

Rotary Club of Honolulu
Royal Hawaiian Hotel Monarch Room
January 22, 2019
Presiding: **President Bub Wo**

The inspiration, given by prospective member **Brennan Purtzer**, who quoted **Martin Luther King** who observed: "True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Michael Marsh**, the singing of "America the Beautiful," was led by **Sumner Howard**, accompanied by **Carol Sakata**. Visitor introductions were given by **Dawn Marie**, and the meeting photographer was **Bob Sigall**.

Visitors included: Rotarians Mr and Mrs Yoshio Tatebe from Nara Higashi Club in Mara Japan, Billy Daniels from Sebastopol California Club, Vicki Kim from the Honolulu Metro Club and visitors Jane Scott McCerie and former members Dan Bent and Kirk Hovious.

Birthdays this week include:

Kean Santos on 24 Jan, **Jeff Martin** on 26 Jan, **Bob Borek**, **Robyn McCreary**, and **Mil Rohan** on 4 Feb.

Club Anniversaries: 1/22 – 2/4

Bryan Watkins (6 years), **Max Besenbruch** (26 years), **Terry George** (16 years).

Announcements:

Beth-Ann Kozlovich announced the Kahi Mohala tour and lunch on 29 Jan. Sign up thru Martha if you were not able to sign up at the meeting. Sutter Health Kāhi Mōhala is a center of excellence for behavioral healthcare services. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life and restoring hope for individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Resse Liggett announced a service project on 10 February in Hamakua Marsh. **Joanna Amberger** solicited Paul Harris Day venue hosts for the week of 19 February. Many formats are possible from home potlucks to visits to workplaces and member-affiliated non-profits.

Glenda Anderson announced the 4-way test speech contest and solicited help in publicizing the opportunity to young people.

Program: Centennial Park Project

President Bub introduced the program that was designed to allow Club members to understand the Centennial Park Project and importantly to offer questions and commentary. The program was conducted with presentations by 4 panelists: **President Bub Wo**, former member and Park Committee member **Kirk Hovious**, **Past President Terry George**, and Centennial Park Committee Chairman **Rob Hale**. **Bub** started by referring to a 6 page letter to the Club outlining his assessment on the Park project. In it he: 1. Acknowledged and expressed appreciation for past efforts and contributions; 2. Acknowledged and described efforts to resolve tensions and conflicts; 3. Provided an update for the Centennial Park since his assumption of Club President in July of 2018, and closed with his view of the way forward. He expressed his commitment to do all in his power to ensure the Park is completed during his tenure as President. **Bub** was followed by **Kirk** who took issue with **Rob Hale's** 4 December presentation to Club members that was organized along the lines of describing and dispelling "Myths" about the project. **Kirk** registered disappointment with the lack of transparency and firmness by Club leadership, in spring of 2018, when faced with the challenge HECO's application for a permit to build a substation on a portion of the site competing with Centennial Park's esthetic integrity. He, as well, provided a rebuttal document outlining the history of the project and specific concerns with the descriptions of each of the 8 Myths outlined in the 4 December presentation to members. **Past President Terry** followed **Kirk** and shared his experience with the Park Project. He offered heartfelt apology for a variety of decisions he took that he viewed in retrospect to have been taken without respect for full transparency and respect for the prerogatives of the Park Committee Chair. He referenced and apologized especially his failure to provide timely response and guidance to an email from Dave Benson the Committee Chair alerting to Dave's grave concern to HECO's initial application for a permit to encroach on the Park Project site. **Terry** represented that the challenge of responding to the HECO challenge was a source of division, both within the committee and within the Club as a whole. He saw two camps forming: one in favor of total resistance to HECO's application as a deal breaker, and the other camp in favor of trying to avoid the delays that a protracted fight would cause by working collaboratively with HECO to minimize the impact of their proposed substation building.

President Bub thanked panelists and said this week's book: ***Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth***, to be signed by them and given to Palolo Elementary.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm but panelists continued to answer questions from those who remained.

Respectfully submitted, **David M Shanahan**, Scribe