

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
DATE: JANUARY 26, 2021
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT RICH PROCTOR

President Rich Proctor called to order the Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting at 12:00 noon.
“Welcome to the January 26th meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu. Thank you for joining us. My name is Rich Proctor and I am honored to be your President. We have a great program today.”

Brian Dunkel, as Virtual Meeting Maestro, mutes members for ease of listening to speakers.

Inspiration by **Nancy Pace**

“O God, help us try to do the right thing and leave the right results to You. Help us to plant and water and nourish as many seeds of hope and love and care as we can, even if we do not see them flower or will not know what harvest they will yield. Help us like Job to be able to say, “I have always acted justly and fairly. I was like a father and mother to the poor and took the side of strangers in trouble. I destroyed the power of cruel men and rescued their victims.”

Marian Wright Edelman in her book *Guide My Feet, Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children*

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was led by **Glenda Anderson**. Singing of *America the Beautiful* was led by **Kent Reinker**.

Visitors: Welcomed by **President Rich:**

Pam Chambers (former member), **Bobbie Brock, Vitek and Isabella**, Rotarians from Poland currently living on Oahu, **Lono Willis, Mr. Hideo Yamanaka** from Kyoto Rotary Club, **Kevin Parle**, Rotarian from the UK, **Saima Mahkdoom**, and prospective member **Madeleine Gardner**.

Vocational Minute by **Ananda Ferreira:**

“Thank you so much, Rich, to you and the Rotary Board the opportunity for me to share a little bit about what I do. For those of you who don’t know me, my name is **Ananda** and I am the Executive Director for the Kaimuku, Waialae Branch of the YMCA.

We are located near Kahala Mall and we serve everyone from Keiki to Kupuna through our program. I’m very lucky to say I get to make a difference in our community every day with my work through the YMCA.

When many people think of the ‘Y’, they think of a gym and a place to swim, and while you can do those things at the ‘Y’, we are so much more. We are an international organization with locations in nearly every country. We have a long history of collaborations with the Rotary Club International Service Trips thanks to our former YMCA CEO and my Rotary sponsor, **Don Anderson**. Nationally there are thousands of

'Y's' where we work hard in our three areas of focus: Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.

Locally, we serve more than 100K people every year and we work hard to instill our Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Diversity in everything we do. At over 150 years old, we are one of the oldest non-profits in Hawaii. And like many organizations, we were hit hard by the pandemic. We had to close our doors for a period of time. We have been operating with restrictions and unfortunately had to reduce our workforce by about 75%. Fortunately, we have pivoted to meet the needs of our community during the pandemic. At a time when much of our world was upended by Covid-19, the generosity of donations allowed the YMCA to step in and to help. And thank you to those of you who donated to help.

At the Kaimuki YMCA, which is the branch that I oversee, we served nearly 23,000 hot meals to children in need. This included 250 meals delivered door-to-door daily to the Pololo homes. We also provided 15 weeks of day camp to children, and provided a safe and nurturing environment for children for distance learning in class at our learning center. We have modified our entire programming to include social distancing, frequent sanitation, mask wearing, curbside limitation, and more outdoor activities. We launched our Virtual YMCA that includes over 80 group exercise classes that can be taken from the comfort of your own home, as well as classes like virtual ukulele lessons.

In 2021, we look forward to restarting our pre-school and our middle school programs in March, to bringing back group lessons, swim lessons and our swim team, and bringing back many of the children and members back to our programs.

If you are interested in being involved with the YMCA, I would love to chat with you more about opportunities. You are welcome to stop by and visit. Thank you for your time!

President Rich: "Thank you **Ananda**. Thank you for bringing us up to date with the YCAA; one of my favorite places to visit."

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION OF KEANE AKAO

Introduction of Keane by Carolann Biederman:

"I'm pleased to introduce my colleague **Keane Akao** (keyenn) to the Rotary Club of Honolulu (and to recognize long-time Club member **John Henry Felix**, who also supported **Keane's** membership).

Keane Akao serves as Executive Director of *United Cerebral Palsy Association of Hawaii*, which provides services, educates the public, and empowers children and adults with cerebral palsy or other disabilities. Its Early Intervention program serves infants to 3-year olds and their families, and its Re-Use and Diversion program keeps millions of lbs. of cloth and housewares out of our landfills...and Saver's racks stocked with great items at low prices. And yes, there's the Rubber Duckie Race too.

Keane's solid leadership abilities, innovations and sense of humor served him well in his prior ED roles at *Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium*, *Camp Mokule'ia*, and *The Episcopal Church of West O'ahu*.

Keane is a kanaka māoli, born and educated in Hawaii who grew up in the Episcopal Church. He's a proud Roosevelt and UH-Mānoa grad. **Keane** volunteers with many community organizations, such as the *Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce; The Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu and Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement*. He's a member of the *Association of Fundraising Professionals for Nonprofits (AFP)* and *The Pacific Club*.

I first got to know **Keane** in 2020 as a business associate and have enjoyed working with him and getting to know him better ever since. I'm sure you will too. Welcome **Keane!**"

President Rich:

"Welcome **Keane**. **Keane**, you have been invited in to the membership of the Rotary Club of Honolulu because of your fellow members belief, you are a leader in your profession and our community. Your willingness to support the goals and objectives of our club and Rotary international is a welcomed asset. When you become involved in with our service projects you find a sense of gratification that is grounded in the sharing of Rotary and helping others. **Keane**, *from this moment on you can proudly call yourself a Rotarian*. We invite you now to share a few words with your fellow Rotarians."

Keane Akao:

"Good afternoon and thank you everyone for allowing me to become part of the Mother Club. My spare time, which is very limited right now, is spent generally cooking, which I find to be therapy. Recently my fiancé and I experienced a pretty severe accident. We are now looking to rebuild our home together up on St. Louis Heights. I thank everyone for this opportunity and look forward to getting to know all of you, and possibly traveling with you when the time is safe. I also would like to close by letting you know I will be making a gift to the Paul Harris Rotary International Fund and I look forward to meeting all of you in person some day! Thank you again."

President Rich:

"Thank you and welcome! If we were meeting in person, and some day we intend to do just that, we would give you a pin and everyone would be standing up. We will do that at another time for you. Don't worry; you are welcome to this club. Get to know people as we get to know you!"

AWARDS

Carolann Biederman announces the following:

"Thank you **President Rich**. Today we recognize our Club's newest Paul Harris, John Warren and Maile Hale Fellows for their generosity.

January 2020 was the last time we were able to honor Fellows in person. Today, we'll do that virtually. Let's start with the Paul Harris Fund, Rotary International's oldest established fund.

(Members are shown a slide visual of the *Paul Harris Fellow medallion*)

Rotary International has one Fund. The Rotary Foundation was established in 1917 as a nonprofit organization. It's an endowment fund supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotary members and friends of the Foundation here and around the world.

The presentation of Paul Harris Fellow recognition is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to this fund that underwrites humanitarian and educational programs here and around the world. It's named for our founder, Paul Harris, the Chicago lawyer who started Rotary International with three business associates in 1905.

Those who contribute – or in whose name is contributed – an outright or cumulative gift of \$1,000 or more become **Paul Harris Fellows**. Some call this the Paul Harris Fund, but it's correctly – a recognition. And multiple Fellowships are awarded with every subsequent \$1,000 contributed.

(Members view slide of **Laura Hankins**)

It's my pleasure to recognize Laura Hankins as the newest Paul Harris Fellow.^[LSEP]
Please accept our congratulations and sincere appreciation, for your commitment to our common goals of world understanding and peace. (APPLAUSE)

It's because of members like you, Laura, that the Rotary Foundation is able to support an array of programs that achieve beneficial changes in our world: international understanding and brighter hopes for peace; improvements to health, support for education, alleviation of poverty, and the **Polio Plus** campaign, which aims to eliminate polio everywhere.

Ribbon colors are blue and gold, like Rotary's logo, and the medallion bears the likeness of Rotary's founder. One day you'll be able to wear it proudly at a meeting, when we meet again in person. Meanwhile, your recognition pin and certificate will be mailed.

Our Club Foundation has three Funds, two of which have Fellows recognitions.

(Members view slide of the *John Warren Fellow medallion*)^[LSEP]

The John Warren Fund was founded in 1977 and is named for the past president during whose tenure the Foundation came into being. **John Warren** contributions are considered unrestricted and can be used for funding current projects and on-going expenses.^[LSEP] John Warren Fellow is anyone who contributes – or in whose name is contributed – an outright or cumulative gift of \$1,000 or more designated to the John Warren Fund of the Foundation of The Rotary Club of Honolulu.

(Members view slide of **Joanna Amberger, Laura Hankins and Reed Myers**)

I'd like to recognize Joanna Amberger, Laura Hankins and Reed Myers as new John Warren Fellows.^[LSEP] Congratulations and sincere thanks, for your passionate engagement in Rotary, and your financial contributions that support our Club's projects. (APPLAUSE)

John Warren Fellow ribbon colors are red and gold. When you think about this fund, think of Club members in action - red is the action color, and our volunteers are golden.

(Members view a slide of the **Maile Hale medallion**)^{[1][SEP]}

The **Maile Hale Fund** is our Club's endowment fund, and contributions are permanently restricted.

By policy, a portion of earnings can be used for projects, based on a conservative annual calculation. The original financial goal was to reach a corpus of \$500,000, at which time a portion of the earnings began to be available for projects. We've surpassed that goal several times, and the corpus continues to grow through the annual Service above Self, fundraising campaign.

This Fund is named in honor of **Maile Hale**, the daughter of Centennial Park Committee Chair and Past President **Rob Hale** and his late wife **Carol Ann. Maile** died tragically in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, but her memory lives on in the community service projects, which are supported by the fund that bears her name. Individuals who donate \$1,000 or more to the **Maile Hale Fund** are recognized as **Maile Hale Fellows**.

(Members view slide of **Peg Jackson**)^{[1][SEP]}

It's my pleasure to recognize Peg Jackson for her first Maile Hale Fellowship.

Congratulations and mahalo, **Peg** for your time, talents and contributions that support our Club's local and global impact projects. (APPLAUSE)^{[1][SEP]} The medallion bears **Maile's** likeness and ribbon colors are blue and green, like the earth from space. It's a reminder of hope for the future.^{[1][SEP]}

(Members view a slide of **Carolann** with a thank you logo)

"Thank you all, for your generosity and changing our world for the better, every day as Rotarians. Back to you, **President Rich**."

President Rich: "Thanks **Carolann** for all the information and **Brian** for all the slides. Further announcements..."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays: **Jeff Martin**, Jan. 26

Anniversaries:

Max Besenbruch, 28 years, sponsored by **Dave Higgins**.

Terry George, 18 years, sponsored by **Patti Lyons**.

President Rich calls upon **Ann Miller** to share information on the upcoming International Rotary Service Project by the District.

Ann reports the International Rotary Project, will be in Nepal and Bhutan, slated for Oct/Nov 2021. She is submitting all the information to Martha to be added into our *Tradewind* Newsletter along with contacts.

The aim of this project is to improve basic and applied science education for students enrolled in Veterinary Science, Civil Engineering, and agriculture programs at two districts in Tanahun District, Nepal. So we are looking for 30 Hawaiian Rotarians to

partner with local experts and educators to help facilitate and teach a variety of programs.

There are additional projects as well; updating and maintenance of toilets and water systems at the high schools; delivery and installation of basic solar lighting, charging systems, and basic water filters; and site visits for updating water systems in other villages in Nepal.

It's an exciting opportunity. If interested, please let **Ann** know, check for the details in the *Tradewind* newsletter!

President Rich: Thank you, **Ann**. This will be a popular project in the district. If you have thoughts about going, now is the time to act because it. It will fill quickly with other Rotarians from the district - so sign up now.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

President Rich: It was brought to my attention; the district is gathering folks for an opportunity at Pier 2 for data entry on the people being vaccinated. Information will be sent out. Many Rotarians from all clubs will be involved. Watch for the email blast that will be sent out.

The Pantry: We will hear from them in the next couple weeks. **Bub Wo** and **Paulette** volunteer down there regularly. **Bub** will coordinate the volunteers at the Pantry. This is an interesting volunteer opportunity; it is like shopping at a grocery store, loading the carts for distribution to folks in their cars.

BREAKOUT ROOM

We had a quick few minutes for our Breakout Room. The topic was for each group to share what topics and speakers members would like to have in future meetings. One member from each breakout room will place the suggestions in the Chat box for **Martha** and **Rich**.

GUEST SPEAKER NANETTE NAPOLEON – *Hawaii's Sons in the Civil War*

Introduction of today's speaker by **Kiersten Faulkner**:

As a pioneer of cemetery preservation across the Hawaiian Islands for 35 years, Nanette Napoleon is known for her significant contributions to the restoration, research and documentation, protection and awareness of Hawaii's historic burial grounds.

Since the mid-1980s, Nanette has led an effort to preserve historic cemeteries. Her family's appreciation of their native Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Tahitian, and European roots drew her to learn about the people of the 19th and early 20th centuries and the stories their final resting places tell.

She has broadly shared what she has learned — through books, journals, newspaper and magazine articles, television news and public interest appearances, walking tours, dramatic programs, and one-on-one advice.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation presented Nanette with a Preservation Honor Award in 2020 for her amazing work in preserving this part of Hawaii's history.

Guest Speaker: **Nanette Napoleon**

(Due to technical difficulties, Nanette didn't get through her entire presentation, yet was still able to share a great deal of information.)

Most people know that the Civil War was fought from 1861-1865, starting on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, in South Carolina. At the time of the outbreak of the war, many countries around the world declared neutrality, they didn't want to sign up and support one side or the other. In particular, France and Great Britain were the most important because they were the largest traders in Europe to America, so it was a big thing for them to declare neutrality.

On August 12, 1861, King Kamehameha IV, who was the ruler at the time, issued a declaration of neutrality proclamation:

Be it known to all whom it may concern, that I, Kamehameha IV, King of the Hawaiian Islands, having been officially notified that hostilities are now unhappily pending between the government of the United States and certain States thereof styling themselves "The Confederate States of America," hereby proclaim our neutrality between said contending parties.

That was the official party line for the Kingdom of Hawaii. The Kingdom of Hawaii couldn't send troops to the war, but it didn't stop individual residents from the Kingdom from going. Today there are 83 individuals who fought in the conflict. That number has changed over time and may change again.

95 percent of the Hawaiian's who fought were in the North, and most from the state of Massachusetts. This is because Hawaii, before the war already had strong ties along the Atlantic area from whaling, which peaked in the 50's and 60's. Whaling was an important tie to the northern forces. Missionaries who came from all parts of the North also played an important role, as Northerners, who settled in Hawaii, making a connection which is why Hawaiian's fought for the North.

Sugar was a very important part of the Civil War. Both sides embargoed each other, so no trade was happening. The South was mainly agricultural and was producing most of the sugar for the entire country. The North had more factories than the south but they were not able to get the products they needed. The North turned to Mexico and Hawaii, creating another connection between Hawaii and the North. During the course of the war from 1861 sugar was .04 cents a pound and by 1865 it was .24 cents a pound making sugar king in the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Who from Hawaii served in the Civil War? A group of young men who were missionary sons; there are 13 of them, including 3 sets of brothers; the Chamberlain brothers, the Forbes brothers and the two Lyman brothers. Most went to Punahou, but not all of them. I am sure some of you out there are Punahou alumni.

Right now in the middle of writing my book, I am writing profiles about all of these men and how they came to serve in the Civil War and what they did in the Civil War. The

Caucasian, not Hawaiian, who is the most notable is Samuel Chapman Armstrong, born in 1839 and died in 1893. He graduated from Oahu College, today known as Punahou School. He went on, like many of the missionary sons, to Williams College in Massachusetts where he graduated in 1862, the second year of the Civil War. By virtue that he was a college graduate, he was able to enlist with the rank of Captain in the 25th New York Infantry Regiment. He has a long battle history, but one of note, he was captured immediately in the battle of Harpers Ferry, in the South, and they sent him to Camp Douglas Prison in Chicago. Later they had a prisoner exchange and he was exchanged and went back to service in the Union Army. His most important battle was the Battle of Gettysburg. He was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and became the Commander of the 8th and 9th US Color Troops, which were not originally part of the plan.

The US Color troops were not originally part of the plan at the beginning of the war, but as so many men were killed in battle, tens of thousands of men dying, the North wanted to boost their enrollment by finally taking colored troops.

To become a Commander of the Color Troops, you had to go to Washington DC and you had to study and take exams, being approved on many levels. It was not easy to become a Commander of Color Troops. One of the requirements, you had to be white you couldn't be black. Samuel passed all the requirements and became Commander to the 8th and then the 9th Color Troops. Then in 1864 he was promoted to Colonel for his meritorious service in the siege of Gettysburg. Then in 1865, the last year of the war, he was promoted to Brigadier General and discharged at the age of 26.

He had a rapid rise through the ranks because the death rate of soldiers was so great, and when a Commanding Officer, General, or Colonel died, they promoted from the lower ranks. It is pretty remarkable to be a Brigadier General at the age of 26.

He wrote an article that appeared in a newspaper that said this about Colored Troops:
The African race is before the world and all of mankind are looking to see whether the African will show himself equal to the opportunity before him. And their future in my opinion rests largely upon the success of the Negro troops of this war. It will have been a grand thing to be identified with this Negro movement.

When I started doing research on this topic, Col. Robert Shaw, Commander of the 54th Massachusetts Colored Troops immediately reminded me of Samuel Chapman Armstrong. They had a lot in common and were about the same age. I suggest everyone watch the movie "Glory" after this lecture. I see a lot of this character as in the movie.

At the end of the war, during the period of reconstruction, the newly Unified Federal Government was called the Freedmen's Bureau. This was to help overcome where the Negroes were coming from and help uplift them so they could be contributing members of regular society. They focused on housing, medical and legal assistance, and most importantly, education. Samuel Chapman applied to become a part of that movement.

He was assigned to be a District Agent in Southeastern Virginia. The agents had a tough job.

Armstrong went beyond. While in charge of building those community schools, his ambition was to form a higher education than just elementary school level. So he formed the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, now known as Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. He based the model of Hampton on the Hilo Boarding School, which was founded in 1836, founded by his father, the Rev. Richard Armstrong and by David Lyman, a fellow missionary. The idea was to give the freed slaves a higher education, teaching them trades.

I went to Hampton University in the summer of 2012, to do research in their library where they have an extensive Armstrong collection, which was very helpful to me. There is a graveyard on campus and Samuel Chapman is buried there. What is different about the marker, instead of being made of good standard marble or granite it was made of lava rock/ basalt rock that was shipped from the Big Island to Hampton. I got chicken-skin when I saw that rock there, that they did that for him.

I've been talking mostly of Caucasians of the Civil War, but there were Hawaiians who served in the Civil War as well. I have identified 32 in the Union Navy, 17 in the Union Army, and 10 in the Confederate Navy, which results in a total of 71% of all the soldiers who were Hawaiians.

A letter published in a Hawaiian missionary newspaper *The Friend* in 1865, written by Armstrong says,

"Yesterday, as my orderly was holding my horse, I asked him where he was from. He said he was from Hawaii! He proved to be a full-blood Kanaka, by the name of Kealoha, who came from the Islands last year. There is also another, by the name of Kaiwi, who lived near Judge Smith's, who left the Islands last July. I enjoyed seeing them very much and we had a good jabber in kanaka. Kealoha is a private in the 41st Regiment US Colored Troops, and Kaiwi is a Private in the 28th U.S.C.T., in the pioneer corps. Both are good men and seemed glad to have seen me."

Armstrong's brother, regarding the Civil War, wrote: "In Petersburg, Virginia one day last month I met two Kanaka working in a tobacco factory. One of them recognized me and called out "Pake!" I had to stop and laugh and had a good long chat with them. Poor fellows. They had been in the Army and were hard at work. They informed me that at least 100 Kanaka's had served in the Army and that a large number of them had been killed."

Nanette shared a list of some of the Hawaiian's she knows about who were in the Union Army. The men hailed from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Connecticut. Two served in the white regiments, but most served in the Colored Troops. This was based on their skin tones. Some were lighter than others because of mixed blood, aka hapa.

The one we know the most about is Henry Ho'olulu Pitman aka Timothy Pitman, who was born in 1845 in Hilo and died in 1863. His mother was Kino'oleoliliha, a Hawaiian high chiefess

from Hilo. She married an American immigrant named Benjamin Pitman of Boston. They had three children: Maryann Pitman Ailau, Henry Ho'olulu Pitman, and Benjamin Franklin Keola Pitman.

Kino'oleoliliha's father was the high chief Ho'olulu, a very well known chief in Hawaiian history. His father was the high chief Kame'eiamoku, who was a twin brother of Kamanawa. We see these two brothers in the coat of arms that are seen all over town. Most people don't have a clue as to who these two are.

Henry Pitman is in the Union Army in Massachusetts. He is wounded and taken first to Libby prison for aid and later to Camp parole where he died. He was buried in a cemetery nearby. His father went to get him, took him and reburied in Mount Auburn Cemetery where the Pitman's are buried.

USS Shenandoah was a Confederate Ship commissioned to go into the Pacific, not as a trading vessel, but as one to hunt down merchant ships and whaling ships. They were to take any whale oil and/or merchandise the ships had, then burn or other various things to sink the ships. They captured 38 whaling ships during the Civil War. One of the ships captured was the *Abigail* out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. There were 10 Hawaii boys who were conscripted to the *Abigail*. Many were given American names, because those who enlisted them could not spell or pronounce the Hawaiian names.

CLOSING

President Rich had to cut Nanette off due to the time constraints. Nanette and members who would like to continue chatting and Q&A with today's speaker, to stay after the meeting. Nanette is thanked for presenting and sharing just how much Hawaii was involved with the Civil War.

Next week, Tuesday, February 2, 2021, the guest speaker will be Mufi Hannemann, President and CEO of the *Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association*, the state's largest private visitor industry organization. Mr. Hannemann served twice as Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

Brian begins video of *Hawaii Aloha* for all members to sing along with.

President Rich adjourns the Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting at 1:02 pm.

AFTER MEETING VISIT, Q&A with Nanette

Members request that Nanette return for a Part 2 of her presentation. Those who wished to stay after and speak with Nanette did so.

Lyla Berg: Thank you for doing the research and sharing. It is curious to me the relationship the Hawaiians had with the American's because before all the insurgency happened in Hawaii. Can you talk a little about the relationship with Americans that Hawaiians felt at the time?

Nanette: Hawaiians didn't end up in war for any particular party, but because they were whalers, and the Hawaiians were mainly in New England, in the North Atlantic whaling and trading ports. When war broke out, more people were needed, so sailors were recruited. Hence how Hawaiians became involved. Whaler ships were turned into fighting vessels. So, the whaler job was now gone, so Hawaiians stayed in the area and joined feeling the ship was

their home, and they needed work. They had no way to get home, and the ship was their job. My theory is they joined for those reasons, not for ideology.

Madeleine Gardner: What was the dynamic between the groups? In your research did you find sentiments about that? How were the two groups placed together since there was not much racial interaction prior?

Nanette: When all these men were born in the Kingdom, Caucasians were the minority. But now in the North, Hawaiians experienced racial discrimination for the first time being in the Americas where they had never experienced it before.

Alice asked **Nanette** if she would return to finish her presentation on another date.

Proclamation 1861. Nanette said she would be happy to do so. Alice will coordinate with Nanette on the date.

Have a fabulous week.

Humble Scribe,

Lee LaBrash