

With delicious food bubbling under covers on the buffet line and conversations alive throughout the Outrigger Canoe Club meeting room, **Rotary Club of Honolulu President Lyla Berg** called us to order at noon on Tuesday, 1/31/2023. Lyla recalled the joy, socialization, and chance to “flirt with all the young ones” she and 33 other volunteers experienced at last Saturday’s successful Beer Fest. The fundraiser’s organizer, **Tom Coyne**, noted there were smiles aplenty, and thanked all involved. The **next Beer Fest is scheduled for June 24th!**

Kent Reinker led us in patriotic song, and **PP, PDG Linda Coble** followed up with the Pledge of Allegiance. She then focused on the value of humor and laughter for the Inspiration. **Linda** noted science shows you can use humor to add years to your life...and life to your years. Ralph Waldo Emerson’s number one definition of success: To Laugh Often, And Much. Also on Emerson’s list: To Leave The World A Bit Better, Whether By A Healthy Child, A Garden Patch, Or A Redeemed Social Condition. Our club’s Centennial Park project comes to mind...and **Bob Sumpf** invited us to the **next Centennial Park workday on February 11th**. The city’s cutback on water is taking its toll, and help is definitely needed. Our Sister Club relationships are going strong, and **Hiroko Dewitz** invited Rotarians to attend a special **Kyoto/Honolulu Rotary Club joint reception Sunday, February 19th**. It will be held from 12:30 - 2:30 pm at Shor Restaurant at Hyatt Regency. Renowned Tea Master Sen has been invited, health permitting. The Kyoto club donated \$10,000 to help get the Centennial Park started. We also welcomed to our meeting, Rotarians Kiyoshi and Mariko Miyazaki from the Rotary Club of Tokyo Shintoshin, and banners were exchanged.

Sam Haas introduced our guest speaker, who grew up on rice and noodles in Myanmar, Burma...and evolved to fries and burgers at McDonald’s. In 1969, **Victor Lim** moved to Hawaii (“If it was good for Elvis Presley, it could be good for me”) to attend UH. **Lim** said McDonald’s was willing to take a chance on a foreign-born student, and he served in many capacities from California to Asia Pacific, until he left the corporate side in 1987 to become a McDonald’s franchisee. He now owns and operates 5 restaurants on Oahu (Ft. Street Mall, Discovery Bay Center, Waimanalo, Enchanted Lakes, and Kailua) and has been honored with scores of awards here and nationwide.

Lim has been spending the last two years trying to share with politicians the challenging realities of the business community during and in the wake of COVID...the domino effect on closures, employee security and job filling, government checks vs. work checks. He discussed robotics, artificial intelligence to take orders via drive-through while redeploying employees where needed, the value of human contact and more. **Lim** said the survival of small business is critical to the survival of the community at large, and he credited **Gwen Yamamoto Lau**, Sylvia Luke, and others willing to listen and stand up for the American workforce.

Congratulations to **Rotarians of the Month Brian Dunkel and Lee LaBrash**. Whether behind the tech desk linking microphones and zoomers, or out on projects, **President Lyla** noted they “carry the water for us...so we can be recognized.”

President Lyla closed the meeting quoting Hellen Keller: “Security is a superstition. Life is either a daring adventure...or nothing.”

With Aloha,
PP PDG **Linda Coble**, Scribe