

MINUTES OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2021

By Zoom

President Gwen Yamamoto Lau called the October 5, 2021, meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at 11:59 AM. She welcomed those in attendance and named the meeting participants. **Eileen Hilton** led the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Robyn McCreary** shared a unique video of the singing of the National Anthem. **President Gwen** introduced the meeting visitors who included Rotarians Hideo Yamanaka from Kyoto, Kevin Parle from the UK, and Robert Comper. **Rick Tabor** gave a Vocational Minute describing his post-retirement activities. He also invited others to give a Vocational Minute on a first or third Tuesday. **Don Anderson** introduced Mitch Weld, a former member, who is returning to the club. **President Gwen** gave the new (returning) member charge and welcomed him back to our club. **Mr. Weld** responded with his comments about the club. **President Gwen** listed the October birthdays. (They can also be seen in last week's *Tradewind*.) She announced the closing of the Rotary office for October 11 - 15, then sent the group into break-out sessions with the question "If you were the mayor or governor, would you allow groups of more than 25 attend games and weddings?"

After that interesting exchange, **Maja Grajski** introduced Aiko Yamashiro, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, whose topic was "Strengthening Heart, Connections and Humanity." **Maja** shared Aiko's work history, which includes teaching poetry and literature at UH Manoa, and the fact that Aiko was part of the PBN "40 Under 40" cohort.

Ms. Yamashiro opened with a request of members to share why they liked our club using chat. Chat became the medium for participating in the discussion about and development of poetry. She said poetry is like bread for all—everyone is a poet—in poetry one says what they really mean—poetry helps us practice listening with the whole heart. She then wove questions for member participation on chat with the reading of poems. These interwoven questions included "think of people who might need encouragement", "what is something changing in your life?", "think of someone in your life that you need to say I love you to", "share how you feel", and "what must we not forget". She wove individual responses into the final poem. She directed listeners to the link for the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, to learn about that organization.

President Gwen thanked Ms. Yamashiro and opened the meeting to Q & A. After announcing next week's speaker (John De Fries, President & CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority) and the singing of "Hawaii Aloha", she adjourned the meeting at 1:01 PM.

Nancy White, Scribe