

INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE OF KAUAI
(February 27, 2015)
Lihue Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihue
Minutes
Submitted by Al Albergate

Present: Jeffrey Pears, Patti Pears, Lucky Wells, Al Albergate, Cynthia Chang, Charlene Dorsey, Sharon West, Pastor Jeannie Thompson, Sister Deborah Burnham, Nicole Sakurai, Cynthia Moore, Rev. Rita Andriello-Feren, Rev. Patrick Feren.

Opening Prayer: Charlene Dorsey

Welcoming and Call to order, Introductions: Jeffrey Pears

Minutes from Last Meeting (January 30, 2015): Approved.

Treasurer's Report: None (Treasurer Vel Alahan was absent).

Message from Chairperson: Jeffrey Pears read from the Roundtable Mission Statement and then stated that we currently are an informed interfaith voice for religious cooperation on a local level on the island of Kaua'i with our representatives of various faiths involving themselves in each other's events. But we are not an isolated island. He proposed that we look toward moving to the next level over the next year to actively participate in state-level interfaith events, and eventually claim our seat at a global level by becoming involved in the United Religions Initiative (URI). The URI has over 600 "cooperation circles" worldwide, but none yet in Hawaii. Jeffrey said there is The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii that is linked to the national Interfaith Alliance, so it remains to be seen if they see value in joining URI as a cooperation circle. Further research into URI.org is suggested.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Membership:** None. (Chairperson John Moore was absent).
- b) **Public Relations:** Chairperson Al Albergate presented two recent articles from The Garden Island newspaper. The first (TGI, Feb. 15, 2015) was a positive profile of our member and immediate past Secretary, Sharon West. The other article (TGI, Feb. 26, 2015) announced the upcoming Mayor's Prayer Luncheon on March 14 was sold out. The event is sponsored by Kauai Island Ministries, an organization of evangelical Christian churches. Although no specific invitation had been sent to IROK, Jeffrey encouraged our members to try to get tickets and to engage in dialogue with the other participants as a step toward greater cooperation in the future between our two organizations.
- c) **Programming:** Chairperson Cynthia Moore said she has more questions for Mayor

Bernard Carvalho regarding speaking at an upcoming meeting. Rita and Patrick said they plan to attend a Domestic Violence Task Force meeting on March 12, 2015 as a possible way to serve the community. Presenter at the March 27 meeting will be Jeffrey Pears, of Kaua'i Hospice, on Death, Dying and Rebirth. Rita and Patrick will present at the April meeting.

- d) **Website:** Jeffrey reported no changes, with the exception that whenever we get requests to upload events from other organizations or churches Jeffrey will consult with other officers before putting them on our website. He also said he has not yet installed a donation button that will be linked through PayPal.
- e) **Annual Retreat: The theme for this year's retreat will be "Discovery and Renewal: Collaborative Joy, Relaxation and Play."** Sister Deborah confirmed that it will be a two-night, 2.5-day retreat this year, ~~May 7-9~~ (date has changed to July 9-11), and the registration fee is \$60 per person, which includes lodging and all meals. Some persons paid their registration immediately. Those who said they will attend were Jeffrey and Patti Pears, Sister Deborah, Cynthia Moore, Lucky Wells, Rita and Patrick Feren, Jeannie Thompson, Sharon West and Charlene Dorsey. The retreat will focus on self-renewal and making a "space for ourselves." The retreat committee includes: Deborah, Jeffrey, Annaleah, Charlene, Willie Garavito and Cynthia. Send any suggestions for the musical participation part of the retreat to Sharon. Participants are encouraged to bring musical instruments. Willie has agreed to facilitate the opening and closing ceremonies.

Future Monthly Meeting Programs: It was agreed to strike this section from future agenda's and meeting minutes because they are covered under the Programming Committee reports.

Old Business: None.

New Business: We reviewed three proposals for a special logo to commemorate this year as the 10th anniversary of the roundtable's creation on Jan. 18, 2005. One proposal, designed by Adam Prall, was selected by the majority of those present (without knowing he had submitted the design). It will appear on coffee mugs and tee-shirts which will be sold to raise money to support IROK activities. A committee was formed to plan a special event to commemorate the anniversary, possibly in conjunction with the annual International Day of Peace. We have reserved Lydgate Park for Sunday, September 20. Jeannie, Patrick, Rita and Sharon volunteered to serve on the committee.

Other new business: Jeffrey will send out a notice to the membership seeking a volunteer for the position of Secretary to replace Sharon West who resigned at the January meeting. Although Adam Prall volunteered to replace her, Jeffrey explained that Adam's talents can be better utilized for the website, brand identity, and other design/computer issues. Jeffrey also presented a draft of IROK's annual newsletter. There are four spaces for advertising on the last page that

could be offered to our members (first come first serve) for \$100 per space that would help raise money for IROK and cover the cost of printing it. This annual newsletter would be handed out at our events, posted for download from our website, and included with all new member packets. Participants donated a total of \$70 at this meeting as part of new procedure whereby attendees can make personal donations to IROK at each meeting. Last, it was suggested not to bring oranges as part of the communal snacks at our meetings due to the allergies of some members.

Program: Cynthia Chang, Kauai Health Educator for Planned Parenthood, presented in the new longer format where the business meeting will continue to be for one hour, and the presenter now will get a full hour after the business meeting; total time: 12 noon to 2 pm. Ms. Chang said she would send a letter to be included in the minutes.

Announcements: A free Anti-Semitism program will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 5 pm, at the Aloha Aston Resort.

Adjourn

Closing Prayer: Jeffrey.

Next meeting: March 27, 2015. Jeffrey Pears, of Kaua'i Hospice, will be the presenter.

Special Meeting: After a short break, a special meeting for those interested was held from 2 – 4 pm to begin creating a formal business plan and strategy for the Interfaith Roundtable of Kaua'i.