

Rotary Club of Honolulu
September 17, 2024
Outrigger Canoe Club

President Tom Coyne called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

Judy Lind led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Sid Snyder** and **Kent Reinker** led the singing of God Bless America.

Clif Purkiser gave the Inspiration, which he entitled The Power of Gifts and Resiliency. Clif described a young Jewish boy in WWII Hungary who lost his hearing to scarlet fever, was forced to denounce his faith to avoid detection, and who was allowed to emigrate to New York to live with an uncle and study chemistry. He acquired a hearing aid, succeeded in his education, and Andy Grove, CEO of Intel, was named 1997 Man of the Year by *Time* magazine. Clif said that gifts can change the world, with examples like Rotary International's commitment to ending polio worldwide, and our club's gifts to Cambodia and YO House, just two of many recent projects funded by our members donations to the club's Foundation.

President Tom welcomed several guests joining the meeting.

Dawn Marie announced a new community service project at RYSE, a facility in Kailua that houses young people 14 to 22 years old who are experiencing homelessness. The Board of Directors approved RYSE as a signature project, which provides funding for three years. Home Depot is a partner in the project and will donate up to \$25,000 in materials. The dates for the project are October 21 through November 17, with work scheduled for Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Volunteer sign-ups will be available at future meetings.

Nancy Youngren, chair of the Community Service committee, reported that club members participated in two events last Saturday: The Out of Darkness Walk to raise awareness of suicide, and a bus painting project at Kukui Center for Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, which provides grief and trauma support to children who have lost a parent or caregiver. The bus will go to West Maui as a mobile support unit for kids affected by last year's Maui wildfires.

Following some time for fellowship, **Nancy Youngren** (William S. Richardson School of Law class of 1996) introduced guest speaker retired Dean Avi Soifer, who spoke on the current Supreme Court, which he considers the second worst ever (the worst being the court of 1870-1880). Dean Soifer spoke of recent decisions by the court that suggest the court is "baldly manipulating its powers" and "engaging in sleight of hand" tactics. Specific decisions he noted were the Dobbs decision, which leaves the legality of abortion to individual states, the Establishment Clause, the constitutional right to freedom of religion, the Executive Authority

decision that affects the authority of federal agencies to interpret the laws they administer, and the Presidential Immunity decision, which he considers “manipulated timing in favor of Trump”. When asked what we can do about the Supreme Court, Dean Soifer suggested imposing 18-year term limits and/or adding one or two more judges to the court, noting that there were ten judges during the Civil War. There is nothing in the Constitution about the number of justices and nothing about judicial review.

President Tom closed the meeting with the Four-Way Test and reminded members that the next meeting on September 24 will be at the Pacific Club, which has a dress code, so no shorts, please.

Martha German

Scribe