

Interfaith Roundtable of Kaua'i
Minutes of Meeting July 29, 2016
Lihue Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihue
Submitted by Sally Wilson

Present: Al Albergate - SGI Buddhist Chapter, Annaleah Atkinson – Fellowship of the Inner Light, John Bonn –Roman Catholic/St. Sylvester's, Sr. Deborah Burnham – Brahma Kumaris, Diane Decker - Center for Spiritual Living Kaua'i (CSL), Sylvia Farris – New Birth, Lithonia, GA, William Garavito – Christian Mystic, Jim Jung – Buddhist, Dr. Hari Khalsa – Sikh, Cynthia Moore – United Methodist, Mary Mulhall – Unaffiliated Spiritual, Jeffrey Pears – Yoga, Nicole Sakurai – Happy Science/El Cantone Fnd., Sonia Song – Free Spirit, Suzanne Stover – Unity Worldwide, Joanne Watanabe – United Church of Christ, Lucky Wells – Baha'i, Sharon West – New Thought/The Gathering,, Sally Wilson – Judaism, Jennie Yukimura – Lihue Christian Church

1. **Opening Prayer:** Annaleah Atkinson
2. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Diane Decker
3. **Minutes of June 24, 2016:** Accepted as amended regarding name, "John Moore."
4. **Treasurer's Report:** IROK account contains a balance of \$1791.78, of which \$360 consists of retreat deposits. More retreat checks keep coming in. Liability insurance premium is due - \$300 – for a \$1,000,000 policy which covers all IROK events and activities. Payment is approved.
5. **Message from Co-chair Dr. Hari:** Grateful for the confidence in him and Diane Decker as co-chairs. He and Diane would like us to make room for discussion of whatever challenges comes up regarding faith either for us or our congregations, or in the public at large. Please let them know if there's anything we'd like to discuss.

Proposal: A public forum on various religions; Islam/Isis is pertinent right now. We will discuss this at our next meeting. We'd need to include experts, and/or something like a PBS documentary.

6. **Old Business:**
 - a. Annaleah is willing to write a TGI newspaper column for IROK but she's waiting for a response from the paper. She'll report next month.
 - b. Program Committee - Schedule is full the end of the year; December will be the holiday party.
7. **New Business**
 - a. URI – Everyone is invited to participate in a URI conference call via computer on Monday, Aug.1, from 9-10 am. URI is asking each member to introduce themselves regarding what moves us to participate in URI, what inspires us and what challenges we have.

- b. August 6 and 8 are days to commemorate the bombing of Nagasaki. At the retreat, Jeffery will lead a prayer for a world free of nuclear weapons (available at uri.org – search for nuclear prayer).
 - c. Rev. Robin Taylor suggested that IROK could host a lunch at her church for Thanksgiving in which we could all participate. Comments were various: there's a meal open to the public across the street from her church in Kilauea – could we participate in that? time of day? Jeffery will contact Rev. Robin to discuss with her.
 - d. International Day of Peace September 18 – Annaleah has volunteered to organize it, though she won't be here on the actual day. Lydgate has been reserved from 2-11 pm. She'd like a co-chair. A committee needs to meet, possibly at retreat. Volunteers: Jim Jung, Jeffrey Pears, Dr. Hari, Diane, Al Mary Mulhall.
 - e. Retreat - William Garavito reports that 23 people have signed up. Menu will be vegetarian, but meat will be available, served separately. There will be many activities. Our website has the menu, schedule and directions. Bring any kind of percussion instruments you have.
8. Sharon West spoke on "Where I Am Now" [Note from Sally: This cannot at all convey the passion and beauty of Sharon's sharing – Sorry.] In her troubled early life, church was always special and wonderful to her. Always she took what felt like peace and simply disregarded the rest. After participating in many religions, she found a Unity Church and was very involved with the music and the children. The minister eventually was leaving and he left the church in Sharon's hands. At first she was intimidated, but she was successful and keeping everything going. Sharon had a very spiritual experience during a trip to Egypt. Part of a 2 hour meditation in the King's chamber, which was in total darkness, she experience bright light. When she realized the light was emanating from her, she realized, "There is only G-d, G-d is in me." Since G-d is each of us, we must, in our lives and our ministries, look to help however we can.
9. Announcements
- a. Lucky: After the retreat, everyone is invited to come enjoy a musical entertainer/speaker who will be visiting. Date will be the 6th or the 7th. Details will be available from Lucky.
 - b. Sr. Deborah's parenting group on "Living Values" is on-going.

10. Next meeting:

August 26, 2016, 12-2 pm
Lihue Hongwanji
3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihue`e

11. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Wilson