

As a Rotary Club of Honolulu member since 1987, I can honestly say our meetings are always worth the time spent with our ohana...we learn, we are inspired, we get fired up. I can honestly say Tuesday's time with speaker Ron Mizutani was memorable. Even though via zoom, it was akin to a personal, one-on-one emotional conversation. I'll share more, below.

President **Gwen Yamamoto Lau** called us to order after 15 minutes of valued off script laugh and chat time. For her Inspiration, Past President **Nancy Pace** recalled a recent surfing accident she attended to, involving a boy and his father, and how grateful she was to reach out to fellow member **Jessica Rich**, who instantly assisted the family via VASH. Nancy noted Jessica and her remarkable team at VASH shared Aloha, care, and exemplified 2 of the points on Rotary's 4-Way Test: 'Will It Build Goodwill And Better Friendships?' and 'Will it Be Beneficial To All Concerned?'. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Julia Allen**, and **Al Linton** sang the National Anthem with pride! President **Gwen** introduced the guests who had zoomed in for the meeting. **Byron Eliashof** looks great! Congratulations to **Poki'i Balaz**, who is a PBN 2021 Forty Under 40 winner.

Foundation Trustee **Dawn Marie** announced we are a little over \$85,000 toward the club foundation goal of \$100,000. She shared the importance of giving to the Service Above Self campaign fund. **Beth-Ann Kozlovich** reached out to members who may have ideas and contacts regarding future speakers, and suggested those interested join the Program Committee. President **Gwen** then sent us off to our breakout 'rooms' to share favorite PBS programs over the years...in keeping with our speaker's plans for "Turning the Page Together".

**Alice Tucker**, who has been organizing our impressive programs for years, really nailed it again this time! I must admit I have known **Ron Mizutani** throughout his 30 plus years as a KHON-TV sports & newscaster, Uncle Kirk's buddy, and news station 'competitor'. But during our Tuesday meeting, we all learned so much on a personal level...stuff I never knew... that he was emboldened to share for the good. Ron has been the new President and CEO of PBS Hawaii for a mere 5 months, and he already has an impressive list of ways to "serve as the beneficiary of Leslie Wilcox's good work". One special already planned, and to be hosted by Ron will air on PBS August 26th 2021: "**The Night Breaking News Broke Me**".

Ron was anchoring the TV news one night when he was handed an unexpected script on something newsworthy that had just happened...and with thousands watching...he suffered a panic attack. He couldn't read, couldn't grasp the content...he was ...panicked. And by the time he got it together, realized this was it. He soon left KHON, and in 2018, he took the lead at the Hawaii Food Bank.

Ron knew he had mental health issues, magnified by care giving for his parents...and could see that the challenges he had faced growing up, mirrored many of Food Bank clients. COVID certainly didn't help. It all bolstered his anxiety and depression and panic episodes. He wasn't caring for himself and having trouble caring for family the way he wanted. Ron even had a panic attack during a Food Bank leadership meeting. He said he needed to break the stigma. He left knowing it was time. He focused on soul searching, treatments, and then...he was encouraged to apply for the CEO position at PBS. Ron says he didn't literally apply, but "six interviews later, here I am."

Ron said among his leadership roles at PBS will be the integrity of the brand, responsibilities involved in quality local programming and research on what our community needs: Engaging the next generation is a priority. Pod casts debut August 6th, titled 'What School You Went?'

Short digital projects and new ways to click on  
A video enhanced story telling program 'Home is Here'  
Na Mele, expanding the focus on artists islands wide.  
Getting the next Hiki No generation of youngsters access to understand learning from home  
during COVID, care for kupuna, and coping with their feelings.  
Provide voices in a safe place on mental illness.

He told us he is a story teller...touching people's lives. "This is how I can make a difference  
now."

Ron touched my life, today!

See you at Cafe Julia for hybrid meeting next Tuesday.

With Aloha,  
Linda Coble, Scribe