

**INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE OF KAUAI**  
**(March 27, 2015)**  
**Kaua`i Hospice, Lihu`e**  
**Minutes**  
**Submitted by Al Albergate**

**Present:** Al Albergate, Patrick Feren, Will.i.am Garavito, Cynthia Moore, John Moore, Sister Deborah Burnham, Rev. Kohtoku Hirao, Jeffrey Pears, Pastor Jeannie Thompson, Cynthia Welti, Sharon West, Sally Wilson.

**Opening Prayer:** Patrick Feren.

**Welcoming and Call to order, Introductions:** Jeffrey Pears.

**Minutes from Last Meeting:** Approved with the addition of Jeffrey Pears to the retreat committee report.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Vel Alahan, who is recuperating from surgery, Jeffrey promised to email an official report to all members. He did report that there is a balance of \$297.38 in the checking account, after paying a deposit of \$335.00 to reserve cabins for the July scheduled annual retreat in Kokee State Park.

**Message from Chairperson:** Jeffrey reported that there is a lot of work to be done, he loves working with the others involved in IROK, and he plans to more fully delegate tasks and utilize all of the talents represented in IROK's membership. Thus, members are encouraged to volunteer and get actively engaged in the operations of IROK. He reminded everybody that the position of Secretary is still open. If you have thought about volunteering, now is the time. Jeffrey finished his message by saying, "Like links in a chain, together we are strong. So let us offer our skill, talent, and time to building the Interfaith Roundtable's bright future."

**Committee Reports:**

- a) **Membership:** John Moore reported that he has gotten a job and has not been able to spend as much time on this committee. He said our email list includes about 200 names on Kaua'i, while IROK's active membership is about 30.
- b) **Public Relations:** Al Albergate said he is planning for the promotion of the National Day of Prayer on May 7<sup>th</sup>, the second of three major annual events sponsored by IROK. He and the NDOP committee will consult on publicity.
- c) **Programming:** Cynthia Moore reported that Rev. Rita Andriello-Feren and Rev. Patrick Feren, spiritual directors of the Center for Spiritual Living, will present at the April meeting, which has been changed to Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> due to IROK members volunteering on the last Friday of April. The regular May meeting scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> will feature

Rev. Michael Christiansen, pastor of the Hanapepe United Church of Christ. Willie Garavito, Christian mystic and shaman, will present at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- d) **Website:** Jeffrey Pears updated the site with a donation button. Contributions may be made either by credit card or through PayPal. It does, however, include the disclaimer that until IROK achieves the non-profit tax-exempt status 501(c) 3, donations are not tax-deductible. The site explains how donations are used, basically for interfaith events, operating expenses, insurance and website fees.
- e) **Annual Retreat:** Sister Deborah Burnham reconfirmed that the retreat has been rescheduled for arrival at 3 p.m., July 9<sup>th</sup>, with clean-up and departure by 4 p.m., July 11<sup>th</sup>. The \$60 fee per participant breaks down to \$15 per night for cabin rental (for two nights), \$10 per day for food, plus \$10 toward the fee for a Hawaiian cultural practitioner. Spouses and friends are invited. So far, six members have registered to attend. The program activities and those in charge include: playback theater (Annaleah Atkinson), lei-making (Sister Deborah), opening ceremony (Willie Garavito), laughter yoga (Jeffrey Pears) and sing-a-long (Sharon West).

**New Business:** The National Day of Prayer on May 7<sup>th</sup> will follow the same format as last year. A few volunteers will meet for setup at 7 a.m. at the Lihue Civic Center Rotunda Building and help unload the truck and set-up the chairs provided by the Kauai Island Ministries (KIM). The IROK program will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Any IROK member who wishes to offer a prayer should contact Sister Deborah. IROK has asked the Sacred Earth Choir to perform and will know in a week if that will be possible. We hope to invite the mayor and a representative of the governor to publically recognize IROK's celebration. Either Al Albergate or Willie Garavito may lead the group in chanting (along with the choir if they attend) and will emphasize audience participation. Patrick Feren will co-chair the event with Sister Deborah.

**Old Business:** Jeffrey announced that another special meeting would be held after the regular meeting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to further discuss the business development plan, including achieving official non-profit recognition as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Jeffrey presented prototypes of a 15 oz. coffee mug and tee-shirt displaying the new IROK 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Various suggestions were offered both for the designs and prices. A question came up by the positioning of the words on the logo image so Willie Garavito volunteered to work with Adam Prall on modifying the logo to come up with a final one. Eight people signed up to order a mug (one person ordered two to make an initial order of nine mugs). John Moore volunteered to bring information to the next meeting on logo'd polo shirts.

**Donations, etc.:** Attendees contributed \$80; \$240 was collected for the retreat.

**Program:** Jeffrey Pears, chaplain at Kauai Hospice, showed a Power Point presentation featuring approaches to serving those with terminal illnesses.

**Next meeting:** Instead of meeting on the last Friday in April, it was agreed to hold the April meeting on Friday, May 1, to allow IROK members, who wish, to volunteer to serve lunch at a peer mediation program for high schools on the last Friday in April.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was closed informally.

**Closing Prayer:** A silent meditation blessing practice was shared at the end of the presentation.