President Ellie Kaanaana welcomed guests and members to the 2,793rd meeting of the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor, where we Bridge the Gap to Bigger, Better, Bolder community service and accomplishments Building Communities Bridging Continents.

**George Topic**, Harmony of the Pacific chairperson, Principal Broker for Topic Realty, Lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance & in singing "God Bless America" with gusto. He joined our club on February 6, 1967, and was sponsored by **Wally Backus**.

New Generations Director **Sam Heard**, pro soccer team manager and retired psychologist, led us in the Rotary prayer. He joined our club on July 1, 2002, and was sponsored by **Harland Cope**.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Stefanie Wilson** recognized District 5000 leadership: Past District Governor, Leadership Academy Dean & Finance Chairperson **Jim Varner**, Assistant District Governor **Liz Kane**, Foundation Alumni Co-chair **Steve Dyer**, and HRYF Board Member **Bruce Fink**; Visiting Rotarians within D5000: calabash member **Alan Lloyd** (Windward) and **Goro Arakawa** (West Pearl Harbor); Visiting Rotarian from outside District 5000: former member or RCPH **Norman Davis** (Bainbridge Island, WA); Guest of Rotarian: **Les Hunkele** (Ernie Anderson).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

"I CAN" donations: Mahalo to today’s donors Bill Bow, Dudley Fullard-Leo, Connie Kraus, John Mihlbauer, Ernie Anderson, Jeff Sarver and Jim Varner.

**HAPPY BUCKS**

PAC is back, Bea Clark $5. Maurice Carrera, OCC Wait Staff, $20 happy to welcome Rotarians back to OCC after two weeks break. Steve Dyer happy that Notre Dame defeated the Trojans USC. Jeff Sarver $5. Jeff Deer $20 happy his boys came home for Christmas & he’s sure that Auburn will beat Oregon. Norman Davis is happy to be in warm Hawaii, away from the cold winter. Harriet Weisman $50 in Bob Deibler's memory. Jim Varner $20 to TRF, he’s sure Oregon is going to smash Auburn. Connie Kraus $20 she’s quite sure that Oregon will prevail, quack, quack, and quack! Ken Brown $20 for the Bob Deibler Scholarship fund. Bill Bow, $100 toward the Hiroshima Visit so glad to be back, it was so very very cold in Tahoe, it’s so much warmer here.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PP Harvey Gray assured members that during the six month renovation of Oahu Country Club, we will maintain same date and time for our regular meetings. There will be some days when construction will require us to meet in different rooms, i.e. Thayer suite or on the Orchid Lanai. Both kitchens are being completely renovated. There will be a portable kitchen located between the swimming pool and mauka grill. The menu will change several times during the period. When the menu changes, the price will probably change. However, he does not anticipate any increase in the price of the luncheon. The ladies locker room and men's locker room both will be undergoing renovation and this may result in temporary partitions in the back of our regular meeting room. There may be a few days during the construction period when our meetings may be a vocational meeting away from OCC. The Country Club staff will strive to make our meeting venue as nice as possible during the renovation period.

PP Bill Bow announced Sister Club Rotary Club of Hiroshima Tonan’s official visit February 11-15, 2011. We are expecting 19 visitors. The committee is working to finalize plans.

Jeff Sarver reminded members of the upcoming Club Assembly, Sunday January 16, 2011 at Buzz’s in Pearlridge.

PP Ernie Anderson reported that we distributed 19,000 rubber slippers last year. We received 19 more pallets. Please contact Ernie or Connie if you would like to volunteer on January 26th at 11 AM at Waipio Gentry. They need help distributing 18 pallets of rubber slippers to the various Rotary clubs, other nonprofits, i.e. organizations supporting the homeless.

Director Sam Heard announced that the deadline for Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation Scholarship application is January 31. If you know anyone interested in applying, please advise them to see their college counselor.

Jeff Sarver reminded members to remit Semi-Annual Dues to Secretary Lori Williams.

President Ellie announced that the board is now taking nominations for the officers for next year. The nominating committee members: President Ellie, & Past Presidents Ernie Anderson, Bruce Fink, Harvey Gray, and Donna McLaughlin. President Ellie encouraged all to put on their thinking caps and recommend officers for next year. Currently there are no nominations for President Elect, and the PETS program is to commence
in March.

**CLUB BANNER EXCHANGE**

President Ellie & Norman Davis of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island in Washington exchanged club banners. Bainbridge Island is west of Seattle. They are 85 members strong and their major fund-raising is an Auction.

**PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARDS**

Connie Kraus, Foundation Chairperson, presented Paul Harris Fellow Awards to: Ellie Kaanaana, John Mihlbauer and Gene Kraus. All are Multiple-PHF and they received the following PHF Pins: Ellie Kaanaana plus two pin (two blue sapphires), John Mihlbauer plus six pin, (single ruby), and Gene Kraus plus one pin (single sapphire). Connie thanked each of the recipients for their Rotary Foundation support and achievements.

**PROGRAM**

PP Steve Dyer introduced our guest speakers from Habilitat, Jeremy Scents and Randy Wirt. Habilitat is one of the nation's foremost residential substance abuse treatment programs. Vinny Marino founded Habilitat over 39 years ago to address the growing epidemic of individuals with substance abuse problems and other anti-social behaviors. Habilitat started out with eight people in a small home in Kailua. Today, Habilitat houses 200 people in it’s oceanfront facility in Kaneohe.

One component that contributes to the success of Habilitat is its vocational training programs. Residents can learn a trade such as masonry, landscaping, telemarketing, administration, and more. The on-the-job training residents receive, cultivate and refine the principles that Habilitat emphasizes: self-respect, accountability, concern for others, constructive criticism, self-discipline, lifelong learning, and a strong work ethic. Habilitat has initiated ways to remain self-sufficient throughout the growth of the foundation and increase in residents. Fundraising projects, such as Christmas tree sales, catering, national book sales, music production and more, help to maintain the goals of autonomy and self-reliance.

Randy Wirt, originally from Long Island NY, moved to Hawaii to enter the Habilitat program. Randy believes that Habilitat is a school of survival that teaches emotional stability and mental strength, traits that he lost somewhere along the way, which made him a weak person. Habilitat saved his life and he has now been clean and sober for 19 months. He has much gratitude for Habilitat and their ability to break an addict down, and build them back up, and bring them back into society. He began experimenting with drugs and alcohol at the age of fourteen. At sixteen, he tried cocaine. As a teenager, he got into a lot of trouble and was even kicked out of school for misbehaving. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Randy never returned to school. He was caught up in his inappropriate and conflicting lifestyle, but believes that he survived a situation that many people do not survive because of the coping and life skills the program has taught him. At Habilitat, one is pushed to give 150%. He lives with 80 other males, in the same situation, who are trying to get their lives back in order.

Randy spoke about the vocational training programs and the many projects that support Habilitat. The work ethic he has gained through this program is invaluable. The social and communication skills have taught him not to be afraid. He used to run away from everything that was hard in his life, but he has learned to face these
President Ellie thanked them for the presentation and added, “we appreciate what they’ve shared and wish these young men the best of luck in their clean and sober futures.”

A children’s book, *The Whale Comedian* by Martin Nelson Burton was presented to both young men for their signatures. President Ellie explained this book will be given to an elementary school to encourage literacy.

President Ellie reminded members that we are Dark on Monday, January 17, 2011, in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Connie Kraus led members in the 4-Way Test.

**Ellie, Randy Wirts & Jeremy Scents**

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