

For years, our Rotary Club meetings prior to Halloween were scary-fun-out-of-the-norm. We wore costumes, judged the best, ate candy that was piled on the tables... pity the speakers, who braved the weirdness. Zooming through the pandemic has changed some club traditions, but one remains tried and true: the excellent quality of our weekly meetings. And during our October 26, 2021 meeting via zoom, we didn't have to wear masks, no matter da'kine.

**President Gwen Yamamoto Lau** called us to order, after we had valuable time to informally chat, and invited **Ben Eger** to inspire us. His story of a little boy repeatedly throwing beached starfish back into the life-giving ocean ... making a difference in his own way ... just like Rotary does at home and around the world. **Sally Mist** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Lee LaBrash** invited us to join her singing Hawaii Pono'i. P Gwen introduced attending visitors. The RI website has led prospective members from around the world to seek out clubs to join. **Kandie George**, a neonatologist originally from Trinidad Tobago, found the Rotary Club of Honolulu and was introduced by her sponsor, **PE Lyla Berg**, for induction. She looks forward to the possibility of international Rotary service, and donated to the Maile Hale Foundation.

**Peg Jackson** reminded us a few volunteers are need for weeding at our Centennial Park Waikiki November 5th from 4pm - 6pm ... but even more of our members are asked to volunteer at the park November 13th from 8am - 10am. December weeding events are being pushed to January, because of the holiday activities. If you haven't already, please let Martha know if you want to write thank you messages to our medical service providers, on cards we have collected for that purpose. **P Gwen** shared how her son dressed as a fireman for Halloween from Kindergarten through 2nd grade, and asked us to share our Halloween stories in breakout sessions. Lots of laughs. (**Don Anderson** recalled how he'd use a hidden vacuum up his sleeve to suck the candy out of his visiting tricker treaters' goodie bags).

The successes with Oahu's homeless population were shared by our guest speaker, Laura Thielen. **Judy Lind** introduced the Executive Director of Partners in Care...a coalition alliance that develops new and expands effective existing programs and services for the homeless. Thielen noted the most recent count of homeless on Oahu was in 2019 ... 4,448, 47% of those in some sort of homeless shelter. She is looking forward to the 2021 count due to come out in January. The highest rate of homelessness is found in the urban core and on the West side of the island. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are the most needy, and are benefiting from the program, which respects the people's freedom to make their own choices...and helps those who cannot. The Eviction Moratorium has helped keep the numbers down, somewhat. The Program's Covid testing out on the streets and on beaches, has minimized outbreaks.

Partners in Care funding: 43% to emergency shelters and 31% for permanent supportive housing units out in the community. They are working with businesses in Chinatown and Waikiki to personally engage with the homeless in their areas, and outreach workers are extremely helpful...more needed! Thielen noted Partners in Care is looking to secure 500-600 housing units for those who are subsidized, and is engaging landlords to help via incentive funds. 224 individuals and families are now in housing units, and the community is helping with bed donations and furniture deliveries. Thielen invited Oahu citizens to consider donating welcome home kits, volunteer to help with homeless surveys and in-person visits and help with job training. She stressed that helping to get people into their own space is a wonderful experience....life changing for all! For a better understanding of what the homeless face, Thielen recommended reading the book Evicted.

Respectfully Scribed with Aloha,  
PP Linda Coble.

**BOO !!!!!!!!!**