

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
DATE: MARCH 2, 2021
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT RICH PROCTOR**

President Rich Proctor called to order the Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting at 12:00 noon.

"Welcome and thank you all for joining us! My name is **Rich Proctor** and I am honored to be your Club President." **Rich** announced the agenda for the day and welcomed visitors and guests, including announcing our guest speaker who was **Oz Stender**.

Rich thanked and asked **Brian Dunkel**, our Virtual Meeting Maestro, to mute everyone for ease of listening to speakers.

OPENING CEREMONIES

*Inspiration by **Al Linton**: **The Husband Store** (author unknown)*

Aloha! There is a new store that opened in New York City, where a woman may go to choose a husband. Among the instructions at the entrance is a description of how the store operates:

You may visit this store ONLY ONCE! There are six floors and the value of the products increase as the shopper ascends the flights. The shopper may choose any item from a particular floor, or may choose to go up to the next floor, but cannot go back down except to exit the building!

So, a woman goes to the Husband Store to find a husband. On the first floor the sign on the door reads:

Floor 1 - These men Have Jobs.

She is intrigued, but continues to the second floor, where the sign reads:

Floor 2 - These men Have Jobs and Love Kids.

"That's nice," she thinks, "but I want more."

So she continues upward. The third floor sign reads:

Floor 3 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, and are Extremely Good Looking.

"Wow," she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going.

She goes to the fourth floor and the sign reads:

Floor 4 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Good Looking and Help With Housework.

"Oh, mercy me!" she exclaims, "I can hardly stand it!"

Still, she goes to the fifth floor and the sign reads:

Floor 5 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop- dead Gorgeous, Help with Housework, and Have a Strong Romantic Streak.

She is so tempted to stay, but she goes to the sixth floor, where the sign reads:

Floor 6 - You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor. There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at the Husband Store.

PLEASE NOTE:

To avoid gender bias charges, the store's owner opened a New Wives store just across the street with the same rules.

The first floor has wives that love sex.

The second floor has wives that love sex and have money and like beer.

The third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors have never been visited.

"My fellow Rotarians, while we live in a time where we are pushing gender neutrality, we all know there are differences between men and women, *except* in organizations like Rotary, where men and women are the same in that we serve through our time, talent, and treasure to help our community in the world. We work together side by side to make a difference for good in this crazy wonderful world. I am proud we are Rotarians!" [Here! Here, Al! Well put!]

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was led by **Tim Parker**. Singing of *America the Beautiful* was led by **Al Linton**.

Visitors: Welcomed by **President Rich:**

Robert Comper (Mainland Rotary member), **Danielle Haviland** (guest of **Robyn McCreary**), **Katharine Cooke** (prospective member), **Rich Courson** (Polio Plus Chair), **Mr. Hideo Yamanaka** (from Kyoto Rotary Club), **Madeleine Gardner** (to be inducted as a new member), **Del Green** (Past District Governor), **Greg Owen** (Zone 26 Coordinator), former member **Paddy Griggs**, **Saima Makhdoom** (prospective member), **Kevin Parle** (Rotarian from the UK)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Birthdays:* **Liz Howard** (3/2), **Michael Marsh** (3/6), **Sarah Nordwall** (3/6), **Carol Sakata** (3/6), **Ken Kaneshiro** (3/7)
- *Anniversaries:* **Sarah Richards**, 31 years, Sponsored by **Ray Engle**
- **Lyla Berg** announced a Peace Committee meeting next Tuesday (1:15-2:15pm) following our regular meeting talking about how we will use our club to move Peace in Hawaii. Anyone interested may join. She encourages anyone who has young ones in their lives to have them (youth) enter, with their teachers, the Creating Peace contest.
- **Pres. Rich** announced an opportunity for our club to gather on Saturday, March 13th, 8:30am-12:30pm along with the Eco Club of Kakaako and West Honolulu to do some work at the Gunstock Ranch out in Kahuku, (just past Laie). For those who sign up with **Martha**, an email will be sent out on what to bring and "how to do the thing we will be doing." (Tree Planting!)

INDUCTION OF BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG to the POLIOPLUS SOCIETY

Introduction by **Richard Courson & Greg Owen:**

"It is my pleasure to be with you today! GREAT NEWS about *PolioPlus* - Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries left in the entire world with the wild polio virus. Last year in 2020, had less cases of the wild polio virus than 2019!!! The cases are down from 176 in 2019 down to 140 in 2020. This year, even better – so far only ONE case has been reported (in Afghanistan)! As the big boys say, 'We are cautiously optimistic!'"

Today, **Barbara**, was the first member of our club to be inducted into the *PolioPlus Society*! **Richard** stated he hopes to have more of our club members be inducted into the *PolioPlus Society* and then he introduced us to our Zone 26, EndPolioNow Coordinator, **Greg Owen**.

Greg came on to thank BOTH **Rich's (Proctor and Courson)** for being with us today and joked about "stealing the camera" and "being incognito." He said it's always a "great day when one is inducted into the *PolioPlus Society*."

Greg went on to share that even with the Corona Virus "turning our world upside down," Rotary was able to not only continue with Polio Vaccines, but to "switch gears to the Corona Virus awareness" to add in the help needed to teach others on how to stop the spread of the Corona Virus by educating on wearing masks, washing, sanitation, and distancing to help protect the third world countries from the C19.

Even with the Corona Virus issues, *PolioPlus* has continued to maintain statistics and samples "along with all the volunteers, manpower, cold storage, distribution systems and everything that it takes to run an immunization day," including "to help eliminate the spread of Ebola, Malaria, and Yellow Fever outbreaks thanks to our Rotary world efforts."

"The virus has caused serious shortages in our fundraising efforts. The annual member donations are way down and we find ourselves millions of dollars behind where we were last year at this same time. It has been an enormous struggle to meet the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation* challenge so they can match the \$2-to-\$1. What little reserves we have, if we fall short, we must make up for, which we do through reserves from the years we exceeded the \$50 million goal."

Every year the *PolioPlus Society* has asked members to contribute \$100 each to help eradicate Polio, and will continue to do so "until the World Health Organization declares the world Polio Free . . . Remember it must be 3 years of zero polio cases before a nation or continent can be declared polio free. "

ANYONE CAN DONATE! Donating to the *PolioPlus Society* is not just limited to Rotarians. Anyone who can donate \$100 a year or more to the *PolioPlus* may become a member of the *PolioPlus Society*! Many donate during the holiday seasons. To donate, go to the District website, or the <https://www.endpolio.org/donate> or make it very simple, by just contacting **Rich Courson**. Rotary is committed to raising \$50 million a year to match the *Gates Foundation* 2-to-1, bringing funds to the \$150 million a year that it takes for the fight to eradicate polio.

Richard Courson quickly shared that it is his "job to teach, share, and encourage all of us, as Rotarians, about *PolioPlus* and how to support this great cause. He hopes more of us will join the *PolioPlus Society*. So, get in and donate!"

Greg: "Today it's my pleasure to induct, one of the *Rotary Club of Honolulu's* long-standing donators to our *Rotary International Foundation*. Barbara is always there for her Club, District, and her Rotary comrades. **Barbara**, with your donation, you will receive your *PolioPlus Society* pin, *EndPolioNow* wristband, and *PolioPlus Society* Certificate declaring you a member of this fantastic Society; it's an honor and especially organization to Rotary for the eradication of polio. We sincerely hope your induction today will encourage your club members, family, friends, business associates, and

others to follow your lead. Thank you **Barbara** and welcome to the *Polio Plus Society*! Congratulations!"

Barbara: After a small, and humorous, hiccup of trying to speak while muted, Barbara laughs while claiming, "I work in the field of technology and I can't figure out my own computer" then shared that **Rich Courson** is her neighbor where they "can hear each other making it a very interesting relationship!" She further tells him to hurry and come home and she will give him a check. "Thank you for recognizing what I, and my family, have done for *PolioPlus*. I will spend the rest of 2021 talking to other family members about increasing our contribution, so thank you so much for the honor!"

President Rich:

"Thank you, Barbara!"

BREAKOUT ROOMS – A space to allow members to engage more personally – **Pres. Rich** gave our Topic of the Day, and **Martha** sent us to our rooms! *Topic of the Day:* What was the most exotic meal you had, or the most exotic place you ever ate a meal?

GUEST SPEAKER OSWALD "OZ" STENDER – *Stories Of His Personal Life From Difficult Beginnings To The Present Day*

Erin Auerbach thanked everyone (in Hawaiian) who encouraged her to invite **Oz**, and "in particular to **President Rich**, **Lyla**, and **Alice** for their extra encouragement." **Erin's** family and the Stender family have been "long-time friends." She stated, "**Oz** is among my most treasured mentors and role models. There has never been a time in my 53 years on this planet that this man has not been a giant in the community and a giant in the Native Hawaiian community. It is such an honor to have him here today!" **Erin** introduced **Lei-Ann Durant**, as her "Hanai little sister" knowing each other since the 80's when they were in the Merry Monarch line, making her a life-time friend whose "voracious and giving manner are an inspiration every day."

Lei-Ann Durant introduced her dad, **Oz Stender** and thanked **Erin** and the others for inviting him to speak. She felt "stuck for words" on introducing her dad and felt she "should have asked **Alice**" to introduce him. **Lei-Ann** told us that she "never realized how big he was to people out there" until her 40's because she "grew up sharing him with the community" while her "mom was at home keeping the fort down." Lei-Ann has many stories she could tell about her dad. Before our meeting started one of the members called our guest speaker the "Wizard of Oz", and he giggled asking, "How did you know that?" While **Erin** and **Lei-Ann** know the story . . . wouldn't you like to know? **Lei-Ann** introduced her dad as "Oz behind the Curtains!"

Guest Speaker: Oswald "Oz" Stender

Oz thanked us for inviting him to be our day's speaker. His day was filled with stories from his life. **Oz** notes that he doesn't have a watch, so someone needs to let him know when his time is up. He spoke of his early days and some Hawaiian history.

Story 1: *Watches:* **Oz's** good friend, mentor, and a business icon of the community, Herb Cornuelle, showed up to lunch one day wearing a \$10 Casio watch (Herb could afford the \$10 thousand watches & Oz was wearing a \$40 watch). Puzzled, Oz asked Herb, "Is

something wrong with your watch?" Herb replied, "No, it's fine (he confirmed it was a \$9 Casio)." Herb continued, "You might think about that (getting a cheap watch) because this watch will last me two or three years and when it breaks I can throw it away and get another \$10 watch. No matter what watch you have, the time is the same". My friend gave me a lot of good advice.

Story 2: *Rotary*: I used to belong to the Rotary club with someone many of you might know, Dicky **(Richard) Towill**. He had a reputation of never missing a meeting during his 40-50 years in Rotary. No matter where he went, he found a place to make up missed club time. When I got caught up in the Bishop Estate thing, I could never make up all the missed meetings – I was so embarrassed, I quit. But I never forgot the lessons I learned in Rotary.

Story 3: *Hawaiians*: "I look at Hawaiian history beginning when Captain Cooke arrived. He brought cannons, rifles, nails, and iron to make swords; those kinds of things that were of value to Kamehameha, who was trying to organize the people of the islands. He traded weapons with the warships that came to Hawaii for salt, meat, water, and accumulated an arsenal that was second to none in those days of Hawaii. That was the good news. It allowed him to conquer all the islands and organize the people. Back then they [Hawaiians] numbered around 600-800 thousand. With NO contact with the outside world, they survived by what they did on land, fished in ocean and what they found in the mountains. But the change came about 1848 when the visitors that came brought along the downside – the disease, measles, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and such; the Hawaiians had no immunity to those." The population fell from around 600 thousand to 50 thousand. "To me that is a *dramatic* loss of life!"

After that interaction from the outside world, "the next big change came when there was a scam (the Mahele) by his advisors" to take the lands and divide them up. "Up to this point, the King owned everything; he was a dictator." He owned everything and told you where to live and what you did, but he also made sure everyone had food for survival. Some planted gardens, fisherman had homes near the beach, farmers grew taro along rivers and streams, and canoe makers were in the forest. "But here was an order to all of it and everyone contributed to the well being of the population. That was the footprint of the Hawaiians in that day."

The 'Great Mahele' (great land division) happened in 1848 dividing the lands with 1/3 of the lands being distributed to the government that was created, 1/3 to the Kuleana where the Hawaiians lived, and 1/3 being kept by the Kingdom. "Prior to this, Hawaiians didn't know what land ownership was, they didn't know they could own it." This opened the doors for others to own the land and displaced Hawaiians. **Oz** further stated that, "the last phase that disoriented the Hawaiians owning land – today they suffer from it. It's a shame the United States government though the annexation confiscated all those lands the Hawaiians had. The state and the republic overthrew the Kingdom, in order to acquire the lands that the Royal family had who had no income and could not afford. So the Hawaiians have been homeless since Captain Cooke arrived." "That is a lot of history that people don't remember or at least recognize that the Hawaiians really needed to assimilate into society. Each of the Alii knew that. So what did they do? King Lunalilo decided to leave his wealth for the elderly. Queen

Kapiolani decided to leave her wealth to help women and children in need. Queen Liliuokalani decided to look after orphaned children and of course Bernice Pauahi left her wealth for Education. Each of the Alii knew the struggles of their people and left their personal wealth to help them survive in this new society."

Oz: "I grew up in the last phase. My mother died when I was two years old. There were six in the family. I had two brothers and three sisters and we were all shuffled out to our grandparents. I was hanai'd to my grandfather in Hauula along with two sisters. My two brothers were hanai'd to an aunt down the street. It was a very Hawaiian life style the way we lived. The house had no electricity or plumbing. We grew up with no money. We raised pigs and chickens, had a horse and a cow, and fished in the ocean. We grew up living off the land. My grandfather was the park keeper of Honolulu Park, which is where we got money to buy the sugar and bread that we needed." Oz further shares that with that lifestyle, they all had taro patches that the families cared for on the Hauula homestead. The taro patches were part of their staple.

"One thing I learned from grandfather, people don't respect the need for conservation of fish in the ocean. In those days we had to make our own underwater goggles. We made them from windowpane glass and underwater it magnified everything. We were taught every fish has a gill and a beak. You had to know how far apart the gill and beak were before spearing the fish, so you put the spear up to the place between the gill and beak. If the gill and beak fell outside the span of the spear, you could catch it. The same with the octopus - put spear to eyes, and if eyes fell within the span of spear it was too small so leave it alone. You could only spear those whose eyes went beyond the size of the spear. Another conservation, we were not allowed to net or spear the lobster. Each one was picked up with your hand and checked. If a female, put it back for more lobsters. We could only take the male lobsters. These were conservation practices that the Konohiki always had with every Konohiki was respected by the people who fished in the ocean with same idea for the fishponds. If you get a little one you have to eat five. If you get a big fish you only eat one."

During WWII, the North Shore beaches were occupied, so Hawaiians were not allowed to fish, and water was being used by the military, so they could no longer grow their taro. Their way of life was again changing and "it was a struggle to balance cultural practices" . . . further, taro patches were then converted to sugar cane fields.

"As kids, we were always looking for things to do. One of the things we would do was swimming holes – Sacred Falls and Waimea Falls. We walked to Sacred Falls. We took the K train from Hauula to the sugar mill in Kahuku and then we jumped from the K train onto the supply train, which is a train that came around Kapena Point to bring supplies to mill and picked up the sugar and took it too town, those were the kinds of things we did." This leads to our next story . . .

Story 3: *Shaka Origins*: "I need to tell this story. Everyone credits Frank Fasi for the shaka sign. The shaka sign was really started by a friend [Kamana Kalili] that we grew up with in Hauula. He worked in the sugar mill. At one point his hand got caught in the grinder and he lost his three fingers [leaving his thumb and little finger] so he couldn't do that work any more, so they put him on a K train. His job was to signal to the

engineer that the train was ready to move. He would wave to the engineer, but because he didn't have his three middle fingers, this is the way he waved. [Oz gives us the shaka wave]. Unfortunately no body remembers that." That is the real 'Shaka' origin.

Story 4: *Kamehameha*: "That time period of Hauula for me was 1932/1933 to 1944, then I went to Kamehameha. Those days Kamehameha was a trade school where you learn to be carpenter, a repairperson, an electrician, – any of those things. I learned to be a draftsman. The only reason I got into Kamehameha, was because Bernice Pauahi put in her Will that a portion of the income was to be used for the support and education of orphaned and indigent Hawaiians. That is how I got in."

In everyone's senior year at Kamehameha, they were apprenticed in the community. **Oz** was apprenticed to the Electric Company and one of his brothers was apprenticed to the Telephone Company. They went to classes learning the trades and in the afternoon they went to work. After graduation they all had jobs!

That is part of **Oz's** life! He has a great deal more to share and was asked by **Alice** and **Pres. Rich** if he could stay on Zoom and continue sharing and/or answering questions to which he happily agreed. If you didn't stay on for the next hour, you missed out on a great deal. And I must leave you with that – wanting more!

CLOSING

President Rich invites everyone back for next week's meeting when Lt. Governor Josh Green will bring us up to date on the COVID-19 information and vaccinations. Guests are welcome to attend. **Rich** wishes everyone a wonderful weekend!

Robyn takes photos for our *Tradewind* newsletter.

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

President Rich invites those who would like to stay for further visiting/Q&A with Oz to stay on after, and then he adjourned the Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting at 1:00 pm with his bell after singing *Hawaii Aloha*!

AFTER MEETING VISIT, Q&A with Oz

26 members continued on after for extra story time. **Oz** thanked everyone in his life and shared his gratitude for those who touched his life in good times and hard. "The greatest lessons I learned were from the hard times. My life is not about me, but about the people . . . and at the end of the day, my greatest wish is to leave this place better than when I came."

Have a fabulous week.

Humble Scribe,

Lee LaBrash