

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING, 12 – 1 pm
DATE: 5 May, 2020
PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO**

The inspiration, given by **Dawn Marie**, who related an inspiration for the Vietnamese Zen Master **Thich Nhat Hanh** “*Because you are alive, everything is possible*”. Look for the possibility in everything and you won’t be long disappointed. She illustrated this drawing from a recent and very personal story of her family where her sister challenged Dawn when she texted “I don’t have the luxury of a negative thought” by replying “There is no luxury in a negative thought, nor is their progress or triumph. That’s why you don’t have them. You are a progressive and triumphant sister.” Dawn ended by challenging all “*Make today so awesome that yesterday will be jealous!*”

Robyn McCreary (standing in front of a US Flag background) led the Pledge of Allegiance. The singing of “God Bless America,” was led by **Kent Reinker**. **Paul** called for a self introductions of visitors Denise Powell guest of Glenda Anderson and friend of Alice Tucker and Julia Allen, prospective member and guest of Robyn.

Birthdays this week include:

Jerry Rauckhorst on 8 May, **Joanna Amberger** and **Rick Tabor** on 9 May, **Joanne Arizumi** on 10 May, and **Jennifer Oyer** on 11 May

Club Anniversaries:

KENT REINKER	24 YEARS	SPONSORS: SARAH NORDWALL, SARAH RICHARDS
HIROKO DEWITZ	15 YEARS	SPONSOR: ROBERT DOERINGER
SARAH NORDWALL	26 YEARS	SPONSOR: BILL GLEASON
WAYNE JUDD	27 YEARS	SPONSOR: KALANI BRADY

Announcements: **Alice** “Lets get back to NORMAL!”. **Paul** announced that the Club has enlisted Al Linton to help in ordering 4000 surgical masks and that we would be distributing them to non-profits and other Groups. Paul solicited the Club to nominate needful recipients.

Speaker Presentation: Lynn Costales

Alice Tucker introduced **Lynn Costales**, Acting First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney General for City and County of Honolulu and Coordinator of the Honolulu County Human Trafficking Task Force funded by the US Dept. of Justice. Lynn actively prosecutes sex trafficking cases involving both youth and adults. Lynn founded the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children multi-disciplinary team of the Family Court and serves on its steering committee.

Lynn started her talk by describing her public education journey at Nanakuli HS, UH Hilo and the William S. Richardson School of Law at UH Manoa. She described the blight of sex trafficking

which is a big topic and of which she has long hard experience. She has become passionate about the victims of trafficking over her years of working in this area. She outlined the legal recognition that no one under the age of 18 is considered competent to give consent to trafficking activities or to participate in prostitution activities. Cooperation by victims is problematic as there is often a psychological as well as economic dependency that is created by the traffickers that must be carefully addressed in order to obtain evidence and allow for recovery. She reminded all that not every sex assault victim is a trafficking victim but almost all sex trafficking victims have some kind of sexual abuse in their past. Correlating issues for victims often involve poor performance at school, potentially shoplifting and/or drug use history. Often the drug-lures from pimps are not necessarily opioids or ice but rather mood altering or sleep drugs like Xanax or Ambien. Young trafficked victims would often be directed to particular cars in mall parking lots where they would meet customers and perform sex acts in the vehicle and move on to waiting clients in other identified cars. Long after a rescue effort for such victims would separate the victims from prostitution the drug addiction often could linger and despoil their full rehabilitation. Massage parlors provide the shield for much sex trafficking and in many of these the victims can be isolated and be provided austere living conditions- all the while being exploited by aggressive pimps/parlor managers.

Lynn emphasized that the big takeaways were:

- There are a lot of collaborators in the community that help law enforcement comprehensively address sex trafficking
- The approach to the problem is victim-centered for both minors and adults
- The court record is mixed as juries often see victims as volitional prostitutes
- Public education as to the problem of sex trafficking in Hawaii is key to mitigation and provide potential jurors with contextual information to enable them to better serve justice

Among questions Lynn answered related to: about case dispositions, differentiation between prostitution and sex trafficking (Trafficking is minors or coerced sex for profit vs fully volitional sex for a fee); Profile of victims in massage parlors (usually foreign born or citizens – many are undocumented); Jurisdictional lanes for City, State and Feds (a bit muddled but generally each level work things out on a practical basis).

Pres. Paul thanked Lynn for her presentation and stated as a token of appreciation, and in recognition of her wonderful program for the Rotary Club of Honolulu today, that it was our custom to donate a book in our names to the library at Palolo Elementary School. Martha will select a book, and will note her name and the date on the bookplate.

Pres. Paul announced that next week's meeting will be another Zoom meeting. The Presentation and meeting details will be forwarded to members.

Lyla Berg led the Club in singing "*Hawaii Aloha*". Meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted, **David M Shanahan**, Scribe