

# The Coffee Blossom

Rotary  
Club of Kona



## At the Podium – Shirley DeRego Alex & Duke DeRego Foundation

### Our Story

On September 24, 2005 we lost our 12-year-old son Alexander. While on a family camping trip in a remote area in South Kona, we believe Alex fell into the ocean at night while crossing a plank in the dark. We searched for him for five days with the help of family, friends, and rescue personnel but never found his body.

Then, on May 31, 2010, our 14-year-old son Duke was involved in a fatal accident. He was thrown from a golf cart, sustaining massive head trauma, when the 15-year-old driver made an unexpected sharp left turn at a high speed. His young friends panicked and did not know what to do in the moment. The paramedics were not called until some 10-15 minutes after the accident. Luckily, an off-duty Police Officer was nearby and started administering CPR on Duke. Although Duke regained a heartbeat, he suffered irreparable brain damage and was pronounced dead on June 3, 2010. He became a "Hero" that day as we donated his organs and he saved the lives of three people as well as gave sight to two others.

Our Faith sustained us through these incredibly dark times. In grieving the loss of our two vibrant young sons who were so full of life, we were moved to find a way to turn this tragedy into hope. We needed to find a way to transmute the pain and hardship into a gift we could share with others. The Alex and Duke De Rego Foundation was born in 2011, in honor of our sons' lives.

Foundation Video: <https://youtu.be/JIEbXwLbaTk>

## Just Last Week – Marcia Masters – Zimbabwe Project



We assist children and families in Zimbabwe by creating opportunities for education, health care and employment through the development of sustainable businesses and community development.

In August of 2007, when we traveled to Zimbabwe we had no idea what to expect. It was our first time to Africa and our first mission type trip. On one of the first days we were there, we were taken on a visit to a feeding center that had been functional for about a year. This gave us an idea of what we were going to be building and the impact it would have on the community. We learned that they fed approximately 150 children one meal per day at that site. The children would go to school in the morning and then to the feeding center for lunch. While there, they would also receive biblical instruction and practical learning such as how to plant and grow a garden. Then they would play games in the afternoon.

We spent 7 of our 10 days on that first trip to Zimbabwe working on the construction of a feeding center in a rural area outside of Harare. We worked with many wonderful people, learned about their families and their lifestyle, and experienced a culture where they take care of others who are in need.

Video of the presentation: <http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/Presentations> Click on 032025.mp4

## Rotary Prayer

Almighty God, bind us together in the true spirit of Rotary, keeping our hearts pure, our lives clean, our spirits humble and our thinking straight. Amen.

March 27, 2025

## This Week

12 Noon - Lava Java,  
75-5719 Ali'i Dr, #1A,  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

### Program:

Shirley De Rego  
Alex & Duke DeRego  
Foundation

### Greeter:

Mahlon Whittle

## Coming Up

### Programs:

NO MEETING	04/03
Mark & Majorie	
England	04/10
Ocean Defender's Alliance	
Gonzo Garcia	04/17
Marine Mammal Center	

## In This Issue

At the Podium  
Just Last 2 Week  
Just Visiting  
Congratulations  
Let's Get Together  
Let's Get Together  
At the Helm

## President's Position Stephanie Urchick Rotary International

March 2025



March is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on The Magic of Rotary and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic firsthand in the Dominican Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, "Show me the magic again."

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — alongside local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realized that what seemed like a small act could change residents' lives. That is The Magic of Rotary.

This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary's work with USAID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines, and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary's impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we're advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This program equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.

As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more people in need.

Whether it's joining forces with local organizations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilizing your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

The Magic of Rotary shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it's from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let's harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.

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## The Coffee Blossom Rotary Club of Kona

### Just Visiting



**Daniel Colimon**  
Kailua Kona, HI



**Craig Watts**  
Naahelu, HI



**Abra Pinter**  
Kailua Kona, HI



**McKayla Mae Jeffries**  
Kailua Kona, HI

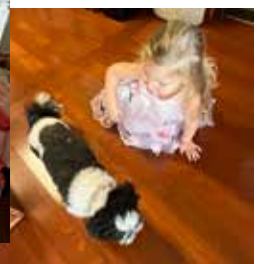
### Congratulations – Victoria Morse – Another Paul Harris



Mahlon Whittle presents continuing Paul Harris contributor, Victoria Morse, with her recognition pin for multiple year donations.

Kudos, Victoria, for being one of our newest, youngest, and best Rotarians.

### Let's Get Together – High Tea at the Romo's



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## Let's Get Together – Meeting at the Unger's

A great night was had by over 30 Rotarians as we welcomed Vicky and Tim Puliz from Rotary international and Ted Faigle, our district Governor. Vicky talked about goings on with Rotary International and the International Foundation. The goal is to have 2.025 billion by the end of 2025. Many good things are happening.



## Rotary Calendar

Meet N' Eat (Grab N' Go)  
is held Tuesday evenings 6:00  
PM to 6:30 PM at the Kealakehe  
Intermediate Parking Lot . Call:  
Larry Webb at 808-989-6336 if you  
would like to help out.

## Community Calendar

Every First Friday, 5:30 P to 8:30 P  
BLOCK PARTY - Holualoa

March 16, 1 P to 6 P  
KAILUA KONA VILLAGE  
STROLL - Alii Drive s

## Member Birthdays

Soana Aredjian  
March 10  
Brian Asbjornson  
March 25  
Alan Clark  
March 24  
Stephen Johnson  
March 2  
Kenneth Kjer  
March 18  
Renee Kraft  
March 1  
Maverick Malech  
March 11

## Wedding Anniversaries

Kris & Jim Hazard  
March 16, 1986 - 38 Yrs  
Michelle & Nick Romo  
March 2, 1996 - 28 Yrs

## Date Joined Anniversaries

Brian Asbjornson  
March 12, 2009 - 15 Yr  
Amy Decker  
March 7, 2018 - 7 Yrs  
Richard Farnham  
March 14, 2019 - 6 Yrs  
Janice Gustin  
March 1, 2018 - 7 Yrs  
Kris Hazard  
March 10, 2011 - 14 Yrs  
Jim Kilgore  
March 14, 2024 - 1 Yrs  
Andrea Myslicki  
March 9, 2023 - 2 Yrs  
Floyd Nordstrom  
March 7, 2024 - 1 Yr  
Gretchen Watson-Kabei  
March 1, 1997 - 27 Yrs  
Larry Webb  
March 10, 2011 - 14 Yrs

## Island Clubs

### Kona Sunrise:

Wednesday, 7:00AM  
PaPa Kona Restaurant  
75-5770 Ali'i Drive  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

### Kona Mauka:

Tuesday, 12 Noon  
Teshima's Restaurant  
Honalo, HI 96740

### North Hawaii:

Wednesday, 12 Noon  
Red Water Cafe  
Highway 19  
Kamuela, HI 96743

### Volcano:

Tuesday, 7:30AM  
Kilauea Military Camp  
Hawaii Volcanoes Natl Park  
Highway 11  
Volcano, HI 96740

### Hilo:

Friday, 12 Noon  
Moku'ola Room  
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel  
71 Banyan Drive  
Hilo, HI 96720

### South Hilo:

Tuesday, 11:45AM  
Queen Court Restaurant  
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel  
71 Banyan Drive  
Hilo, HI 96720

### Hilo Bay:

Wednesday, 6:45AM  
Hilo Yacht Club  
77 Laehala Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

## Submissions

Submit articles, meeting notices, pictures, suggestions and other information to Richard Farnham by Monday, 12:00 Noon.

All material must be in digital format, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Richard@Surfhawaii.net  
Mobile: 808-896-0314

# The Coffee Blossom

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## At the Helm



Paul Harris  
Rotary Founder



Jenaya Rockman  
Kona President



Stephanie Urchick  
RI President



Ted Faigel  
D5000 Governor



Scott Unger  
WH Asst Gov.

### Officers:

President: Jenaya Rockman  
President Elect: TBD  
Secretary: Andrea Myslicki  
Treasurer: Janice Gustin  
Past President: Brian Asbjornson  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Alan Clark

### Phone:

808-937-2541  
  
703-447-0690  
808-345-8956  
808-854-6148  
808-936-6074

### Email:

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[Brian@KonaImpact.com](mailto:Brian@KonaImpact.com)  
[MaukaCapitalLLC@Gmail.com](mailto:MaukaCapitalLLC@Gmail.com)

### Directors:

Membership: Maverick Malech  
Club Administrator: Darlene Daboling

808-282-9022 [TamMaverickHawaii@Gmail.com](mailto:TamMaverickHawaii@Gmail.com)  
808-443-4214 [D.Daboling@Gmail.com](mailto:D.Daboling@Gmail.com)

Public Relations: TBD  
Rotary Foundation: Mahlon Whittle  
Community Service: Becca Hamar

808-494-7535 [MahlonWhit@Gmail.com](mailto:MahlonWhit@Gmail.com)  
808-936-1095 [RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com](mailto:RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com)

### Committee Chairs:

International Service: Tom Daniel  
New Generations: Floyd Nordstrom  
Programs: Ben Noyes  
Golf Tournament: Larry Webb/Kris Hazard  
HYRF: Peter Schonberg  
Meet N' Eat: Scott Unger  
Club Bulletin/Archives: Richard Farnham  
Website: Richard Farnham

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808-896-0314 [Richard@SurfHawaii.net](mailto:Richard@SurfHawaii.net)

### Community Foundation:

President: Peter Schonberg  
Treasurer: Jenny Rasmussen  
Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

808-937-6641 [PSchonberg@Aol.com](mailto:PSchonberg@Aol.com)  
530-519-1861 [Jenny@IslandAsphaltMaintenance.com](mailto:Jenny@IslandAsphaltMaintenance.com)  
808-937-9700 [Chrys@WTAHawaii.com](mailto:Chrys@WTAHawaii.com)

### Rotary International:

President: Stephanie Urchick  
Past President: R. Gordon R. McNally

### District 5000:

Governor: Ted Faigel  
WH Asst Governor: Scott Unger

**Please Note:** Archival copies of all preserved Coffee Blossom issues dating back to Rotary Year 2000/2001 are available in pdf format at no charge to Rotary members. Go to:

<http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/CoffeeBlossom>

## Four-Way Test

Of The Things We Think, Say, Or Do:

Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?