

Interfaith Roundtable of Kaua`i
P.O. Box 1442, Kapa`a, HI 96746
Minutes of Meeting June 24, 2016

Present: Al Albergate, SGI Buddhist Chapter, Rev. Rita Andriello, Rev. Patrick Feren, and Rev. Diane Decker, CSL Kaua`i, Sr. Deborah Burnham, Brahma Kumaris, Dr. Hari Khalsa, Sikh, Sonia Song, Free Spirit, Lucky Wells, Bahai, Annaleah Atkinson, Fellowship of the Inner Light, Ishaq Muhammed, Islam, Sharon West, The Gathering, Petra Sundheim, Way of the Heart

1. Opening Prayer: Rev. Diane Decker

2. Welcome and Call to Order: Al Albergate

3. Minutes of May 27, 2016: Approved as submitted

4. Treasurer's Report: IROK account contains a balance of \$1,475.50, including two \$60 retreat payments.

5. Message from outgoing co-chair Jeffrey Pears: Read by Al Albergate

The message listed the many positive changes that IROK has accomplished in the two years of his leadership. These include establishing committee chairs for membership, programming, public relations, website/social media, and the nominating committee. The Mission Statement was polished, a full brochure created, a website and a Facebook page are up and running, with a donation policy and the ability to receive donations through our website. We participated in our own sponsored events as well as others around the island. A United Religions Initiative (URI) Cooperation Circle has been formed. Jeffrey also thanked many IROK members past and present, as well as Lono and Hana Montgomery, Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Kazunori Takahashi, Michael and Carrie Fox and Wendy Mackintosh.

6. Committee Reports

Public Relations: Annaleah Atkinson shared that the announcements she made about the UCC Hanapepe service, and the Kapa`a Peace vigil for the Orlando victims was posted by Sari Heidenreich on a URI space for world- wide responses to the massacre.

Nicole Sakurai's festival, "The Bridge of Peace" between Kaua`i and Hiroshima was attended by several IROK members, and was a great success.

Membership: No report. John Moore was absent from the meeting. Last month there were 337 email contacts.

Programming: Cynthia Moore was absent from the meeting, however our program is full till the end of 2016. December will be the holiday party.

URI: IROK's Cooperation Circle application was approved . Annaleah read the "welcome letter" to the IROK group, along with other welcoming comments from other IROK groups around the globe. She read the URI purpose, which is "To promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings."

7. Future events

Annual Retreat: The annual IROK retreat has been moved to Aug. 4-6 at the Kokee site we had last year. It was unavailable for the July 28-30 time originally agreed upon. The fee is \$60, and a check can be mailed to IROK, PO Box 1442; Kapaa, HI 96746. Willian Garavito is chair. There will be one more regular IROK meeting before we go, but if you have questions, email Willian at willie@garavito.net.

International Day of Peace: Dr. Laurette DeMandel-Schaller is chair. She was absent from the meeting. The actual day is September 21st. That is a Wednesday, so it may be scheduled before or after.

8. New Business

Elections: After a brief chance to speak of their intents, Rev. Diane Decker and Dr. Hari Khalsa were unanimously elected as co-chairs of IROK. Sally Wilson will continue as Secretary, and Al Albergate will continue as treasurer.

IROK Column in The Garden Island newspaper: There was some discussion about creating a voice for matters of interfaith interest. There will be an email meeting of IROK members to decide what we want to inform the community about before contacting the TGI editor.

Presentation: Deborah Duda gave a presentation on her book "Lighten Up", and her colorful experience with Mother Teresa thirty years ago. When Deborah asked Mother Teresa if she could work with her, she was told, "No, there is enough sadness and suffering at home. Go there and work with that." Claiming to be a detective on the trail of joy, she read, observed, and experienced what it isn't. She defines suffering as "Chronic pain caused by resistance to what is." People resist something, and they push it down out of their conscious minds. The more they push, the more energy it takes, until they have little energy left to even do what they like. Though there will be things that we don't like, we can always benefit from the advice her mother gave her years ago, "You can't prevent the bluebirds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from making a nest in your hair."

Her seven steps to healing it are:

1. Get involved with something 100%, birds, music, or exploration of any of the senses.
2. Wake up and say "OK I will look for joyous things today, and when you go to sleep at night, review them.
3. Live in the now.
4. Love yourself.
5. Spend some time in solitude and silence every day.
6. Find a special gift and share it.
7. Live simply.

Meeting adjourned 2:10

Respectfully submitted by Annaleah Atkinson

Next meeting Friday July 29, 2016 12:00 – 2:00PM
Lihue Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihue