

Another scintillating zoom Rotary meeting while each of us puts on a very professional shirt, and meanwhile we still have on our pajama bottoms. Such is the new way of running the world.....

Promptly at 12:00 sharp **President Paul** called us to order (no captain's bell for the time being). **Scotty Anderson** gave a very touching inspiration concerning the events of the past week in the United States. Thanks, Scotty. **Jessica Rich** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Lyla Berg**, who led us in America the Beautiful. **President Paul** welcomed our visitors, who included our dear Past President Paddy Griggs. Aloha, dear Paddy. Other welcome guests were DG Scott Wishard, PDG Del Green and Konrad Ikei, president of the Ala Moana club. Wonderful to have you folks join us.

Happily, we had four folks to induct as new club members. First time we did it on zoom, but Rotarians are nimble folks and can adjust to nearly anything.

**Carolann Biederman** sponsored our first new member, **Peg Jackson**. Peg came from Lafayette, CA, but she's been coming to our meetings for a little while now. Peg is an author of ten books and consultant in risk management and strategic planning. She's very proud of the fact (and rightly so!) that she earned her doctorate in Public Administration from Hawaii Pacific University in 1991. Peg and her husband recently celebrated their 48th anniversary. Peg thanked Carolann, and also **Bub** for his gift of wonderful odoriferous puakenikeni. Peg made a generous donation to the Maile Hale Fund. Peg, thanks so very much.

**Robyn McCreary** has been a very busy gal, and introduced three (Count 'em: THREE) new members today. **Julia Allen** was born in Honolulu, but lived in California for six years. When she returned to Hawaii she came to live in the same house she'd been born in. Lucky lady! Julia is a member of Neighborhood Board #5, and is a candidate for House District 20 (St. Louis Heights) in the upcoming election. Good for you, Julia! Julia told of a bike tour in England and Scotland, and how it made her appreciate rest. Julia, we'll have to compare notes about bike trips. Welcome to our club. Julia thanked Bub for his lovely puakenikeni welcome gift.

Robyn's second new member is **Evelyn Stiefel**. Evelyn has been in the mortgage industry since 1993. She opened her own company in 2000, and also had a mortgage company in Colorado. Evelyn met her husband in college, and the results are five children and nine grandchildren. Evelyn has been a Rotarian for 17 years. She is past president of her club in Colorado, so for sure Evelyn knows a bit of what she can look forward to. Evelyn, welcome to our club, which may be a little different, but a little the same as your former club. Evelyn also thanked Bub for his wonderful puakenikeni mini-bouquet.

Robyn's third new member, and by far the most handsome (!) of the three, is **Laren Eustace**. Laren also wins the contest for youngest of today's new members, but of course we welcome members of all ages. Laren (Every single time I try to type his first name, my "thinks it's so much smarter than I am" computer changes it to a woman's name that starts with a "K". Listen, Computer. I mean it when I start his name with an L!!) is in commercial real estate, and right now he's got some spare time on his hands to help with club activities. Laren, let's hope that ends soon for you! Laren is originally from Chicago, then Indiana, and now, happily for us, Hawaii after earning his bachelor's degree in finance and real estate. Let's put Laren to work on club activities right away! Laren also thanked Bub for the puakenikeni.

**President Paul** conducted an induction ceremony for our four new members, and we welcome them heartily!

**President Paul** noted club birthdays this week, as well as club anniversaries. Congratulations to you all!

**Jessica Rich** needs volunteers for inspirations and to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Some volunteers came forward immediately. Well done.

**Mitch D'Olier** reported on the financial aspects of Centennial Park, and they're quite impressive. G70 donated a group of renderings that would have cost a pretty penny. Also, our sister clubs raised \$20,000 toward this project, for which we are extremely grateful. To date we have raised (Don't you love how I say "we"? Mitch and company deserve all the credit! That's the good news. The less than great news is that we still owe Hawaiian Dredging \$210,000, plus \$77,000 to other patient (?) folks. We knew this was going to be a marathon, folks, not a sprint. We WILL succeed!

**Amanda Ellis** introduced our guest speaker. We all know about Hawaii's goal of trying to be energy-independent by 2045. We also all know that this goal is pretty unattainable at the speed the state is going in now. Well, today's speaker is trying to do something about that.

Tiffany Huynh is Director of External Affairs, Hawaii, for Elemental Excelsior, a company which helps 15-20 startup companies a year whose goals will benefit EE's mission. Each of these companies must improve systems that impact people's lives through energy, water, food and agriculture, mobility and the circular economy. In 2019 EE awarded \$6 million to 17 startups tackling urgent food challenges. They have assisted 99 startups in their portfolio to date, 59 of which are in Hawaii, California and Asia-Pacific. EE's applications for grants come from over 60 companies all around the world. They have awarded a total of \$36 million to companies. Another incidental benefit is that the company breaks down barriers through partnerships.

The technology categories that they invest in are: Energy—35%, Food and Agriculture—19%, Water—13%, Mobility---10%, Other—12%.

Some examples of the type of companies they have invested in are: Hydra panels that look like solar panels. However, these panels "catch" water that is in the air. Another example: Concrete pavement, which has much less potential to emit CO2 than "blacktop".

During COVID-19 EE wants to be there right at the restart. They are calling their attempt Uplift Hawaii: A Just Recovery. Look them up at [www.uplifthawaii.org](http://www.uplifthawaii.org).

Wow, folks! This is a dynamic young entrepreneur with a marvelous goal and energy to spare! Best wishes to her.

**Bub Wo**, he of the lovely puakeniken mini-bouquets, led us in *Hawaii Aloha* to conclude our meeting. Bub, you bring great happiness to many folks through your posies. Mahalo nui loa.

**Alice Tucker**, Substitute Scribe