

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
DATE: JUNE 16, 2020
PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO**

President Paul Saito called the June 16, 2020, ZOOM meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at 12:00 PM.

Brian Dunkel (virtual meeting maestro) shared that in previous meetings he has muted the group as a whole for the Pledge and other portions of the meetings, but stated the muting works best if each individual mutes their own microphones. Members are requested to mute and unmute their own microphones at the appropriate times during our meetings. Thank you.

Rob Hale, sharing with us that June 14 was Flag Day, gave the Inspiration. He asked those who remember to recall **Jake Jacobs'** story of the Star Spangled Banner, and then stated his story is different. "As a sophomore in college in the 60's, Vietnam protests were gearing up, during the 75 member meeting in the house, a voice shouted out silencing everyone. She yelled, "I was there! I was there! I was there!" During the war, she had to keep hidden, but when the alarms sounded and she looked out, she saw the US Flag and felt relieved and so happy, believing she would be saved. The flag stands not just for our country, but for a promise and a hope for all."

Due to technical difficulties, **Robyn McCreary** asked **Lee LaBrash** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Kent Rinker** led us in the singing of our national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.

President Paul welcomed our visitors Del Green, Paddy Griggs, and Pili Valderrama. Birthday wishes were given to **Phil Whitney** (6/16) and **Gaylien Rafferty** (6/20). Club Anniversaries hurrahs went out to **Jerry Rauckhorst** (23 years, sponsored by **Bub Wo**), **Tracey Wiltgen** (19 years, sponsored by **Bill Paul**), and **Scotty Anderson** (3 years, sponsored by **Karin Holma**).

Other Announcements:

- Next week is **Service Above Self** kickoff. Please fill out your pledge forms and turn them in.
- **Rick Tabor** shared information on the Kokua Kupuna partnering with the GRAMMI program, which is working with Times and Foodland markets across the islands to meet the needs of our Kupuna. Volunteers are needed for working with the call center, pick-up and delivery of food, manning curbside pick-up of the food boxes, and taking orders. The first delivery goal date is set for July 1st, and the program start date is set for June 24th. For more information please contact **Rick Tabor**, or visit the GRAMMI website <https://grammi.io/volunteer>. You can also see the GRAMMI call for volunteers in our Rotary *Tradewind* Newsletter of June 12, 2020.
- **Del Green** invites those who haven't signed up for the virtual Rotary International Convention, you can still volunteer by going to <https://www.riconvention.org/en/honolulu>

Lyla Berg greeted everyone on behalf of the Peacemakers Committee and introduced the 'Olelo Peace Program Video contest results, along with **Rich Proctor**. **Lyla** shared some background information, vision, and mission about the Peacemakers, and reminded us that one the six Areas of Focus is **Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution**. "Peacebuilding remains a cornerstone of Rotary's mission as an international humanitarian service organization and a statement of vision of the RCOH Peacemakers Committee." "The Peacemakers Committee envisions that all Rotarians will become peacemakers themselves and that, through us, there will be a more harmonious and peaceful world." "The primary mission of the Peacemakers Committee is to develop "peace through understanding" throughout Rotary and throughout the world. We believe that our mission can best be accomplished by instilling peace within ourselves, our families, and our Community."

Lyla further shared that 13+ years ago the Peacemakers got wind of videos for students and with \$6 thousand, laid the parameters of what the Peacemakers category would entail; showing a conflict and how the student would create peace from that situation.

Lyla asked everyone, "When we say the word 'Peace' or 'Creating Peace', what comes to your mind?" Following are Rotarian shares -

- **Paul Saito**: "Peace means treating each other fairly and nicely... peace is the inevitable goal. Treating people kindly."
- **Alice Tucker**: "Peace is the lack of hostility be it with my next door neighbor, whom I am very peaceful with, or one country to another. We have the advantage of knowing how large the world is, and the fact that one country wants the water that is in another country, or mountains, or whatever it is, and decide that it is theirs and go to war... Everyone understanding their peace, time, and liabilities."
- **Donald Anderson**: "Being connected to other people in a positive way. It's the connections and sharing the world together in a positive way. Kindness and connection."
- **Rick Tabor**: "Regardless of the chaos outside of us, it is the peace inside of us that helps to spread calmness."
- **Erin Auerbach**: "Peace comes from within. If you are not at peace, you cannot respond peacefully to others."
- **Amanda Ellis**: "Peace within, between, and among – holistic approach!"
- **Dave Shanahan**: "Living without fear."
- **Tammy Evrard**: "Internal and external peace means harmony of the heart, soul, and mind."
- **Robyn McCreary**: "Serenity and tranquility."
- **Ananda Ferreira**: "Being a part of this is about peace and really, it's about being friends."
- **Laren Eustace**: "With all the turmoil going on, being able to see others as human beings can bring peace, helping each other, despite seeing things differently."

Lyla shared a quote by Albert Einstein, "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order – in short, of government."

(Shout out of Mahalo to **Brian Dunkel** for assisting with some of our technical difficulties!)

President Elect Rich Proctor introduced the Honorable Mention Video, *Create Peace* by Waimea High School on Kauai, shows everything expressed in our discussion. The video showed students being bullied for one reason or another, and some of the answers for finding peace are to “Strengthen Ohana, Overcome Racism, Respect Differences, and Express Gratitude.”

CREATING PEACE 2020 VIDEO WINNERS

Peace At Home by Pearl Ridge Elementary School begins with a messy house, parents fighting, and violence in the home. The camera sweeps across signs touting Family and Blessings, yet a young child cringes in fear. Parents are the ultimate role models for children. Stop domestic violence. This was a very difficult film for committee members to watch and choose, as it was so heartfelt. This video shows children are watching.

Kindness Counts, It Starts With You by Chiefess Kamakaha Middle School shows us that words have an impact. A student is bullying another by writing mean things on paper, crumpling the paper, and then tossing it at the victim mockingly. Another student notices this, approaches the student, takes the paper that says, “You are Ugly” and scratches out the word ‘ugly’ and replaces it with ‘Beautiful.’ When the student arrives home, she takes out the crumpled, altered note and saves it to an empty drawer of her dresser, then opens the bedroom curtains to allow in light. Each day, she receives a new positive note, takes it home, places it in the new drawer, opens the old drawer full of negative notes and tosses another into the trash. This continues daily and we see the positive drawer is now much fuller than the negative drawer!

Kindness Test by Moanalua High School begins with a student reading an ad at school that will pay those who are willing to participate in an experiment. The student smugly states this will be easy money. The student enters for the experimental test, sits down, is rude to the person administering the test and trying to offer information, grabs the ear buds, places them in ears and is immediately in a virtual simulation. Within the test, the student fails repeatedly when bumping into another, has a door opened for entrance, and sees writing implements dropped to the ground. The student is rude towards the other and is accordingly given a ‘shock’ with each fail and hears an automated “failed” alert. Finally, the student catches on, and realizes the rudeness and unkind remarks she made. At the last test, the student changes her attitude and shows compassion and kindness. After the change of attitude came a change of heart, and the student was from then on kind to the test administrator and we are to believe, is now a changed person. “It’s not shocking to be kind.”

Some of the other videos viewed:

Colorful from 2017-2018, by Aina Haina Elementary was filmed in black & white, no one smiling, everything and everyone very robotic until one day, a new person arrives full of life and the world is turned to color as she shares cultures and attitude. At the end each student holds up a sign making statements of “I am . . . , Filipino, athletic, artist, unique, etc. COLORFUL!

Carton of Eggs (from 2018-2019) by Ka Waihona O Ka Na’aa, a Private Charter School – A Middle school student is decorating and marking eggs, and placing them in a carton labeled as

the Human Race, and explains to another student (while cracking the eggs into a bowl) that while we are all of different races, colors, and no matter how we each look, speak, the foods we eat, or the color of our skin, we are all the same and equal. No race is superior over the other.

Lyla enlightened us about the meaning of Ka Waihona O Ka Na'auao School's name; "Kawaihona is a container of fresh water and Na'auao refers to the brain/intelligence. So the Charter School's name means a school full of wealth, knowledge, and wisdom. Mahalo **Lyla**!

Masks by Kauai High School - All the Students are wearing masks and hanging out, but one student is walking around showing by the body language that something is "different". The student walks into a bathroom and has a lot of noise going on inside her head and is clearly distraught and appears to feel that other students are continually pointing and mocking. The student rakes at her reflection in the mirror and appears to be having a meltdown. Eventually, the student takes off the mask and begins the day fresh with a positive attitude, which affects others, who then remove their masks and smile. Being different is beautiful.

Lyla: This last video shown was the 2018-2019 Winner, entitled *Lipstick* by Waipahu High. This video punctuates what we have been talking about. The Peacemaker committee has many diverse activities planned for next year and we hope you will participate with us. Thank you to **Paul** for allowing us to have this time for the Peacemakers Committee.

Rich: Thank you **Paul**! The topic is very revolutionary for HS, but if you watch the video and note the professional grade and quality from writing to production, you will be absolutely amazed!

Lipstick begins in a bedroom with a young lady putting on her lipstick, and her friend or brother watching over his magazine. The gal grabs her keys and leaves. The young man gets up after she leaves, reviews an audio text on his phone that says, "Yaaaasss Queen!" He then puts on heels and holds up a pink dress in front of him, and puts on the lipstick. The girl returns to the room looking for the lipstick, while the boy is hiding in the closet. He realizes she is searching for the very object that he is holding. He comes out of the closet (physically and metaphorically) and hands her the tube of lipstick. Being vulnerable and uncertain, probably feeling shame, he hangs his head. The girl approaches him, gently lifts his chin, smiles and helps him apply the lipstick. They hug. Acceptance!!!! This video was written, edited, music written by, and filmed by Marc O. Mercado, Jr.

This winning video is impactful on many levels, but most of all, it shows love, acceptance, and peace in action.

Lyla closed this portion by giving gratitude and turned the meeting back over to **Paul** who shared about the courts finally stepping up for the LGBTQ community to be safe from being fired for being who they are. Win!

Inspired by **Lyla**, a video of *Hawaii Aloha* was put together and played for all of us to watch and join in. **Lyla** asked us to picture in our minds that we are all together, standing, and holding hands while we sing as one.

The master tape has **Bub Wo** playing *Hawaii Aloha*. The viewed compilation to date was **Bub Wo, Paul Saito, Lyla Berg, and Erin Auerbach**, each singing in their own location, and then edited together. **President Paul** invites anyone who would like to sing and join in adding their voices to the Convention Collage video, to contact him and he will send the master track of **Bub** playing. You can make your video and send it to be added!

Paul adjourned our meeting just after 1:00 pm.

Lee LaBrash, Scribe