

Minutes of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Meeting

April 11, 2023

Meeting at the Outrigger Canoe Club
In person and via Zoom

President Lyla Berg welcomed Club members and called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Lee LaBrash led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Lee** also led us in singing “America the Beautiful.” And then some “Happy Moments” from **Brian Dunkel, Lucci Pinoliad, Bob Sigall, Diana Voncina, and Bryan Watkins.**

The members then participated in fellowship in person and via Zoom.

Tracey Wiltgen introduced our guest speaker, **Alexander Silvert.** Alexander is a former federal public defender who represented Gerard Puana in the case that ultimately led to the downfall of Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Katherine Kealoha and Honolulu Police Chief Louis Kealoha, who are both now in prison. Puana is Katherine Kealoha’s uncle. He was charged in 2013 with felony theft. Prosecutors alleged that Puana stole Louis and Katherine Kealoha’s mailbox. The evidence against Puana included several videos purporting to show Puana stealing the mailbox. Puana denied the allegations and told Silvert he had been framed. In the course of defending Puana, Silvert was able to show that the person in the video supposedly stealing the mailbox was not Puana and that the actions depicted in the videos were faked. The intent of the falsified videos were to frame Puana. Puana and his mother had filed a lawsuit against Katherine Kealoha for defrauding them of several thousand dollars. If Katherine Kealoha lost the case, her career as a lawyer and prosecutor might have been ruined.

This was a fascinating discussion by Silvert. You can buy Silvert’s book, “The Mailbox Conspiracy: The Inside Story of the Greatest Corruption Case in Hawaii,” on Amazon.

Our next luncheon meeting is on April 18 at the Outrigger Canoe Club and via Zoom. **Don Anderson, Mitch Weld,** and other participants will share pictures and experiences of the recent international service project in the Philippines.

Peg Jackson announced the Paul Harris meeting locations available for April 25, 26, and 27. **Bob Sumpf** announced Earth Day Waikiki Cleanup on April 22, and Camp Erdman renovations on April 29 and 30. **Tom Coyne** announced Beer Fest in Kapolei on April 29 – a few more volunteers are needed.

President Lyla closed the meeting with a quote from Jane Goodall: “What you do makes a difference; you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. **President Lyla** led the Club in *Hawaii Aloha.*

Aloha,
Scribe, **Karin L. Holma**