

Before **President Rich Proctor** called us to order at noon, Rotarians and guests had a chance to chat, laugh, and feel like we had just found our seats with our lunch plates...virtually/ personally. It is still fun to 'arrive' early.

For her inspiration, **Lee LaBrash** shared Dr. Seuss lines from *Horton Hears A Who* and *Lorax*, and noted how they reflect what Rotarians do...we watch and listen for ways to improve, support, and love our world and fellow beings, and we '*do care a whole awful lot*' to find ways to improve, love and support our world and fellow human beings. **Hai Cha Lambert** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Lyla Berg** sang America the Beautiful (appreciate crowning the good with personhood). **President Rich** welcomed visitors and wished **Bob Sumpf** and **Dawn Marie** happy upcoming birthdays. **Lee** was back on screen, to invite Rotarians to consider joining the scribe team. (I recommend giving it a go.)

Our club is filled with remarkable men and women, and focusing on a few of them during our meeting is something I hope we will do more often. **Diana Sakurai** introduced three of them for a special vocation portion of the hour. **Joanna Amberger** is a fee-based Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and the founder of 3 Financial. She is dedicated to helping her clients (primarily women) as a partner and a guide, to help them find financial security and independence. She is a holistic planner, who helps women build a plan for financial independence down the line. (Joanna is helping me, by the way.)

Dr. Poki'i Balaz is the Director of Nursing Services at Lunalilo Home, an Alzheimer's Association Board member and Care Group volunteer. She is a professional caregiver, whose father has end stages of dementia and receives total care from Poki'i. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in Hawaii and the US., and we are fortunate Dr. Balaz is such a valued advocate for Kapuna health initiatives and is so focused on improving financial resources and advocacy for caregivers! (I think I already need Poki'i, too.)

Karen Glasser is the State Director at Best Buddies, which is dedicated to the social inclusion of those with intellectual disabilities, offering social mentoring and improving quality of life. It secures jobs for people with IDD, and gives people with special abilities a chance to make friends and speak up. Much of the interaction is now on-line, because of Covid. Karen introduced a Best Buddies ambassador board member, **Hoopio**, who shared Best Buddies has helped him socialize and feel like he belongs. His remarks were so meaningful and personal. We were all encouraged by Karen to email Best Buddies, and find ways to volunteer.

After we dipped into our breakout sessions to discuss the type of music we would want to take to a desert island, Rich asked **Past President Rob Hale** to provide an update on the Centennial Park Waikiki project...a green-space pocket of beauty for 31,000 Waikiki residents and others to enjoy forever. But as Rob noted, getting this far has been challenging, and the total cost is estimated to be 1.7 million dollars (of which \$738,000 donations received and \$516,000 in-kind). The Aloha Drive front gate, signage, lighting, working with professions to control troublesome nut grass, completion of the hula mound to ensure it's safety, exit plans and donor recruitment are all still on the 'lawn'. There will be more opportunities for Rotarians to participate in more on-site work-days, to clear the vines from the chain link fencing, for example. But for now, a big mahalo for the work of all involved from dream-to-design, for the support of other clubs and Waikiki neighbors, and for City partnership. If you haven't already done so, drive by via Seaside or Royal Hawaiian avenues, and feel the PRIDE !!!!!

President Rich noted this Friday's Pau Hana/Hui Ho'owali on-line event and World Polio Day this Saturday.

Stay Safe and Spread Aloha,
Linda Coble, Scribe

