



Mark Merriam



“Making a Difference in Hawai’i”



Marie Abatayo



The strength of our Club lies in its members



“One restored or newly created hope at a time.”  
RI President Gordon R. McNally

An Al Wonder Christmas Party with ARC Wahiawa

Service Above Self – Making a Difference

Editor – PP Geoff Horvath



December is Rotary International Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

OUR IMPACT ON DISEASE

The Rotary Foundation is changing the world by providing grants for projects and activities around the globe and in your own backyard.

\$65 mil

in grants was given by Rotary to fight disease

99.9 %

reduction in polio cases since our program started in 1985

Rotary makes amazing things happen, like:

**Providing clean water:** Rotary has worked with partners to provide more than 80 percent of Ghana’s people with clean water to fight Guinea worm disease.

**Reducing HIV infection:** In Liberia, Rotary members are helping women get tested for HIV early in their pregnancies. They used prenatal care to reduce new HIV infections in children by 95 percent over two years.

**Ending polio:** Rotary members have played a key role in bringing the world to the brink of polio eradication. Their efforts have not only ended polio in 122 countries but also created a system for tackling myriad other health priorities, such as Ebola.

Overall, Rotarians around the world combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care.



An Al Wonder Christmas for Our Special Guests the ARC at Wahiawa!

Today we held our 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Al Wonder Christmas Party for our special ARC Wahiawa family. This tradition was started back in 1967 when, President, at that time, **J. Al Wonder** (1967-68), hosted the first Christmas party for the ARC clients.

The Rotary Club of Wahiawa-Waiialua was also instrumental in building the Wahiawa ARC facility.

This was a very special occasion, so we didn’t hold a





regular meeting. It was all about bringing joy and cheer to our special guests of ARC Wahiawa.

Since the end of COVID, we have been holding our AI Wonder Christmas party at the ARC Wahiawa Facility. Renee told us that it was easier for us to bring the party to them. The guests are relaxed in familiar surroundings, so can truly enjoy the party.

ARC Wahiawa has always been gracious hosts, and this year was no different! We were welcomed with open arms by Renee Subee, her staff, and our special guests.

Renee Subee directs operations and management of the ARC in Hawaii, Wahiawa Branch, along with her caring and dedicated staff. Renee has been the Director of the ARC Wahiawa for 27+ years. She is known for her patience and kindness toward her clients, putting their needs first. Assisting her are her dedicated staff, and Liz, their visiting RN.

The agenda was:

- Greeting our guests
- Singing Christmas Carols
- Dinning
- Arrival of Santa
- Giving of Gifts

This year, the excellent lunch was provided by **Lanakila Catering** through **Ruvi Apa**, at a reduced cost, part of the cost being absorbed by Ruvi! The meal was enjoyed by all!

One of the fun parts of the party is singing carols with our special guests. The year, **PP Ken Uyeno** was our Choir Director, with **PP Geoff Horvath** as backup vocal!

Gifts were purchased by individual members, and wrapped. Thank you to **Whitmore Economic Development Group (WEDG)** for providing gifts for our special guests.

This year, as in past years, our Santa was none other than our **PP Keoni Ahlo!** He was the hit of the party, handing gifts out to individual guests, with a little chat and a photo with Santa.



ARC at Wahiawa facility

Just what is an AI Wonder Christmas Party?!

The AI Wonder Christmas party is a Club tradition that was started 56 years ago by our 32<sup>nd</sup> Club President, **Dr. J. A. "AI" Wonder** (1967-68), a Wahiawa Jeweler.

The AI Wonder Christmas Party was held every year with the exception during COVID years. This tradition still continues this year as we took time out of our busy lives to give back to those who are a special blessing to their families and to our Club, the residents and clients of ARC in Wahiawa. Our affiliation with the Adult Rehabilitation Center in Wahiawa has been going on since the mid-sixties, when Dr. Wonder saw a need in our community. It is debatable as to who has more fun and enjoys the program, our guests or our Club members! As part of our program, Club members serve our guests as well as sit beside them and have chats.



The facility was nicely decorated by ARC management and their clients. They did all the decorations in just two weeks, consisting of murals and a fancy refrigerator dressed up as a snowman!

RI President: Gordon R. McNally  
 District: Mark Merriam  
 Asst. Dist. Govt: Joshua Laguana  
 Club President: Mari Abatayo  
 IPP: Marie Abatayo  
 President Elect: Open  
 Secretary: Mark Anthony Clemente  
 Treasurer: Cross Crabbe  
 Club Trainer: PP Doc Bill McKenzie & Marie Abatayo  
 Program/Speakers :  
 PP Doc Bill McKenzie & PP Geoff Horvath  
 Membership:  
 Foundation: PP Doc Bill McKenzie, Chris Compisano



Club Service: Marie Abatayo  
 Community Service: Derek Conselva, Pat Compisano  
 Intl Service: PP Doc Bill McKenzie  
 Youth Services: PP Geoff Horvath  
 Vocational Service: Derek Conselva - PP Geoff Horvath  
 Public Relations: Rene Mansho  
 Sergeant at Arms: PP Geoff Horvath  
 Fundraising: Marie Abatayo  
 PP Doc Bill McKenzie,  
 PP Geoff Horvath  
 HRYF: PP Geoff Horvath  
 Social Media: Arthur Hughes  
 Newsletter: PP Geoff Horvath

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Frosty the Snowman?



One of the man murals

Thanks to ARC Photographer, **Stephen "Edgar" Cabradila**, President **Marie Abatayo**, and PP **Geoff Horvath** for the photos.

### The ARC

The ARC in Hawaii Chapter, part of The ARC of the United States, was founded in 1954. The ARC of the United States was founded in 1950 by a group of parents of children with intellectual disabilities. The organization is a nonprofit agency that serves people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities in nationally and here in Hawaii. ARC in Hawaii is part of the largest national organization devoted solely to working on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities.

An estimated 7.39 million Americans have intellectual or a related developmental disability. Through aggressive advocacy at the local and national level, The ARC ensures that these individuals have access to the services and supports they need to grow, develop and participate in communities across the country.



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**Mission:** The ARC in Hawai'i provides services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Oahu. Together with its affiliates, The ARC in Hawai'i promotes and protects the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their right to be included and fully participate in the community throughout their lifetime.

The ARC in Hawaii offers community-based support and day services to more than 200 individuals in the Honolulu, Pearl City and, Wahiawa areas. They provide individualized services that include respite and rehabilitation support and supported employment. They also offer residential services through more than 12 developmental disabilities domiciliary homes and several apartment buildings. The ARC in Hawaii staffed members are trained and certified by the state of Hawaii's Department of Health Visions Program.

Wahiawa office was opened 27+ years ago and has been providing care to about 54 clients. Some live at home, others live in foster homes. For the past 18 years, the facility has been in the capable hands of **Renee Subee**.

# Merry Christmas

## PHOTOS



ARC Director Renee Subee







Office Manager Ulyssa (sp)



Special Christmas tree



Chris Compisano



PP Marie Abatayo and ARC Director Renee Subee



Santa's Sleigh and seat



Mark Anthony



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A great lunch provided by Lanakila



Servers PP Ken Uyeno, Mark Anthony, and Chris Compisano



Santa unloading gifts



An artistic Guest



Santa, PP Keoni Ahlo and PP Doc McKenzie,



Servers Chris Compisano, Mark Anthony, PP Geoff Horvath and PP Ken Uyeno



Renee Subee and PP Doc McKenzie,



PP Doc McKenzie, President Marie Abatayo, Andrew Burgos, PP Geoff Horvath, and PP Ken Uyeno

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