

INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE OF KAUAI
(Friday, January 29, 2016)
Lihue Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihue
Minutes
Submitted by (Sally Wilson)

Present: Rev. Rita Andriello-Feren, Annaleah Atkinson, Deborah Burnham, Michael O. Christensen, Marquis Dawkins (Ishaq Mohammed), Luke Evslin, Rev. Patrick Feren, Jim Jung, Mieko Majima, Cynthia Moore, Jeffrey Pears, Joanne Watanabe, Sally Wilson, Petra Sundheim, Rev. Nicole Sakurai, Vel Alahan, Hari Khalsa

Opening Prayer: offered by Hari Khalsa

Welcome and Call to Order, Introductions: Jeffrey Pears

Minutes of November Meeting: Approved as submitted

Treasurer's Report: Our treasurer Al Albergate was off-island. Report read by Jeffrey Pears. We have \$289.24, plus \$20 donation last Sunday. Expenses for MLK, Jr. event were \$625.42. Budget had been \$500, but we were requested to have an ASL interpreter, which cost \$125. \$220 was donated to IROK at the MLK, Jr. event. Last year we spent a total of \$2714 on all events IROK hosted. Our intention is to spend less this year.

Message from Co-Chairperson: Jeffrey Pears

This is a monumental year for IROK: it is our 11th year of existence and we have had more participation and community involvement at the last few events than we have ever had. Our membership is growing. Our recent keynote speaker at the MLK event, Bishop Swing of the United Religious Initiative has invited IROK to become a Cooperation Circle. This would provide us the tools, resources, and skills to deepen our interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding skills, network and make friends with interfaith groups around the world, and offer an East-West stop-over to host interfaith ambassadors traveling across the Pacific Ocean. These ambassadors would be invited to Kaua'i to meet us, share their experiences with us, and receive our gracious hospitality. There are now 844 cooperation circles worldwide with over 700,000 people involved, and it is growing at over 20% per year. IROK volunteers are requested to be ambassadors for this circle. Joann Watanabe, Hari Khalsa, Annaleah Atkinson, Ishaq Mohammed, Nicole Sakurai, Rita Andriello-Feren, and Jeffrey Pears raised their hands and volunteered. Rev. Robin Taylor of Christ Memorial Episcopal Church also volunteered (a few days ago).

Committee Reports:

- a) MLK committee: Event was fantastic! Both Ishaq Mohammed and Rev. Swing were excellent speakers. Americorps young adults were great and extremely helpful in every way. Food was very good and music was wonderful. Leis (38) were beautiful. Only negative comment was that we ran short of food.
- b) Public relations: Press releases were sent to 17 media outlets. Thank you to The Garden Island Newspaper, Kong Radio, and all the others.
- c) Membership committee: From MLK, Jr event we have 15 new email addresses, so our mailing list is 301.
- d) Program committee: Meetings filled through September with Revs. Rita and Patrick presenting that month. October and November are available.

- e) National Day of Prayer committee: Chairperson and co-chairperson are needed. Please contact Jeffrey if you are willing to be a chair or co-chair this event.

New Business: JoAnn Yukimura of the County Council was required to go to Oahu the day before this meeting so she asked Luke Evslin to speak for her regarding the social justice issue of our transportation situation and the excise tax proposal being proposed. The excise tax in itself is harder on the lower income residents. The funds derived from it are intended to support transportation improvement, which would be a good thing, but asking our not-so-fortunate citizens to pay for it is unjust. The Council hasn't voted yet, so it is possible to testify at hearings.

Old Business: None

Meeting program: Hari Simran Khalsa: Sikhism

“Sikh” means student. That founder of Sikhism was a late 1400's man named Nanek who studied many religions and questioned everything. He was born to a Hindu family in Pakistan (then India), but in a Muslim culture. He realized that there is only one god. This is the major concept of Sikhism: There is one god, one universal force. Every person is equal, and therefore every person should have an equal chance in life. He started feeding people who all sat together, from the same pot regardless of caste or any other division. His free kitchens still exist all over India. Anyone is a Sikh who sticks up for someone else. The only suggestion (not rule) is that one meditates in order to manage one's own mind. Symbols of Sikhism: Long hair (god-given part of the body); men and women wear turbans; men and women wear pants; always carry a weapon in case a need to defend someone occurs; steel circle bracelet which is symbol of unity of god. Services are once a month and are comprised of singing, study from a 1,636 page book of poems, and enjoying food together. There are 15 to 20 Sikhs on Kaua'i. Sikh Dharma can be thought of as not a religion, but a lifestyle.

Announcements:

- a) IROK volunteers are needed for shifts at the Wellness Expo on 1/30/16. Please sign up with Jeffrey at 634-9992. As a non-profit, Jeffrey suggests that we give a \$100 donation to Char Ravelo for giving us a table at the Expo – so moved and passed.
- b) Revs. Rita and Patrick are seeking to move and find a house for March and April or for a long-term lease.
- c) Petra Sundheim, Pathways of Light, is a resource person for small groups who are willing to share healing tools and practices.
- d) IROK will purchase copies of Interfaith Prayer Book, which members can then purchase at cost from IROK.
- e) Treasurer has drafted a letter, which will suggest a contribution of \$10 a month from IROK members. Suggestion to draft a fund-raising letter for each of us to distribute to our own groups is also recommended. Sally will draft the letter.

Monthly Donation: \$301 was received in donations at the meeting.

Closing Prayer: Hari Khalsa offered the closing prayer.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Friday, February 27, 2016 at Lihue Hongwanji Buddhist Temple from 12 – 2 pm.