



"Can you say, Gugeegue?"

No, it's not a new dance craze. It's the name of a small island in the Kwajalein atoll of the Marshall Islands. The Marshall Islands are about 2,600 miles SW of Hawaii. Made up of 29 atolls and 1,225 islands with a population of about 50,000.



Judi & Dave Bramlett

Dave and Judi Bramlett spent a year on Gugeegue (*Goo-gee-goo*) teaching at the Catholic school there. Today they showed us some photos of the island and their time there. Dave even wore his graduation aloha shirt. He and all his male students had one specially made for the graduation ceremonies.

Gugeegue is 225 yards wide and three-fourths of a mile long has about 100 people. Students also come from other islands in the atoll.

Judi and Dave lived in a shipping container that had a tin roof. Dave said it was snug enough because it kept the mosquitoes and the other vermin out. Not true

with the other structure they had. It had wooden shutters that had to be open for ventilation and a chain link fence covering one-side to keep the birds out.



Model of a Marshallese voyaging canoe.

Rainwater was a must for bathing and washing

clothes. Often the water used for clothes was recycled. Judi mentioned that she found a lot of weird things after the water had been used.

The Marshallese culture is vastly different from ours as to dress and marriage. Women were not to be seen outside without long skirts or pants. Shoulders had to be covered at all times.

Judi said that a lot of the kids in here classes had the middle-city attitude—without the violent nature—in that they had nothing to look forward to. It's especially hard for the girls. They are expected to have babies and that's about it.

But, on the bright side, Dave said his senior class valedictorian was female and is now studying at Chaminade, in the hopes of becoming a doctor. Matter of fact, three of his top four students were girls. Of the four, one wants to be a doctor and is studying in Haifa, Israel, another is at HPU and one is in the Job Corps in Waimanalo.

The Catholic school is a combined effort of Seventh Day Adventists, Congregationalists and Catholics who joined forces to open the school to educate the children.

Judi said there were 30 students in the

freshman class, 22 sophomores and 20 seniors. Dave started with 42 seniors and saw 38 graduate.

On Ebeye, a nearby island of 17,000, it was not uncommon for one house to have 35 residents. They structured their lives with staggered eating, sleeping and chore times. Judi told us that the wage earner, usually only one, was the first to eat. Then pregnant and lactating females were second. Children ate in the third group, after them came the rest of the women and older children. Sadly, it was not everyday that the teenagers got to eat.

Dave recounted a story when he bought lunch for several members of the softball team. Before any of them ate, no matter how hungry they may have been, they gathered up all of their teammates and ate together. Sharing is a major part of their custom and culture.

Living in near primitive conditions, no golf, no night life, sacrificing all modern amenities, except notebook computer, living in a remote area of the planet,

that's the sign of true humanitarians. A special salute to Judi and Dave for their unselfish volunteerism. Which is what Rotary is all about. Thanks for sharing your experiences with us.



Handicrafts created by Marshallese artisans.



Pat Vickers sporting a new handmade Marshallese necklace given to her by Judi Bramlett.

Speakers	02/27 <i>Calvin Lum</i>	<i>North Shore Ranching</i>
	3/06 <i>Judy Higa</i>	<i>Planning Ahead</i>
	3/13 <i>Club Assembly</i>	<i>Project Updates, News and General Information about the Club</i>

RI Pres: *Bhichai Rattakul*
 D5000 DG: *Bob Pennington*
 Club Pres: *Rodger McCloskey*
 RI website www.rotary.org
 D5000 website www.rotaryd5000.org

February 20, 2003

The Hulali
 P.O. Box 860601
 Wahiawa, HI 96786
hulali@hawaii.rr.com



Well, I guess President-Elect **Geoff Horvath** just can't wait to take charge, or someone thinks he needs the practice, because he presided over the meeting today while Pres. Rodger set with the crowd and enjoyed his lunch.

John Wilkinson made the meeting today and was generous with donations to the Big 3—RF, HRYF and the Club, of 4100 each. He apologized for being absent so often but his business has had a banner year and he has been busy on the Big Island. Matter of fact, he said this was the first Thursday in many. Many months when he didn't have to go to Kona.

Mac McWhorter announced that, because of our collective generosity, donations to the Foundation and Polio Eradication Campaign are doing well.

Not to be outdone, **PP Calvin Wakai** announced that **PP Dick Lawton**, **PP Bill Paty** and **Michael Huynh** were all our latest HRYF Sustaining Members and, since July 1st, we've donated \$4,110 to HRYF.

Five High School seniors will be interviewed this coming Monday. Qualifiers will be submitted to HRYF for the chance of being given a scholarship.

Dave Bramlett donated \$50 to HRYF for

Judi's Feb. 25, or 26th, birthday. Judi was in attendance and listened while Dave explained that the officials at Fort Benning placed the wrong date on her birth certificate.

George Fujiwara made an undisclosed contribution for **Florence's** birthday, which, he's positive, is Feb 25th.

PP Dick Lawton cited PE Geoff \$5 for failing to see that Bishop Paul Martin was in the house when it was time for the invocation.

Carver Wilcox showed us a postcard, addressed to him, to audition for a modeling career with Barbizon. He equated this offer to the one from the Nigerian official needing help in collecting \$25 million, or more.

The Great Wahiawa Pineapple Run is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2003. Starting at 7:30 AM at Ka'ala Elementary, the course circles around Lake Wilson, traverses through the scenic red dirt pineapple fields (hence, the name) past Schofield Barracks, back onto Kamehameha Highway and down California Ave to finish back at Ka'ala Elem. Each participant will receive a Wahiawa Pineapple Run t-shirt; a pineapple and re-

In Our Club this week

freshments after the run. Special awards for the first three in each division. The divisions are: Elite (first to finish); Age brackets in groups of 10 years, plus 70 and older. Both male and female divisions and a Military division.

All this for just \$25.00. Register on line at www.timersplus.com or mail your application and a check to

Wahiawa Pineapple Run
C/o Pacific SportsCare
668 California Ave.
Wahiawa, HI 96786
621-2220

PP Charlie Duncan announced that all but one ticket for "**An Evening at Lanikuhonua at Ko Olina Resort.**" are gone. Now, he would like you to pay for them. Funds must be collected prior to Feb. 27th. Please pay up. Contact Charlie at 623-4417.



Rodger McCloskey
President 2002-2003

Service Above Self

201st 100 % Paul Harris Fellow Club

He Profits Most Who Serves Best

Dictionaries spell new opportunities for third-graders in Louisiana

It's an item so common in offices and households that it's easy to take for granted. But when members of the Rotary Club of The West Bank (Gretna), Louisiana, USA, hand out copies of a paperback dictionary to children in their community's grade schools, the excitement on the children's faces makes it clear that the book is a rare and valued commodity for many of the youngsters.

Frustrated that "Louisiana schools are always at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to education levels," club president Ron Mosel launched the project with the goal of providing a dictionary to each third-grader in public, private, or parochial schools in Algiers and West Jefferson parishes.

The West Bank club purchased 4,200 copies of the Webster's Classic Reference Library Dictionary through the Dictionary Project, a national program founded by Mary French, whose goal was to supply every third-grader in her home state of South Carolina with such a book. Nearly 500,000 dictionaries have been distributed through the national program.

Members of The West Bank club have been making the rounds to third grade classrooms at the 44 area schools, handing out the dictionaries and making a short presentation to the students. "We want to stimulate an interest in learning at an age level where we can make a difference," says Mosel. "One of the things I like say to the children is, 'Knowledge is something that can never be taken away from you.'"

Many of these children come from low-income households, notes Mosel. "There may not be a dictionary in the house. At school, they share one or two copies with

the whole classroom. The teachers tells us, 'Make sure you emphasize that this is their very own copy to keep.'"

At the Estelle Elementary School in Mareo, one girl expressed delight that she no longer had to share a dictionary with her brother and was proud to put her name inside the cover of her new one. For information about the national Dictionary Project, visit www.dictionaryproject.org.

If you plan on spending the evening, or evenings, in Waikiki during the District Conference, call the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort at 922-6611 or 1-800-367-5370 to make your room reservations. A special rate of \$99 per night, double occupancy has been established for Rotarians. Just let them know you are going to attend the Rotary conference to get this reduced rate. The dates are May 24th through 26th, the Memorial Day weekend.

In Our World of Rotary