

Interfaith Roundtable of Kaua`i
Minutes of Meeting May 27, 2016
Lihu`e Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihu`e
Submitted by Jeffrey Pears

Present: Vel Alahan – Kaua`i Hindu Monastery, Al Albergate - SGI Buddhist Chapter, Rev. Rita Andriello – CSL Kaua`i, John Bonn – Roman Catholic, Joshua Borden – Buddhist, Deborah Burnham – Brahma Kumaris, Laurette DeMandel-Schaller – Yoga, Rev. Patrick Feren – CSL Kaua`i, William Garavito – Christian Mystic, Jim Jung – Buddhist, Sat Khalsa – Sikh, Dr. Hari Khalsa – Sikh, Jeffrey Pears – Advaita Yoga, Nicole Sakurai – Happy Science, Sonia Song – Free Spirit, Lucky Wells – Bahai

Meeting Program: Jim Jung talked briefly about the teachings of Buddhism. He described it as a way of life guided by the dharma (teachings of the Buddha) and quoted some passages from the Interfaith Prayer Book to illustrate this as well as his own service to various causes on the island. He also shared the story of The Four Chaplains (Catholic, Rabbi, Methodist, and Christian Reform Evangelical) who saved hundreds of men when their troop ship was torpedoed by a German submarine in WWII. Those chaplains gave their life jackets to others as a selfless act of love. 230 survived and 672 perished including those chaplains. Jim's message: selfless service.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Jim Jung offered a Buddhist prayer
2. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Jeffrey Pears
3. **Minutes of April 29, 2016:** Approved as submitted
4. **Treasurer's Report:** IROK account contains a balance of \$1,172.50

5. Message from Jim Jung, Co-chair and Jeffrey Pears, Co-chair

Jim reminded us of the chaos and negativity as well as the order and positivity in the world, the dualistic nature of existence and reminded us of opportunities to focus and participate in positive action. He cited the Living Values Education workshop he attended recently ran by Sr. Deborah Burnham, his making of 4,500 paper cranes of the 200,000 sent to Japan to be hung on the Sadako Sasaki memorial, and his planned participation in next week's Kids Festival where he (and the children) will play pirates while teaching ocean safety to the keiki.

Jeffrey talked about IROK's mission, vision, encouragement for each member of the Roundtable to figure out what they like to do, what skill they can offer, and selflessly serve in some capacity as we move forward as an interfaith group. He also talked about the deeper connection we have with each other and how the annual retreat fosters and deepens that spiritual connection.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Public Relations** – Al Albergate reported the National Day of Prayer announcement was covered by 18 media sources, including radio and print. Al did an excellent job as our PR committee leader. Some National Day of Prayer discussion followed including comments by Rev. Rita and Jim Jung. Jim said he attended the KIM services following IROK and

- gained a greater understanding and appreciation of their style of worship, and why the two organizations (IROK and KIM) have separate prayer worships on that day.
- b. Programming Committee – Cynthia Moore was absent from the meeting, however our program is full till the end of 2016. December will be the holiday party.
 - c. Membership Committee – Email list has 337 contacts. There were 16 people at this meeting.
 - d. International Day of Prayer Committee – Laurette DeMandel-Schaller has volunteered to chair the IDOP committee.
 - e. URI Committee – Jeffrey Pears reported that we have 18 who have signed up to participate in the URI initiative. A number of us recently met with (over video) the Regional Coordinator of URI North America, Sari Heidenreich and experienced the appreciative inquiry process. Jeffrey stated the committee will set up quarterly strategy/training days through this year and into next year (once approved as a CC). He also shared examples of resources from URI.org. The preamble, purpose, and principles were distributed. The World Interfaith Harmony Week was also mentioned as something our committee may want to plan for in 2017.

7. Announcements

- a. Tentative date for our annual retreat is July 28th and 29th. Willian Garavito volunteered to chair the annual retreat committee.
- b. Nominations for the co-chair positions include Rev. Diane Decker – CSL Kaua`i and Hari Khalsa – Sikh. Two other members have expressed interest in serving in some capacity.
- c. Rev. Rita suggested that Sharon West 770-712-6527 would appreciate a telephone call to see how she is recovering from a recent health challenge.
- d. Rev. Patrick and Rev. Rita has invited everyone to participate in their annual fundraiser to expand their youth program, outreach and building fund. It is a musical called *Love Notes: An Evening of Cabaret*. For more information, contact www.cslkauai.org
Rev. Rita also encouraged ministers to support the LGBTQ teens community involvement. For more information, go to <http://thndr.me/fvmvtw>
Rev. Patrick and Rev. Rita offer a special program that builds confidence, trust, and healing in a confidential individual and group process called, *Flying Solo*. The most recent participants in this process will be sharing their authentic selves in a presentation on June 3rd at 7 pm at CSL Kaua`i.
- e. Laurette DeMandel-Schaller graciously gave out a CD by Bruce Hubbard titled, *A Hui Hou*, as a gift to everyone.
- f. Nicole Sakurai invited everyone to attend and/or help out at *The Bridge of Peace Festival* scheduled for June 18th from 9 am – 3 pm. For more information, contact happinessplantingcenter.org

8. Next meeting will be June 24th at Lihu`e Hongwanji from 12 – 2 p.m.

9. Donations accepted at the meeting: \$172 plus \$9 cash accepted at the National Day of Prayer

10. Meeting adjourned.