

Every time President **Rich Proctor** calls our meeting to order, as he did at noon February 16th, 2021, he asks virtual meeting maestro, **Brian Dunkel**, to mute everybody....to shut us all up...and I laugh out loud (silently) every time. Rich introduced **Don Anderson**, whose inspiration outlined how we need to find our strength and compassion in these difficult times. He recalled how Americans have faced world wars, Korean and Vietnam wars, the Cuban missile crisis, the Great Depression and the Spanish Flu and more challenges...and may the compassionate and strong actions of today inspire the generations of the future. After the inspiration, **Robyn McCreary's** Pledge of Allegiance and **Kent Reinker's** God Bless America presentations meant all the more.

Our visitors warmly welcomed included: **Sofi Virabayan, Lee Donaldson, Madeleine Gardner, Kathie Cooke, Rotarian Vitol from Poland, and Rotarian Yamanaka from Japan.** Our vocational minute could have been a program in itself! **Poki'i Balaz** shared her experience as a nurse practitioner specializing in brain health, whose passion to work with Alzheimer's and dementia parents and caregivers has been reinforced by her Alzheimer's caregiving for her father over the past 10 years. Poki'i is working to rebuild the Memory Clinic and is Director of Clinical Services and Nursing at Lunailo Home. Poki'i is indeed, an advocate and community resource! Her birthday, and **Ernest Hui's**, were recognized...as were Club Anniversaries: **Jack Lockwood** (39 years) and **Geoff Seymour** (39 years).

President Rich announced that Rotary International has selected Honolulu, Hawaii to be the location of the 2027 International Convention. The RI Convention 2020 was to have been held here, before COVID concerns. This year's RI Convention in Taipei will be held virtually, as will be our District 5000 Conference. Please check our District 5000 website for details. RCOH will be hosting four Mediation Orientation sessions in March. **Lyla Berg** encouraged us to sign up, to develop better communication with ourselves and others. Details are included in this Tradewind, as well as details on the March 13th tree planting project at Gunstock Ranch. Our breakout sessions featured our favorite travel memories...good fun! Mahalo **Martha**, for organizing the groups. Different every week, and worth the talk-story break.

Amanda Ellis, who is visiting family in New Zealand, introduced our speaker, **Hadeel Anabtawi** who joined us from Jordan ... her presentation was excellent, in spite of the midnight-plus timeline she endured. Hadeel is a social entrepreneur in the children and girls empowerment field...a certified life coach, and the founder of the Alchemist Lab in Jordan. And she shared her journey to bridge the educational gap and girls empowerment for children from private schools to crowded refugee camps in Jordan and beyond. Her Alchemist Lab exposes young girls to the various career options they had yet to realize. It exposes them to role models in STEM studies and careers in technology companies and robotics and college searches, and 'graduates many out of the refugee camps and into schools and business. More than 25,000 refugee girls have been involved and empowered via STEM and 41,000 plus boys and girls have been touched beyond the refugee camps. Gender Equality is also part of their GoGirls program. Rotary...are you interested in fundraising, mentoring, and/or going to Jordan refugee camps to help Hadeel?

President Rich noted our next week's speaker will be researcher and writer, Nanette Napoleon who will share more about Hawaii's sons fighting in the civil war. Hawaii Aloha closed our meeting, and I watched with joy as so many of our faces via zoom were mouthing the beautiful words !!!!

Aloha, Scribe,
Past District 5000 Governor, past RCOH President, Linda Coble,
(First female. Keep it up Hadeel !!!! Just bragging) Have a wonderful week! Miss your hugs!

