy
Sanghas-
Sharing Nembutsu
Moments"

HONPA HONGWANJI
MISSION OF HAWAII
Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
Rev. Daido Baba
Dr. Warren Yamamoto
Derrick Inouye
David Atcheson

2024
PEACE DAY COMMITTEE

Oahu
Rene Mansho, Chair
Carolyn Uchiyama
Honolulu
Sharyn Sekine
Rev. Sol Kalu
Big Island
Miles Okumura
Maui
Katie Keith-Agaran
Marilyn Morikawa
Kauai
Roberta Yanagawa
Pacific Buddhist Academy
Joshua Hernandez Morse
Megan Lee
United Nations Hawaii
Joanne Tachibana
Sophia Lorentzen, UHML
PH
Catherine Tarleton

MISSION
• To promote Peace
Day in Hawaii -
September 21st
• Temple activities to
promote peace and
harmony in the world



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

2024 PEACE DAY IN HAWAII
International Day of Peace

You're Invited!

"RING YOUR BELL for PEACE DAY"
Friday, Sept. 20, 2024- 8:30-9:30 AM

Register here: bit.ly/PeaceDay2024

In the spirit of promoting Peace Day in Hawaii and
throughout the world, we invite the world to join us
in ringing bells for PEACE DAY,

Friday, September 20th at 9:01 AM.

At 9:00 AM , we will have a minute of silence
to honor all those who sacrificed for us to
achieve peace.

Immediately following the minute of silence, bells
will be rung by representatives at all the respective
temples, churches, schools, community organiza-
tions, individuals in their offices and homes. You
are our future in ensuring peace in the world.

We are also planning to capture the program and
all participants on a Zoom Screen, simultaneously,
so get your computers ready when you are sent
the link to join the event.

Please RSVP by Sept. 16, 2024

You may request a Participation Form to

Rene Mansho - ph: 808-291-6151
renemansho@hawaii.rr.com

*****Join Jake Shimabukuro, "Hawaii's
Ambassador for Peace!"**



Chuck Rhoads (health);
Laura Kniffin (health);
Marcia Rogers (health/
surgery); **Cheryl Borsh**
(personal); and **Mike Fraser**
(travelling).



Here are a few fun facts about Calgary, host
of the 2025 Rotary International Convention:

- Calgary is the place for sunshine in Canada. On average there is 2300 hours of sunshine per year.
- There is over 7,000 hectares of park land within Calgary.
- Do you enjoy bike riding? Calgary offers over 700 kms of bike pathways.
- The Calgary Stampede attracts over 1 million people each year. Organizers call it the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.
- Calgary and New York City are about the same size geographically. BUT, Calgary's population size is only 10% as big
- An old law in Calgary prohibits throwing snowballs unless authorized by the mayor or city council.

President Vernon has asked that we bring a bell to this week's meeting so we can record our club members ringing a bell for peace.

In addition to the dedication of the Peace Garden on September 21, 2024, there are many other activities going on in the County to celebrate International Day of Peace. The annual "Sunrise to Sunset Peace Pole Dedications will take place on Thursday, September 26th. More information to follow.



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