

The first Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting of 2021 was called to order by **President Rich Proctor** at noon on zoom January 5th. Noon on zoom...how long will that last? There are so many unknowns going into the new year, and as **Michael Marsh** shared in his inspiration featuring Charlie Chaplin quotes... “We are all tourists and God is our travel agent”...and “Our most lost day is the day we don’t laugh”. **Lee LaBrash** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Kent Reinker** sang America the Beautiful...beautifully. A potential member, Madeline Gardner, was in our on-line audience, as **Rick Towill** introduced our newest member who he proudly sponsored, **Mike Latham**, Punahou School President. Mike’s father was a Pearl Harbor club Rotarian, and Mike noted he is pleased to be back in the islands after 30 years away, to join us in enriching Hawaii as a Honolulu club Rotarian.

President Rich proudly announced our well deserved Rotarian of the Month is **Carolann Biederman**. Not only is Carolann the President of our Foundation, she has worked tirelessly with the Centennial Park committee to get the word out to potential community funders and members about the progress of the on-going, beautiful project. **Reese Liggett** encouraged members to sign up for January 16th park work, spreading wood chips along the fence among other things. Give Reese or Martha a call, if can. Wow... **Max Besenbruch** kicked off the new year turning 97!!! And your scribe turns 74 Sunday...Yikes. We are grateful for every moment! How we resolve to spend some of those moments in the new year was the breakout session topic.

Bob Sigall introduced our speaker, Peter Von Buol, who spoke to us from his home in Chicago, where he has a celebrated career in journalism and has had longtime connections between his home and Hawaii. Central in his remarks, were his reflections on noted artist, illustrator, and designer of the Hokulea sailing canoe, Herb Kane. I remember Kane for his colorful art featuring the canoe soaring through the waves. Little did I know he actually wanted to rebuild a replica of a Polynesian voyaging canoe that launched in 1975. Von Buol shared stories surrounding the Kane artwork on everything from the Sons of Hawaii 1971 album, in encyclopedias and advertising campaigns to his last efforts to preserve (unsuccessfully) the Kahuku Sugar Mill. What a cultural icon...and mahalo to his Chicago friend for sharing the inside stories. Our meeting concluded with an invitation to our next zoom gathering, and the singing of Hawaii Aloha,

My wishes for a safe and meaningful New Year to my Rotary Ohana!

PP Linda Coble, Scribe