

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2019
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO

President Paul Saito rang the bell at noon, welcomed and thanked everyone for joining. He further announced that with a full schedule, anyone with announcements and introductions should cue up quickly.

James Pierce gave the Inspiration, opening with wit and charm. He shared a personal story of his consideration for membership to Rotary, where one day as part of his “vetting process” he met for coffee with **Nancy Pace**, the former District Governor. During their visit **Nancy** asked him about service programs he was involved with. Turns out that they were both in Kajiado, Kenya, Africa at the same time helping with a girl’s school, working on an International Rotary Project.

He shared his heartfelt “epiphany of that day, that if two strangers living on a little island in the middle of the Pacific, thousands of miles from Africa, cared enough for the plight of those girls who had to overcome some pretty significant obstacles, that’s an organization I wanted to be involved with. My Mother told me to choose my friends wisely. And as I look around at my friends today, I can tell her I’ve done just that. I don’t come for the excellent cuisine and beautiful venue, I come because each and every one of you inspire me on a daily basis to put service above self, so thank you very much!”

Following the Inspirational moment, **Tom Matthews** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Al Linton** leading us in God Bless America, to which **Craig Robinson** accompanied us on piano. **Beth-Ann Kozlovich** conducted Visitor Introductions, welcoming three visiting Rotarians and guests of RCOH members, **Robyn McCreary**, **Rich Proctor**, and **Rick Tabor**.

CONDOLENCES to Bub Wo & Sid Snyder:

- **Bub Wo’s** father’s service is Sunday, October 13, 2019 at Waialae CC.
- **Sid Snyder’s** wife Diana Lynne Joslin Snyder passed September 27, 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Birthday wishes to **Susan Robinson** (10/09) and to **Carolann Biederman** (10/12).
- Club Anniversary Acknowledgments to **Rich Smylie**, 10 years, Sponsored by Michael Bass and **Mel Kaneshige**, 22 years, Sponsored by **Kitty Yannone**.
- Rotary Give Thanks - **Rich Proctor** recognized volunteers of the annual two-week project that was done for Kahi Mohala this year, by asking the volunteers to stand and be recognized. The first weekend approximately 25 attended and the second weekend approximately 21 attended to lend their talents in creating a cheerful area for families. He further thanked the RATPack for organizing this event.

- Clean-Up Day at Centennial Park was announced by **Rob Hale**. He shared the great news that we now have a grading permit, with many of the other permits in process. Further, he acknowledged that **Carolann Biederman** put together another clean-up project sponsored by AARP this coming Saturday, October 12, 2019.
- Rotary Story Time was announced by **Diana Sakurai**, encouraging participation on Saturday, October 19, 2019, event with a Halloween “Bone” theme.
- Pau Hana BYOB Wine Tasting was announced by **Scotty Anderson**, for November 1, 2019. He stated there will be a tasting contest, and joked about some members bringing a “two-buck chuck”.
- 4-Way Test Speech Contest – **Brian Dunkel** reminded the members of our annual contest and asked that members come see him to help get the information out to our Oahu High Schools.
- Paul Harris Week – **President Paul** reminded everyone to stop by the table before leaving and make sure to sign up.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION:

President Paul handed the podium over to Sponsor **Alice Tucker**, to introduce **Jennifer Oyer**, our newest member. **Jennifer** is a local “girl” who graduated from the Hawaii Baptist Academy, received her BA in History & Asian Pacific literature from UH, and will be receiving her Masters’ degree in Business & Management from Azusa Pacific University next year. She is also a Certified Fundraiser Executive and has certification in Event Management. **Jennifer** has helped many agencies in fundraising, namely Richardson School of Law, the Arthritis Association, and Salvation Army. She will soon be assisting in fundraising for Manoa Valley Theater through her company Community Impact Advisors. She was honored by the Japanese and local Chamber of Commerce, and additionally has many honors and awards for her efforts, including having been honored in the 40 Under 40 group.

Paul welcomed **Jennifer** and encouraged her to consider herself a fellow Rotarian from this point on.

Jennifer Oyer – She spoke by first sharing that above the door heading to the garage of her parents’ home was a sign that said, “Go out into the world and do well, but more importantly, go out into the world and do good.” In her own words,

“Both of my parents were FBI agents so they lived and they breathed the idea of doing good, and also they lived the idea of Service Above Self, service for others, serving others. So, it’s not only fitting but also a distinct honor and a privilege to be a part of an organization like the Rotary Club of Honolulu whose huge mission is to Serve Others. So thank you so much for this opportunity. Thank you to the **Robinsons** for your Sponsorship and thank you **Alice Tucker**.”

FELLOWSHIP TIME was dismissed this session due to time constraints.

GUEST SPEAKER:

PP Rick Towill introduced US Congressman Ed Case. A Maile Lei was bestowed on Congressman Case by Martha German in keeping with **Lyla Berg's** quest to understand our culture and reason for what we do, **Rick** explained the meaning behind this gesture.

Congressman Ed Case spoke on the sensitive and most critical issue of the US President, Donald Trump's Impeachment inquiries. His goal was to speak clearly and directly on his own understanding and thinking, followed by Q & A. He stated he "never expected to go back to Washington and deal with Impeachment" and "feels this is a sad time for our country, for *all* Americans. It is in many ways a failure of our country, the indictment of where we are today, that we are talking about Impeachment today. We've only talked about impeachment seriously... three times before in the entire history of our country. Yet that is where we are today. We are in an impeachment inquiry." He shared he likes to go back to the basics of the Constitution of the United States "as we sometimes forget." He spoke of our duties, his duties in his position of Congress, and reminded us of the way our government was designed to work with "checks and balances" and how our "Founding Fathers set forth a procedure where a Federal Official could be removed from office during the middle of his or her term; that is of course, Impeachment." "Impeachment is a charge, a *charge* that *could* remove the President from office if there is a vote by the majority of the US House to Impeach the President. It then goes to US Senate which *must* conduct a trial ... and then must decide at the end of that trial, on a two-thirds vote to remove the President from office."

"Obviously a vote of impeachment must start somewhere. It starts with an inquiry." There are four stages: 1) Inquiry by the House 2) the Vote 3) a Senate trial 4) Senate decision. "We are in the first of those four stages. Right now we are in an Impeachment Inquiry."

While he has disagreed with President Trump on many, many issues, it did not rise to the level of impeachment inquiry. "Why? Because, number one, I didn't think we were at that point from a factual perspective and I didn't have all the facts, and even if I did have all those facts, I wasn't sure it was an impeachable situation. And over the last few weeks, my views have changed on this. I do support an impeachment inquiry. I do not, by the way, I have not, made a decision, on the actual vote of impeachment. That is not where I am. But I do believe we need to go through an inquiry." He shared there are narrow questions regarding this situation, and advised us to try and take the word "Trump" out of it, as if we were speaking about *any* President past or future. The narrow questions are: First Question: Did the President ask a foreign leader to investigate a political rival for his own political gain? Second question: Did the President leverage that request by withholding foreign aid from a country, especially a country like Ukraine? Third Question: Did this President obstruct or otherwise try to interfere with a legitimate whistleblower process as set up by law? Case went into how our system is supposed to work, and stated that he doesn't have the answers to these questions today, but fears that if the answers are 'yes', "then that does reflect in this President, or in any other President, that goes through the same fact pattern, a betrayal of Constitutional duties, an abuse of power, and it certainly does in this particular instance, rise to the level of a significant National security risk." Case encouraged members to approach him either in person, email, or mail, to share their

opinions and concerns. He then answered questions posed by club members. One answer was that he didn't feel there is enough information at this time to impeach. He is working diligently to do his best for the people.

Weekly book donation for Palolo Elementary School:

President Saito and Congressman Case signed the book "I Walk with Vanessa."

This meeting session rang long, so singing of Hawaii Aloha was postponed to next weeks' meeting.

Mahalo,

Lee LaBrash