



# OHANA NEWSBRIEF



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Editor – Ghost

## Member Spotlight Samantha Hoshida

Samantha Hoshida

Born and raised, right here in Sacramento. I am a lifetime Girl Scout and earned my Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts, so I guess you can say, I have always had a passion for volunteering and helping my community.

I have worked for the City of Sacramento since 2002, full time since 2006 and love my job. I love working with the kids in our program and have held many positions, including my current role as the Interim Program Supervisor.

I have been very fortunate to participate in many extra-curricular programs, including Leadership Sacramento where I am the chair of the alumni committee and participated in the FBI citizens academy. Through the FBI citizens academy, I was able to take a trip of a lifetime to the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and visit their fantastic training facility in Quantico, Virginia.

I LOVE being a member of TBDRCTP and the opportunities Rotary has opened for me. Gary Pevey invited me to his first meeting as new President of Point West in 2013, and I was hooked. I never left. My Dad also volunteers and gives back as a Coach for the California Eagles Golf program along with many Point West Rotarians. The Coaches and Athletes gather each summer at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex. Unfortunately, not this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Michael Lynch Improve Your Tomorrow

Speaker, Michael Lynch, CEO of Improve Your Tomorrow (IYT) began with the question "Why does it exist?" The organization began in 2013 with the goal to help more young men of color move on to college, that education is the gateway to a better life. There are few opportunities afforded to the underprivileged and it starts in the schools. He gave a comparison between Encina Preparatory High School, where 73% of students graduate and 20% go on to college, and Rio Americano High School where 93% of students graduate and 77% go on to college. Another factor for these youth is the school to prison pipeline. If a student is suspended in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, chances of dropping out of school doubles. Where students live and their home support determines who can or will move on with their education.

IYT helps young men move on to college in 25 schools, has a 99% graduation rate and 90% of the young men attend college. They provide wrap around services through mentoring, tutoring, internship opportunities and parent involvement. IYT provides their services for young men from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through college graduation. Currently they are serving 135 high school students and have had 350 go on to college.

Most of their mentors are IYT graduates. They have a partnership with AmeriCorp for fellowships and internships.

When asked how Rotarians can help, Michael said we can be an ally for the young men and donate not only to IYT but to programs that provide assistance to injustices we see everywhere.

Chris Taylor encouraged PWR members to attend an IYT meeting or graduation. He said the program is wonderful and that it's very impactful to see in person.

## Do you eat Pineapple?

When visiting the Islands of Hawaii, you will find Pineapple on menus just about everywhere and the Pineapple logos are placed everywhere, on many things, including on many clothing items.

What most people do not know is that the Pineapple is not native to Hawaii. There is some debate as to when this delicious fruit came to Islands. Depending which historian is speaking, it could have been between 1527 and 1770. The Pineapple most likely came from what is today Paraguay or Brazil. Capt. John Kidwell tested many varieties and selected the Smooth Cayenne variety for commercialization. This started the new Pineapple industry in the 1880s. In the early 1900s, James Dole started the Pineapple Plantations and built canneries. This became the Dole Food Co. Both the Pineapple and Cane Sugar industries needed labor, so they imported worker from Japan, China, the Philippines, Korea and other countries.

By the 1980s the peak for Pineapple industry was fading as other countries could grow Pineapple cheaper. In 2009 the last company growing Pineapple closed. In 2010 a small group of former employees formed the Hal'i'maile Pineapple Co. and developed the Maui Gold Pineapple brand. This is a very sweet Pineapple and sometimes, it shows up in Sacto. Markets.

**"Because of You"... Mary Lyn Kagan for helping behind the scenes on many tasks**

## KEY DATES

**September 11 – Virtual: 7:30 AM – Carol Van Bruggen, Zambia update**

**September 18 – Virtual: 7:30 AM – Carol Nance, former Press Staff for President Reagan.**