

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
DATE: APRIL 27, 2021
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT RICH PROCTOR**

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

“Welcome to the April 27th meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu. Thank you for joining us. My name is Rich Proctor and I am honored to be your President. We have a great program today.”

Brian Dunkel, as Virtual Meeting Maestro, mutes members for ease of listening to speakers.

Inspiration by **Lee LaBrash**

In doing my best to keep with today's *Service Above Self*, I found a quote by a someone named Maimonides. I felt Maimonides' quote hit home on what Rotary is all about. Now, I had to look up who this person was. Maimonides was a medieval Sephardic Jewish philosopher who became one of the most prolific and influential Torah scholars of the Middle Ages. This is one of his profound statements:

“Anticipate charity by preventing poverty; assist the reduced fellow man, either by a considerable gift or a sum of money or by teaching him a trade or by putting him in the way of business so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for charity. This is the highest step and summit of charity's golden ladder.” - Maimonides

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was led by **Karen Glasser** and singing of *America the Beautiful* was led by **Kent Reinker**.

Visitors: Welcomed by **President Rich**:

Mr. Hideo Yamanaka (from Kyoto), Sandi Matsui (next year's District Governor), Katherine Marshall (guest of **Peg Jackson**), and Saima Makhdoom (Prospective Member).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays: **Keane Akao**, 4/27 and **Wayne Judd**, 4/30

Anniversaries:

Bob Sumpf, 12 years, sponsored by **Kim Scoggins**.

Brent Lewis, 3 years, sponsored by **James Pierce**.

Camp Erdman/YMCA: **Gwen Yamamoto Lau** announced: “Thanks to **Don Anderson** and many leaders before us, our Club has a long history of being a strong supporter of the YMCA. If you grew up on Oahu, it is likely you have fond memories being in the sun at Camp Erdman. The camp has been closed for a year due to COVID and they are in the midst of preparing to welcome summer campers back. So it is our turn to pay it forward for the next generation of little campers. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS for fun, fellowship, and service, May 22 and May 23 at Camp Erdman!** To get as many volunteers as possible,

there will be a Saturday, Sunday and an overnight option to choose from. Plan to bring your friends and family. More information will be forthcoming. **Please let Reese or Martha if you are interested in participating! Thanks!”**

Rich thanked **Gwen** for the information and looks forward to seeing us out there with him. He shared that there will be lots of painting to do among other things.

District 5000 Conference: District conference is coming up May 14-16. Fee is \$40. This will be an interesting and lively online event this year. **Sandi** is looking forward to it, as is **Rich**. **Rich** would like to see as many members as possible sign up. So, go to D5000 website to register.

<https://rotaryd5000.org/sitepage/district-conference/>

Important RCOH Survey: **President Rich** announced that a Survey was sent out Friday regarding meeting agendas going forward for the remainder of this year and into **Gwen's** year. There are many things to consider and options on how and when we come together. The Royal is not yet ready for our in-person meetings, so other places are being looked at to attend, either part time or full time. The info will be taken to the Board meeting for discussion. **Please respond to the survey!!!** If you have a problem using the Google survey, let Martha know and she will send you a work around.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIERSTEN FAULKNER, *Executive Director of Historic Hawaii Foundation, as the 2021 Paepae I Ka Pohaku Award Recipient,* for her efforts to raise community awareness of Architectural Design. May 21st is her award ceremony!

Waikiki Clean Up: **Rich** thanked everyone who came out last Saturday to help clean and weed in Waikiki. It was a small but active group of Rotarians and others who helped. Great job everyone! It was very much appreciated.

Global Peace Forum in Hawaii: This coming Saturday, May 1st, is the *Peace Forum!* It's online and begins at 8am to 1:00pm. Meet virtually with national and local leaders in the *Rotary Action Group for Peace*. You can also find the link in the Tradewind. "There will be interesting discussions around Peace Building with is near and dear to our hearts." - **Rich**

https://mcusercontent.com/a7c0e0188f2d7049e37a764e4/files/55b9b201-c451-41d4-9243-032ae0e045ff/Global_Peace_Forum_FINAL_PDF.pdf

BREAKOUT ROOMS: Topic for the day: "What was the most meaningful Rotary Service Project you participated in? What was important about it and what did you gain from doing this project?"

CELEBRATION OF ROTARY SERVICE – Service Above Self

Joanna Amberger:

Thank you President Rich, and welcome everybody to our *Celebration of Rotary Service*. At Rotary we are dedicated to helping people building a better world. First, I'd like to thank my co-chair, **Dawn Marie**, and **Carolann Biederman**, President of our Foundation. Mahalo as well to **Martha German, Don Anderson, Dave Shanahan, Nancy Pace, Brian Dunkel**, and everyone who contributed pictures for the celebration.

This is the second virtual **Service Above Self** meeting. We're adapting to the online environment, and have created a visual program that we hop will inform, engage, and inspire you to pledge your support, so we can change the world for the better, locally and globally.

"Inspiring" and "impact" are key words for today's program. Later you'll meet David Le, our 2020 **Will J. Henderson Scholarship** recipient, and Joshua Cho, our past Scholarship awardee, who's graduating for UH-Manoa to follow his dream of becoming a doctor. You'll see the Club's local and global impact through the lens of your fellow Rotarians hard at work through the participation of our other partners.

We recently mailed you a letter with a pledge form. We also sent you and email with a fillable pledge form and a link to a Google form for those who are technologically inclined.

As mentioned in that letter, Board members of the *Rotary Club of Honolulu* and Trustees of the *Foundation of the Rotary Club of Honolulu* have increased their own gifts to create the 2021 **SAS Challenge**. The *Challenge* was designed to encourage you to renew and even increase your contribution. The *Challenge* will match the amount of any member who increases their gift over the last year's gift, up to \$5,500.

Please make your pledge today, then mail or email it with payment to Martha. Final payments need to be made by Friday, November 30, 2021. Our goal for this year is \$100,000. Last year we exceeded our goal by more than \$20,000 and we are confident with your support that we can get there again! We would also love to see every member participate with a personal gift. A Big Mahalo to everyone who has already pledged.

Now **Dawn** will explain the significance of our different funds.

Dawn Marie:

My role today is to distinguish for you our four funds, along with their objectives, so that the *Foundation of the Rotary Club of Honolulu* fulfills its responsibility to educate Club members to make an informed decision about their gifts. This will guide you to give from your heart in ways most meaningful to you.

Let's start with the oldest established fund and ending with the newest. This information is also referenced in the *Club Members Roster* – both the print and online version.

[**Brian** displayed each medallion on the Zoom screen for members to see, each medallion as it was discussed.]

Rotary International has one Fund

The **Rotary Foundation** was established in 1917 as a nonprofit organization. It's an endowment fund supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotary members and friends of the Foundation, here and around the world, who share its vision of creating a better planet.

- ✓ This fund enables Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through improvements to health, support for education, alleviation of poverty, and the *Polio Plus* campaign, which aims to eliminate polio everywhere.

- ✓ Those who contribute – or in whose name is contributed – an outright or cumulative gift of \$1,000 or more become *Paul Harris Fellows* (named after the Founder of Rotary International). Some refer to this as the *Paul Harris Fund*, but it's correctly a recognition.

Paul Harris Fellow ribbon colors are blue and gold, like Rotary's logo, and the medallion bears the likeness of Rotary's founder. Members with this distinction are encouraged to wear the ribbon on the 1st Tuesday meeting of the month, of course, once we are able to meet in person again.

Our Club Foundation has three Funds

1. **The John Warren Fund** was founded in 1977 and is named for the past president during whose tenure the Foundation came into being. *John Warren* contributions are considered unrestricted and can be used for funding current projects and on-going expenses.

Later in the program you will see how this funding has supported the Club's recent local and international community service projects and programs. This may inspire you to propose a project for an organization you know that could benefit from this fund.

Those who contribute \$1,000 – or in whose name it's contributed – outright or cumulative become Fellows. And multiple Fellowships are awarded with every subsequent \$1,000 contributed.

John Warren Fellow ribbon colors are red and gold. When you consider giving to this fund, think of Club members in action – red represents passion and action, gold the color of compassion, prosperity.

2. **The Maile Hale Fund** was named after Past President and Centennial Park Committee Chair, **Rob Hale's** daughter. **Maile** perished in the 9/11 attack at the World Trade Center. Though she was deprived of a bright future, her namesake fund is so befitting the future of our Club.
 - ✓ The **Maile Hale Fund** is an endowment, and contributions are permanently restricted. By policy, a portion of earnings can be used for projects, based on a conservative annual calculation. Named 15 years ago, with the goal of reaching a corpus of \$500,000, at which time a portion of the earnings began to be available for projects, the fund has grown to more than \$2,100,000 because of your support.
 - ✓ The medallion bears **Maile's** likeness; its ribbon colors are blue and green, like envisioning earth from space. With an outright or cumulative gift of \$1,000 you will become a **Maile Hale Fellow**.
3. No ribbon, but the newest fund was envisioned by one of our Club's most venerable members. **The Will J. Henderson Scholarship Fund** was established in 2014 through a generous donation from this Rotary Treasure member who passed away in October 2016 at the age of 95. A Scholarship for a Hawaii high school graduate for college tuition is awarded each spring. We will award a \$6,000 scholarship this year.

John Cavanah has been a member of our Club since 1994, previously active in the West Honolulu Club. He is a multiple *Paul Harris, John Warren, and Maile Hale Fellow*. On behalf of all of us, I now recognize the extremely generous \$50,000 gift that **John** made to the **Will J. Henderson Scholarship Fund** in March, to build up and grow the corpus, so that a portion of the earnings can go to scholarships. **John** hopes to see more than one student helped in the years to come. Mahalo nui loa, **John**!

Our 2020 Scholarship winner is David Le who shared this message with us:

“ I am truly honored to have received the Rotary Club Scholarship Since then, I have been able to participate in programs like National Student Exchange that gives students the opportunity to study around the US. I will be attending Queens College in New York this fall. I will utilize this opportunity to explore beyond Oahu, but also to gain connections in the business world, which is my potential major. I have been funding my education through FAFSA, and other scholarships and money I have worked for since sophomore year of high school. My mom is disabled and cannot work, so she isn't able to support my higher education. This is why we are truly grateful to have had the Rotary Club help me financially. Thank you!” ~ David Le

Next we all watched a video from a recent **Will Henderson Scholarship** winner, Joshua Cho, who will graduate this year, thanks in part to the two scholarships we gave him in 2017 and 2018. Here is what he expressed in his video:

Aloha, Rotary Club of Honolulu. My name is Joshua Cho and I am a senior at the University of Hawaii at Manoa studying Biology. I was also the recipient of the generous *Will J. Henderson Scholarship* that was offered by the Rotary Club of Honolulu for the year 2017 and 2018. I would like to say thank you for your generosity, which has helped my family and me with the financial burden of attending college. With the *Will J. Henderson Scholarship* I was able to pay for tuition and the much needed textbooks for my classes. The scholarship helped remove financial barriers, which allowed me to focus on my career and education goals. [With a huge smile on his face...] I'm proud to say I have made the Dean's List for every semester of college I attended. This is largely related to no having to worry about college expenses. The *Will J. Henderson Scholarship* is a meaningful scholarship that gives impoverished students, like me, a chance at higher education. Thank you for your investment in my life and education. Currently, I am going to graduate THIS Spring semester with a Bachelors of Science in Biology and a Minor in Public Health. My dream is to become a physician and I will work hard until I achieve this goal. Thank you so much Rotary Club Ohana. Please stay safe and healthy during this time. God bless you all. Thank you.” – Joshua Cho

Joanna thanked **Dawn** for the great summary of the different funds and for the inspiring messages from David and Joshua.

Joanna asked everyone present to take a moment for some feedback. There was a page for linking in to complete or club members could just type their feedbacks into the chat box. The question was, “What does Rotary service mean to you?” The trick was to use just one word at a time. There were numerous replies/feedback. There were many descriptive words used and not many were doubled up! **Joanna** stated:

As you can see Rotary impacts our community and our members in many different ways. Rotary service means different things to each member, and our funds help you tailor your gifts.

Joanna informed us that if anyone would like to know how close they are to reaching their Fellowship in any of the Funds, we can contact Martha after the meeting. She then turned the meeting over to **Carolann** for the updates on the Foundation's performance, the impact of our projects and things to consider before you pledge.

Carolann Beiderman:

This year, as **Joanna** shared, we're committed to raising \$100,000 to support Club projects, Rotary International, and scholarships. We hope that you'll consider making a gift – the amount isn't as important as having everyone participate.

The pandemic has touched each of us differently. We realize that some members are in a position to give more and some will find they must give less. The most important consideration is that your gift is meaningful to you, and at a level with which you are comfortable.

Carolann shared the following:

- ✓ The **Maile Hale Fund** has grown past \$2,183,000, and we're moving towards our 3rd \$million.
- ✓ The stock market has been favorable this year and the outlook for our investment portfolio is strong.
- ✓ How your gift is allocated is your choice, on the pledge form.
- ✓ You can elect a donation schedule or lump sum payment. You can also donate stock.
- ✓ Based on current membership, we will have to average close to \$735 per member to reach our goal.

Further, **Carolann** thanked all the Board members and Trustees for their commitment to increasing their own gift this year. She also gave detail on how our funds will be matched & about estate/bequest giving:

- ✓ The increase in Key Leadership Gifts created this \$5,500 Challenge. Here's how it works: Club members who increase their own gifts this year will have the increased portion matched by the Challenge. Example, if you donate \$1,000 this year, but last year you donated \$750, the \$250 increase will be matched with \$259 from the pooled \$5,500.
- ✓ **Bequests:** I was inspired by the recent unrestricted donation of nearly \$9,000 from the Ernest "Tommy" Hayden & Harriett "Rusty" Jean Thomas Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation. **Tommy** was a Club member and Rusty was a Honolulu Star-Bulletin food editor. Though they passed away several years ago, their bequest provides an annual gift to our Foundation. This is the result of thoughtful estate planning while they were still working in our community. If you've put the Foundation in your will, mahalo! If you're interested in learning more about planned gifts, please let us know.

Next we viewed slides from the Boy's and Girl's Club and YMCA. **Carolann** narrated:

It's time to share highlights of our Club's recent local and international service projects. 2020 was the year that COVID changed everything. Our Club and our foundation became more flexible in how to achieve our Service Above Self project goals. Here's how our Club's projects and partnerships have helped.

- ✓ We focused on Food insecurity by funding thousands of nutritious meals for needy local kids and families, by partnering with the Boys & Girls Club, Palama Settlement, and Salvation Army, which received monthly cash stipends for nine months. Also donated grants to Feeding Hawaii Together, Hawaii Meals on Wheels, the UMCA and to Hawaii Kids Can for technology for low-income youth.

Slides of thanksgiving from the recipients were shown. Here are a few of the notes beginning with our own member, **Kerri Van Duyne**:

“Thank you to the Rotary Club of Honolulu Foundation! Because of your \$3,000 grant and funding from other grants, the YMCA of Honolulu was able to continue its “Y Feeds Kids” meal program through the end of 2020, serving hot and nutritious meals to needy families. The YMCA had 6 distributions sites: Lower Halawa, Waipio, Windward, Leeward, and Nuuanu YMCAs. We served 8,337 meals in November-December with our partners Lanakila Kitchen, Aloha harvest, Kapiolani Community College and Hawaii Pacific Health. We received so much positive feedback and have included a few family letters. Gratefully yours, **Kerri Van Duyne**, Vice President of Development YMCA of Honolulu, and Rotary Club of Honolulu Member”

“Thank you so much for the free meals. I am a single working mom and my children go with their grandparents to pick up lunches. It’s great to know that the meals are well balanced and also from helpful and friendly volunteers. We are very grateful for all those involved in helping our island’s children. Sincerely, Tara”

“Dear kind funders, Thank you for putting hours in, gifting us food daily. One day we ran out of milk for a few days! Then our Aunty started bringing lunches and foods. We haven’t ran out of any food. Since then my favorite part from the lunches is the fruits! Soon this pandemic will be over and we’ll thank you guys for helping us through it! STAY SAFE!! – Jarvis Kids”

“Aloha mai, I was asked to give some feedback for the lunch service provided by YMCA. First, we would like to say THANK YOU!! It was so awesome to see the crew out there serving lunch – every day- even when it was drizzling and super hot!! The crew that comes out every day is super! They greet us every time with smiles and aloha. It is very orderly and we are always excited to see what is for lunch. We are very thankful for you folks for providing these services in the time of need. It really helps financially around our household. Thank you again. Awesome work you and your team are doing!! Keep up the good work. We greatly appreciate you, your team, and your services!! Me ke aloha, Maile”

“Thank you all for taking your time to, make sure we are fed. The food was so good and delicious. You guys are very much appreciated. Have a blessed day stay safe and healthy. Mahalo nui! From, age 8, Kayla” [typos included as this came from her heart!]

“Thank you so much for all the meals/donations. It really helped my family knowing we didn’t have to worry about having enough food during these tough times. It is very appreciated! Thank you and stay safe 😊 - Veronica, age 14 and Lansen, age 6”

Carolann continues to apprise us on where the funds went:

Our Club also supported Rotary International projects with \$5,000 to Polio Plus; \$5,000 for local youth through the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation and \$800 for RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Awards scholarships.

BUT WAIT! THERE IS MORE! Let's not forget about our International projects! Slides of Dumaguete project were shown. **Carolann** updated further:

Building on our Clubs amazing history of assisting rural people in poor areas of SE Asia, a quarter of our current members have traveled to service projects over time. This year we gave \$4,772 towards the purchase of hospital equipment in Nepal. We don't only send money. We also send ourselves, get in the trenches and sweat alongside local people to improve lives. Though COVID cancelled our physical presence on the International Service project in Dumaguete (doo ma gedt ay') on Negros (nay' gress) Island, we provided \$45,000 for improvements to a residential center operated by *The Little Children of the Philippines*. This facility serves abandoned and abused girls, boys and street children. 28 Club participants planned to attend the project March 14-22. **Dave Shanahan** and **Don Anderson** began their travel early and were on their way when the pandemic exploded and the Philippine government closed down travel. While they found flights home without making it to Dumaguete, Don is show here [slide on Zoom] at a previous project with the shelter boys and Executive Director Carmenia Benosa.

We then viewed slides of the **Dumaguete project**. **Carolann** explained what we were viewing:

A multipurpose pavilion, solar panel system and basketball court were among the elements to improve the facilities. The project was complete by local contractors, and our reliable "Strike Force" partners from the Cebu YMCA under the direction of **Cris Caparoso**. Sadly, **Cris**, our longtime friend, Rotarian, YMCA leader and project organizer died of a heart attack in June 2020, just three months after the Dumaguete project. How's it going now?

"This pandemic is really a challenge but we continue to move on and strive hard to continue our services to the children and their families. We are thankful to all of you, our donors and sponsors for always being there for us. The kids are really enjoying the big space, the basketball court and the big multi-purpose area." – Carmenia Benosa, Executive Director of *The Little Children of the Philippines*

[Visual slides of Bali were next]

Our 2nd International Service Project was scheduled for August 2020 at a rural school, with residential dormitories in Singajara, North Bali. It's operated by ANAK, a Belgian NGO with an important presence in Indonesia. This project supports capstone funding and labor for finishing construction on its Girls Dormitory that enables poor rural students to attend high school, vocational training, and college that would be impossible without the housing and board provided by the project. Our Club donated \$10,000 in 2020 and the remainder will be provided with the hand-on Rotary project, currently scheduled for August.

Next **Carolann** brought us up to date on the **Centennial Park Project** – slides included:

- ✓ Beginning: The on-site construction at Centennial Park Waikiki began in March with Hawaiian Dredging and their professional subcontracts.

- ✓ Phase 1 cleared and graded the site, planted all of the trees, landscaped gardens and sod; poured and finished the concrete walkway, installed piping for underground electricity and sprinklers, and built a raised platform for performances.
- ✓ Commitment: Throughout the year Committee Chair **Rob Hale**, RatPack organizers **Reese Liggett** and **Bob Sumpf**, and Committee members engaged in a committed effort to work with the City, raise cash, in-kind donations, donate themselves, and organize a series of safely masked work days to get the park ready.
- ✓ Continued efforts: RatPackers, Club, and other Rotarians, community volunteers, businesses, nonprofits and public agencies have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and invested sweat equity to complete Phase 1. They continue to give the park the TLC it needs to thrive. Work continues on permits and funding for Phase 2 construction.
- ✓ Park Opening: Centennial Park Waikiki opened to the public on February 1 and neighbors of all ages now gather every day to enjoy this safe and beautiful green space.
- ✓ As Gwen expressed so well last week during her inspiration: “Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes, but they are all the real-life saints and superheroes of this world. And although they don’t ask to be paid for all of their selfless work, they definitely deserve our utmost respect and appreciation.”
- ✓ Park Neighbors agree: From B.J. Dyhr, who has been supporting the project as a donor and park user, wrote in February, “My sister is 96 and we find the Park is an ideal place for a pleasant and safe walk. You have no idea what has been on that lot since 1974, so the Centennial Park is like a miracle! I pray the vandals will stay away and will certainly report anyone who tries to damage anything. Mothers and children as there almost every day enjoying the beauty of the plants and green, green grass. Mahalo nui loa!”
- ✓ B.J. Dyhr again wrote: “Wow!! I watched from my 5th floor lanai for two days while your volunteers panted hundreds of plants in our new park. Aloha Drive is really a special place now and I have lived here since 1974. I would have loved to join them, but, at 93 . . . I was really impressed how hard they worked in the hot sun displaying cooperation and a “let’s do it” attitude.” 9/20/2020
- ✓ More messages of Gratitude for the Park:
 - “I am a local resident at The Island Colony Hotel. Thank you for giving us this beautiful space to relax and unwind.” Herman Tachera on 2/7/2021
 - “It’s been so GREAT seeing how well-used the park has been. Loads of kids, strollers, families, walkers, and more. The parks has been so busy – it really shows the need that was there for a close to home park for this community. I enjoyed my coffee while relaxing on a blanket on Saturday – it was so nice! It’s a lovely park!!!” Leslie Uptain on 2/16/2021
 - “Our son’s first birthday is coming up soon, and in lieu of a party we’re going to ask friends and relatives to donate to the park. I sent a personal donation as well. Thanks for all you do! Got out to the park again today, and it looks like my son is interested in weeding someday too.” Seth Kolloen on 4/15/2021

Carolann finished by declaring: “From improving the quality of life for people of all ages in our own home town, to impressive global impact projects, our Club’s Rotary Service projects bring us together in meaningful ways.” Well spoken, **Carolann**!

Joanna ended our **Celebration** section by announcing that she and **Carolann** are happy to answer any questions after the meeting. She then thanked “Rotarian friends, for your **Service Above Self** all year long, and especially today, for your kind attention, and for your participation in our **Service Above Self – Celebration of Rotary Service** campaign, helping people and building a better world.”

Robyn grabs group page photos before **Rich** closes our meeting.

CLOSING

President Rich, “Wow! Thank you so much for that wonderful presentation! It was very well organized and hit all the right notes!” Q&A will be held after today’s meeting. Next week will be our first experimental hybrid lunch meeting at Dave & Busters. Begins at noon. Lunch is \$35. Martha needs to be notified if you are planning on attending. Zoom will also be held so “one way or the other, join us!” The hybrid format will be held again in May and June. Please join us next week!

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

President Rich adjourns the Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting at 1:00 pm.

After meeting Q&A involved questions also for our future hybrid meetings. If you wanted to know more “behind the scenes,” you need to stay on if possible!

Have a fabulous week.

Humble Scribe,

Lee LaBrash