# ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU ZOOM MEETING MINUTES DATE: APRIL 13, 2021

PRESIDING: PRESIDENT RICH PROCTOR

President Rich Proctor called to order the Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting at 12:00 noon. "Here we are! Thank you all for coming and for being here for the April 13 meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu. My name is Rich Proctor and I am honored to be your Club President for the remainder of this Rotary year, ending on July 1st." Rich announced the agenda for the day and welcomed visitors. He announced that "five of our newer members will be telling us about their interests, or what makes them tick." Rich thanked and asked Brian Dunkel, our Virtual Meeting Maestro, to mute everyone for ease of listening to speakers.

## **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Inspiration by Rob VanTassell - Dalai Lama XIV quote from The Art of Happiness

Sometimes when I meet old friends, it reminds me how quickly time passes. And it makes me wonder if we've utilized our time properly or not. Proper utilization of time is so important. While we have this body, and especially this amazing human brain, I think every minute is something precious.

Our day-to-day existence is very much alive with hope, although there is no guarantee of our future. There is no guarantee that tomorrow at this time we will be here. But we are working for that purely on the basis of hope. So, we need to make the best use of our time.

I believe that the proper utilization of time is this: if you can, serve other people, other sentient beings. If not, at least refrain from harming them. I think that is the whole basis of my philosophy.

So, let us reflect what is truly of value in life, what gives meaning to our lives, and set our priorities on the basis of that. The purpose of our life needs to be positive. We weren't born with the purpose of causing trouble, harming others. For our life to be of value, I think we must develop basic good human qualities—warmth, kindness, and compassion. Then our life becomes meaningful and more peaceful and thus happier.

Prior to our reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance* led by **Bob Robinson**, he shared the following: At school when I was a boy, we daily pledged allegiance to our flag, but something was missing. On Sunday, February 7, 1954, the church, which Abraham Lincoln attended, celebrated Lincoln's upcoming birthday. The President, Dwight Eisenhower was sitting in Lincoln's pew. The sermon was based on the Gettysburg address, incited Lincoln's words, "under God" as defining words that set the US apart from other nations. It was something missing in our Pledge of Allegiance.

The next day, February 8, 1954, acting on Eisenhower's request, a Bill was introduced in Congress to include "under God" to the pledge and on June 14, 1954, President Eisenhower signed it into law. Citizens, please join me in our Pledge.

Members and visitors of the RCOH then joined **Bob** in reciting our US *Pledge of Allegiance*.

**Lyla Berg** stated "In keeping with tradition of the RCOH and following **Bob's** pledge and especially **Rob's** inspiration" she requested that we all sing both the *National Anthem and Hawai'i Pono'i* "because in our state, the truth is, we have two anthems." We all joined Lyla in singing both anthems and **Robyn** screen shared the words for *Hawai'l Pono'i*.

*Visitors*: Welcomed by **President Rich**:

**Robert Comper** (Mainland Rotary member) and **Mr. Hideo Yamanaka** (from Kyoto Rotary Club)

## **NEW MEMBER INDUCTION - JOSHUA NAM**

**Donalyn Dela Cruz**, who sponsored Joshua introduced him to our club by sharing the following:

**Joshua Nam** is already working hard for the State and is taking his lunch break to be with us, if he has a lunch break. Some background; in 2014, he received his BA in Political Science and Korean Studies from the *University of Hawaii at Manoa*. During that time, he also served as a Legislative Fellow to Senator Mazie Hirono. Degree in hand, he then went to serve as an educator for *Teach for America* where he taught 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Wahiawa Middle School. During that time, he also coached volleyball and soccer. He was also a teacher representative for HSTA.

After teaching, **Joshua** went to the East Coast where he became a community organizer for the *National Korean American Service & Education Consortium*. While in Virginia, he became the community outreach Director and Aid to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in the Providence District. He tackled issues from education, immigration, and transportation. Thankfully, **Joshua** returned to Hawaii where he is attending the *University of Hawaii at Manoa Richardson School of Law*. He is currently a legislative aide for the *Senate Ways and Means Committee*, which is why it is a very hectic time for him.

His boss connected me with Joshua who had inquired about Rotary. He had seen news coverage of the work that was done with Centennial Park in Waikiki and he wanted to serve with like-minded folks who are making a huge difference in our community. So I think you would agree with all of that, that **Joshua** really exemplifies Service Above Self. So please join me in welcome, Joshua!

President **Rich** welcomes **Joshua** and jovially informed Josh that if we were meeting in person, we would all be standing for ovation, but as we are on Zoom, if we did Josh would not be able to see us!

# **Induction of Joshua Nam** by **President Rich Proctor**:

Welcome **Joshua**. **Joshua Nam**, you have been invited in to the membership of the Rotary Club of Honolulu because of your fellow members belief, you are a leader in your profession and our community. Your willingness to support the goals and objectives of our club and Rotary international is a welcomed asset. When you become involved in with our service projects you find a sense of gratification that is grounded in the sharing of Rotary and helping others. **Joshua**, from this moment on you can proudly call yourself a Rotarian. We invite you now to share a few words with your fellow Rotarians.

## Words from our Newest Member - JOSHUA NAM

**Joshua** began by thanking President **Rich** for his introduction and induction, and to **Donalyn** for sponsoring him.

My name is **Joshua**. I was on the East Coast and I would ask myself, 'how would I do this back home if I were in Hawaii'? And so I made a tough decision to leave and come back. When I did, as **Donalyn** mentioned, I saw awesome news coverage of the service you all were doing within the community and I said to myself, 'I need to find a way to get plugged in.'

**Joshua** further shared that after seeing all the wonderful things Rotary was doing, he further researched, and he found that Rotary's values aligned with his own and that is what brought him to Rotary! He is very exited to be a part of our community and very grateful to everyone who has helped him to get here. He is looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of us and for the time we will get to meet in person!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Birthdays: Sax Barrett (4/13), Tim Parker (4/15), Kerri Van Duyne (4/16).
- Anniversaries: Gwen Yamamoto Lau, 8 years, Sponsored by Signe Godfrey; Taro
  Fujisawa, 4 years, Sponsored by Reese Liggett; Ken Kaneshiro, 5 years, Sponsored by
  Paul Saito.
- *Moment of Silence in Memory of Geoff Seymour:* One of our long-term members, Geoff Seymour passed Tuesday, April 6. He was a member for 39 years. President Rich will keep us informed of upcoming visitation/ceremony as it is learned. "His passing will be a great loss for us," Rich.

# **CENTENNIAL PARK - Reese Liggett**

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 23 volunteers showed up to pitch in, including 4 police officers from *Waikiki Community Policing Unit*, to help clean up *Centennial Park*, gathering 40 bags of weeds! **Donalyn** was thanked for the social media. The volunteers were appreciated for their hard work. **Reese** gave a special shout out of gratitude to the 9 Rotarians who showed up to show the volunteers how: **Don Anderson, Amanda Kelly, Peg Jackson, Paul Saito, Erin Auerbach, Haumea Ho, Tim Parker, Roby Hale, Al Linton, Tom Coyne - RAT PACKERS ALL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!** 

**Rich** and **Reese** joked, as there were no pictures shown this time. **Reese** laughed that he worked on how to share for 30 minutes without success. So pictures yet to come!

#### **ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY - APRIL 24**

President Rich announced that this is going to be a District project. We shall assemble at the park from 8:30-11:00am. The primary focus is to clean up trash in park and around neighborhood. Rich informs us that this particular event must be accounted for so there will be teams for picking up the trash, and teams for documenting what has been picked up, along with photos. There will be data collected and the District will then announce how many of TONS of trash were collected. This is going to be an event across all the islands. So, get involved and mark your calendars to pick up trash, weed, or document!

#### **APRIL 27 - SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

Launching the *Service Above Self* program. **Joanna Amberger** will be chairing this event, with **Carolann Biederman** and **Dawn Marie** as co-chairs. This is our time of year where we will ask for monetary contributions for the Foundation and the other programs. Please mark your calendars!

## **APRIL 17 - SPRING ASSEMBLY**

Want to increase your Rotary IQ? Then join in on the different platforms that will be running from 9am-12 on Zoom. District leader, Naomi sent out notices via email. If you didn't see your email, check out the Rotary District page: <a href="https://www.rotaryd5000.org/Stories/raise-your-rotary-i.q">https://www.rotaryd5000.org/Stories/raise-your-rotary-i.q</a> Rich encourages all Board members to attend, along with anyone who is just curious to know more about it!

## **VIRTUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE - MAY 14-16**

Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16 with keynote speakers and celebration of Rotary Club of Hilo's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! There is a \$40 charge. Go register at: <a href="https://rotaryd5000.org/sitepage/district-conference/">https://rotaryd5000.org/sitepage/district-conference/</a>

#### HYBRID MEETING FOLLOWING TODAY'S REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was to discuss meeting in person and on Zoom for those not comfortable meeting in person. Martha previously sent out an email regarding this. The Hybrid meeting is scheduled for May 4. The group discussed the How/What/When. Rich feels strongly that "Things moving in right direction as far as abilities to gather hopefully in early May and beyond!" Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for future information!

**BREAKOUT ROOMS** – A space to allow members to engage more personally all under the "Getting To Know You Better" – **Pres. Rich** gave our Topic of the Day, and **Brian** sent us to our rooms! *Topic of the Day*: Are you a Cat person or are you a Dog person, and why? Or are you a Goldfish person? Or do you not care about pets at all?

**NEW MEMBER SPEAKERS** – Our Wonderful and Amazing **Alice Tucker** arranged for five of our newest members to speak with us so we could get to know more about them!

## **Jack Roney**

**Jack** was born in a small town in Western Kentucky and his family moved to Hawaii when he was six months old. He attended Punahou, then went to UCLA, stayed in LA for a few years after, then circled back to Hawaii in 2017 right after marriage and has been here since. He works mostly in real estate in the Industrial sector. Most of his time is spent on policing and

sales of industrial warehouses in Hawaii or Maui. If a group needs to expand or have a warehouse that is what he helps locate and sell.

What makes **Jack** tick: He enjoys his work and likes to see different companies from local non-profit, to private investor, to contract company, to the high end of investments and trust, to see how each operates, what those groups do and how they interact. This blends over into his learning every day on the job and he finds it interesting to come up with solutions to problems that he may not have seen before.

**Jack** states, "Echoing **Rob's** inspiration from the Dalai Lama," he enjoys serving people, and especially those within his industry. He finds it very rewarding to help others "who find themselves in a bind and need to expand." He receives joy from others being thankful and finds helping others inspiring.

In his personal life, he enjoys paddling and has met many Rotarians and community through this activity. Martha's husband was someone he paddled with from age 14-20, so when he first saw Martha on the RCOH list, that is what prompted him to reach out! About a year and a half ago, his son was born, so now his new focus that he finds very rewarding is his son. And something new, his wife is expecting, so they will be adding to their family!

Rotary activities, he has spent a great deal of time with the RATPack, working on the Park and being helpful where he can be where he really enjoys helping Rotary. Moving forward into the future, **Jack** is looking forward to meeting new members, including **Joshua Nam**, and seeing old friends once we can all meet in person again!

#### **Madeliene Gardner**

My name is Madeleine Gardner. I am going to tell you a little bit about where I'm from, where I've lived, my professional background and what I'm working on now.

I was born in New York, but I don't really consider it home because I've lived in so many different places to include, California, Maryland, the UK, Scotland, Wales, Zimbabwe, Canada where I lived for a year as a Rotary Exchange Student, Bali, and now Hawai'i. Of all the places in which I've lived, Hawai'i is the only place I've ever called home. (Fun Fact!)

**My Professional background is in education** – first as an operations administrator and then in academia. I was a teacher and then an academic director. I then started my own private tutoring company, which I was expanding to include experiential learning through travel and volunteering when COVID hit.

COVID led me to more of a virtual environment to conduct business and connect with others. These connections turned into self-empowerment sessions with a party and celebration theme. And I conducted them in my dining room in front of a large painting that I call the pink square.

This gave me the idea of developing a learning platform with an entertainment twist. I am now developing a talk show called the Pink Square Show that brings people together for the purpose of meaningful connection, interaction, education, and

entertainment. It's a virtual learning party/event, where we dress up, have tea, talk story if you will, laugh, cry, share, and learn.

I want people to share their stories, get ideas, support each other, support their communities, and have fun while doing this. Everyone is welcome to the party, but I currently have access to a captive audience of a few thousand international 18-24 year olds who are predominately from Europe, South America, and Asia; many of them are former students who I've kept in contact with directly or through social media.

I am working with a professional branding and production company (the name of Universal Admedia) as well as a local professional film crew, who all produce broadcast quality work. (Universal Admedia has worked on campaigns for companies such as SC Johnson, Calvin Klein, Diane Von Furstenburg, Tumi, Puma, Harvard University, IBM, and other brands).

I just interviewed my first guest who is a former lawyer now turned social advocate and certified yoga instructor. She spearheaded successful political campaigns for two presidents and two senators. She's the co-founder of a wonderful organization that has found a way to combine the principles of yoga and social advocacy.

Due to COVID she was forced to close the doors of her yoga studio, but after our episode, we have been in talks to help promote a virtual platform through which she will revive her business. I am also going to use my platform to promote her business and possibly work with her to create some retreats and events in different locations when it is safer to travel.

I'd like to use *The Pink Square Show* to contribute to the community this way and even find ways to fundraise for individuals, communities, and organizations – including the Rotary Club (it would be amazing to help this organization further it's reach).

For any more information about the show or to discuss sponsorship opportunities you can email me at <a href="mailto:info@thepinksquareshow.com">info@thepinksquareshow.com</a> or call me at 808-465-6766

#### Karen Glasser

I was born in Florida but grew up in Miami when Miami was old Miami as opposed to the new very, very International Miami. I went to the University of Michigan with a double major in film/video studies and communication. Go Blue! Then I went off to New York for graduate school at NYU for film production, and I thought that is what I would do my whole life. I put myself through graduate school by doing graphics art for one of the big accounting firms, Ernst & Young. I loved living in the city, as it is an amazing place to be as a young person.

I met my husband in NY. He grew up in Brooklyn. He worked in his family business but he also became a paramedic for St. Vincent's Hospital, for those of you who know Manhattan, West Village. We married in 1992.

**Karen** eventually left the accounting firm and got a job in film industry, which is not easy to do. She worked on production; screen plays, and thoroughly enjoyed it. All while her husband

worked in medicine and went back to school to work in an Emergency Room. Then they became pregnant and then 9/11 happened, which she said is a story for another time. Their twins were born September  $12^{th}$  in Manhattan. She shares they were safe and healthy and was so glad they were born when they could give her something else to focus on.

After 9/11 we moved to Virginia, outside of Washington D.C. where the kids went to school and I realized I wanted to do something else with my life. This is when I became involved with education and non-profit organizations. My first non-profit job was working for an elementary school system developing programs for kids. I then moved on to the *Public Just Foundation*, which is a public interest law firm that does ground breaking legislation and really protects the underdog civil rights and environmental rights.

**Karen** then stated that she moved to *Best Buddies*, an organization that promotes social inclusion for people with intellectual and development disabilities. She worked there for seven years while the kids grew up in Virginia and loved it. Once the kids graduated, it was decided to work for the *Best Buddies* counterpart here in Hawaii. They moved here in January "and the world shut down."

[With laughter and smiles] I thank you all at Rotary because you are the only people I've met so I do so look forward to seeing you every week even though I don't get to see you in person. I am grateful for your presence. I am grateful for your friendship. I am grateful for your service. I get to spend time with you guys and I get to spend time with another charity called *HI Help Is On the Way*, which started as a way to feed Kupuna when it was not safe for them to be out of their homes.

As we were talking in the Breakout Rooms, I am a dog person. My husband has entirely given in and we are getting another puppy to go with the 11-year-old hound we have here! I am very excited about that! And I am really excited to meet you all in person when it is safe to do so. Again, I thank you for being my lifeline during these times.

### Lucci Pinoliad

**Lucci** states she isn't good as talking about herself, so she chose to go through the questions given to her the day before.

**Lucci** was born at her Grandfather's beach home in the Central Philippines. Everyone was expecting a boy, including her mom, but low and behold, she got **Lucci**!

**Lucci** came to Hawaii in 2014 for her last duty assignment in the Army. She attended an allgirls Catholic school from Kindergarten through High School, then an all-women's college after. She said, "even though I didn't go to a local school here [Hawaii], *Mills College* and Hawaii have a very close connection." The Founders of *Mills College* are Cyrus and Susan Mills. Cyrus Mills was as a President of the *Punahou* High School and Susan was the first female faculty at *Punahou*. A couple of notable alumni who attended *Mills College* were Emma Metcalf and Helen Wilder. For some of the amazing history associated with *Mills* and Hawaii, including our Hawaiian Royalty, check out the StarAdvertiser's article:

 $\frac{https://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/09/30/hawaii-news/rearview-mirror/missionaries-from-the-isles-ran-bay-areas-mills-college/$ 

**Lucci** went on to further enlighten stating that *Punahou High School* itself sends more students to *Mills* than any other high school in the country.

**Work:** She is affiliated with IBEX International, an Individualized Management Consulting group whose focus is on "start-ups." She came into this field of work "by accident" but she loves "the problem solving parts" so much she stayed in the field.

**Passion:** Currently, **Lucci** has taken up the torch to keep Mills College as an all-women's college! She is passionate about this and is working hard to find funding for the school.

**Rotary:** She likes the idea of expanding education to other areas of the world, as well as providing, clean accessible water to everyone.

**Alice** shared she wanted to go to *Mills* but her parents wanted her close to home, so she didn't go. **Linda Coble** said that is the one college she would have gone to and thanked **Lucci** for trying to keep it all female, stating that "many people don't realize how that can be such a beneficial learning experience and environment. I thank you for doing that out of the ream 'and wink-wink', but stick with it!"

In true **Lucci** fashion, after she shared that her mom only allowed her to go to *Mills* because it was an all-women's school that was a safety issue for her (mom), she said, "I am grateful for *Mill* because if *Mills* was a co-ed I would probably still be at home, carrying babies and [with a shiver and laugh] and it would have been – Uuugh!" **Lucci** loves to hike and swim, and looks forward to being able to do it again. She thanked everyone!

**Bob Sigall** echoed our member sentiments by telling her he looks forward to meeting in person, along with several other members.

#### Keane Akao (Pronouced "Key In")

Things you may know about my organization:

- Est. in 1959 and affiliated with Cerebral Palsy National Network
- My organization is located in a past Rotary Gives Thanks Weinberg Project service site
- We have hosted 34 years of Great Hawaii Rubber Duckie Races
- Our donation bins and collection trucks prominently feature a rubber duck
- Our mission is to positively impact the quality of life for children and adults with a cerebral palsy diagnosis or other disabilities with similar service needs in Hawai'i.

## Things you may not know about my organization:

- Our vision is to empower individuals with choices that provide opportunities for independence and success: a life without limits for people with disabilities.
- We have three focus areas
  - o Health Early Intervention
  - o Environmental Stewardship Reuse and Diversion
  - o Education Social and Community

## **Health - Early Intervention**

We serve children and adults with Cerebral Palsy and so much more

- The majority of the families we serve through our Early Intervention program include children with ASD, traumatic brain injury, Down syndrome, physical disabilities and developmental delays
- As a leading provider of family-centered, community-based services, UCP began
  working in early intervention 60 years ago with the creation of our Child Development
  Center.
- For the past 30 years, our contracts with the State of Hawai'i's Department of Health, Early Intervention Services have supported infants and toddlers to age 3 with developmental delays or cerebral palsy.
- Our current contract with the State in the geographical area of Honolulu South encompasses a variety of neighborhoods and cultures. The population served includes Micronesian, Chuukese, Chinese and Filipino families, as well as military families and families without homes.
- Our experienced staff includes occupational, physical and speech therapists, teachers and care coordinators who assist the children and collaborate with parents or caregivers in a child's natural environment, which is usually the home. However, for the last 13 months we have provided services via telehealth.
- We help the child experience the benefits of therapy and partner with the family by offering tools and techniques to help navigate challenges with their child's communications, physical, cognitive, social/emotional and adaptive development.

#### **Environmental Stewardship - Reuse and Diversion**

- In 2019, the program serviced 29,653 households, completed 36,000 pick-ups, created 77 local jobs, and diverted 1 million pounds of household items and 1.5 million pounds of cloth from landfills.
- The Reuse and Diversion Program contributes to the State of Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge Solid Waste Reduction initiative.
- We offer a free island-wide pickup service. UCP Hawai'i schedules two to three trucks
  each day to pick up gently used clothing and small household items in most zip codes on
  the island.
- By increasing the quantity of discarded materials diverted from the landfill and recovering materials through multiple or re-purposed uses.
- Designed to engage the community, the Reuse and Diversion Program prevents waste from entering the landfills, creates local jobs and economic opportunities for local businesses.
- It also provides a free, simple and easy fundraising option for other nonprofits, halau and school programs. (Highlight Kailua High School Class of 1971) And if you're involved with a school or nonprofit, please feel free to reach out and learn more
- Due to COVID safety protocols collection locations across the island were closed but a selection will reopen later this year.

## **Education - Social and Community**

• Provide information and link families to community resources for disability services across the state. We answer questions for parents of newly diagnosed children

- We offer a variety of assistive technology resources and equipment: iPad, Hoyer lifts, wheelchairs to improve quality of life and understanding about cerebral palsy and developmental delays
- Partnerships are an integral component of UCP's success. Fostering on-going and new relationships ensures that children and families receive the most comprehensive care and access to services that meet their needs
- Our community partners include: Hawaii Interpreting Services, Pacific Gateway, and Helping Hands Hawaii for interpreter services. We work with the Department of Health support staff, physicians, behavioral support agencies, Child Protective Services, Public Health Nurses, community preschools, nutrition services, ASL services, interpreters and Early Head Start.
- Other community partners include Catholic Charities and its Rent Relief Program, Aloha United Way (211 Information and Referral Service), Hawaii Food Bank, Hoʻala Assistance Program—Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, SPIN (Special Education Parent Information Network), Association of Fundraising Professionals, and SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council). In addition, UCP stays current with community needs as an active member of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce.

**Q&A:** One question asked of **Keane** was if he was married and had children. He does not. He shared that his partner's home burned down in early January and they secured an architect this morning. Regarding the Cerebral Palsy, **Alice** asked where their main source of funding comes from. **Keane** informs us that they have a contract with Savers. "So, call us! Clean out your closets! Clean out all the kitchen gadgets you don't use!" They pick up donations on a four-week rotation. The largest item they could take is a toaster oven. They do not take furniture or computers. However, with computers, **Keane** says to email him and he help you get rid of them through connections. **Dawn** mentions that Helping Hands takes computers. **Keane** informs us, yes but they don't pick up. **Alice** asked how long he has been with UCP and what did he do before? **Keane** answers he has been with *UCP* for two years and prior he was the Executive Director of the *Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium*. He was then asked how they (FWA) are doing and he sadly informed us that everyone he knows were furloughed, retired, or left.

Keane.akao@unitedcerebralpalsyhawaii.org reservations can be made via 808-532-6744

**Alice** proclaims, "These new members are a dandy bunch!" We certainly agree, Alice! We all applaud our new member speakers with vigor!

#### **CLOSING**

**President Rich,** "Thank you all for showing up and contributing on short notice. I know there wasn't a whole lot of time to prepare for this. I am really pleased and thankful for your participation; it was great hearing from you all, actually." Everyone is invited back for next weeks meeting where retired Rear Admiral, Pete Gumataotao, Director of *Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies*.

The lunch committee group will meet directly after close of this meeting.

**Robyn** takes photos for our Tradewind newsletter.

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

**Pres. Rich** ringing his bell adjourned our RCOH meeting at 1:00pm.

Directly after the meeting, before the Lunch committee meeting, **Kalo** was able to log in where sincere condolences were expressed at the passing of her husband. **Bob Robinson** suggested having pictures for those who are honored/remembered (those who passed)

Have a fabulous week. Humble Scribe, **Lee LaBrash**