President Connie Kraus welcomed members and guests to the 2,835th meeting of the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor where we look toward the future, keep our hearts in the present, and Reach within to Embrace Humanity!

Providing our inspiration was Bruce Fink, inducted May 4, 1998 sponsored by John Scudder. Bruce works for the US Pacific Command.

Leading us in the pledge of allegiance was Bill Bow, inducted October 13, 1997 sponsored by Jim Dolim. Bill is the President of Bow Engineering.

Our song leader was Jeff Deer, inducted August 1, 1981 sponsored by Herb Robisch. Jeff led us in singing God Bless America.

Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Williams welcomed Current District 5000 Leadership: Steve Dyer, District Alumni Co-Chair; Bruce Fink, HRYF Board Member; Harvey Gray, District Newsletter. Rotarian Guests within District 5000: Alan Lloyd (Windward Oahu); Roy Tanji (Ala Moana). Guests of RCPH members: Jory Atamian guest of Doug Taylor; Diane Hunkele guest of Les Hunkele.

Bruce Fink introduce our military guests: LN1 Stacey
IN THE WAKE

Stacey Langford     Helen Oclinaria
Langford, USN and PO 1st Class Helen L. Oclinaria, USN.

CELEBRATIONS


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“I Can” donators: Bruce Fink, Willa Gardner, Connie and Gene Kraus, and Alan Lloyd.

HAPPY BUCKS

Bruce Fink $20 to the HRYF, volunteering at the Sony Open at Waialae Country Club. Jeff Deer $20 to the Club, sad that his boys did not come home for Christmas, but proud of his son who graduated from college. Carl Myers $20 to the Club, happy to be back after being gone for a year. Willa Gardner $18 to the Club, happy the Holidays are over. Ernie Anderson $30 to the Rotary Foundation for being married 30 years and a 3 week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. Doug Taylor $20 HRYF because the “Ducks” prevailed. Dudley Fullard-Leo $20 to the Rotary Foundation because he enjoyed his cruise around the Hawaiian Islands. Connie Kraus $20 to the Rotary Foundation, because Tim Tebow is a good quarterback and Denver beat the Steelers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services for Ken Brown are tentatively plan for the first week in April at the Outrigger Canoe Club. His family has not yet set the date.

The Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor Presents

Pearl Harbor Swirls

A Premiere Wine Tasting

Pacific Aviation Museum, Pearl Harbor
Ford Island, Hawaii
March 3, 2012
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

John Doty announced that the Swirls committee met at Schooners restaurant to make plans for the fund raiser then toured the two hangers at the Pacific Air Museum for possible venues. John encouraged everyone to spread the word about our fund raiser; we’ll have good food, entertainment, and great wines.

Bill Bow said several people have signed up to go to Japan, now he needs information on flight schedules, arrival times in Hiroshima, if you want to play golf, go shopping, and what sights you want to see. Bill noted there is a form on each table and asked those going to Japan to fill in information.
There is no meeting next week due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Assembly is Sunday, Jan. 29th at 5:30 at the Waikiki Yacht Club; cost is $35.00 for the buffet dinner. Your RSVP of yes or no and your payment by Jan. 23rd is appreciated.

**Program**

Program: Jeff Deer introduced the program, our own Steve Dyer, who we asked to stand in at the last minute for the scheduled speaker, Judge Patrick Border, who had a trial start unexpectedly.

Steve attended the University of Notre Dame, utilizing a four-year Army ROTC scholarship and graduated with double majors in Economics and Japanese. He graduated from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, and while there was awarded a two year Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, studying at International Christian University and Chuo University’s graduate law department in Tokyo. Steve began his law career in the Army JAG Corps. His first assignment was in Seoul, defending soldiers in criminal cases. The Army next sent him to Hawaii, and he spent his last three year on active duty at Tripler Army Medical Center defending medical malpractice claims. Steve then entered private practice here in Hawaii where he has practiced as a civil trial lawyer, and is a partner in the law firm of Ayabe, Chong, Nishimoto, Sia & Nakamura. Steve has continued his Army JAG career in the reserves.

Steve is a past president of this club.

Steve acknowledged that he was asked to fill in to keep the program with a legal theme, but he could not think of an interesting law topic, so spoke instead about adoption, specifically, his own. Hawaii is known for the aloha spirit and not coincidently, Hawaii is the number one state in the union for adoptions per capita. Steve was adopted as an infant by two loving parents and benefitted from an upbringing as blessed as any child could hope for.

About 20 years ago, one of Steve’s physicians suggested he track down his natural parents, if for no other reason than for his medical history. Steve had never had any urge to track down his biological parents, but always knew form his parents that he was adopted through Catholic Charities in Illinois, so he contacted them. Catholic Charities indeed had records on Steve, and they gave him non-identifying information about his parents, sort of a description. They also agreed to act as a go-between. It took several years, but eventually Catholic Charities brought back the employee who handled Steve’s file, and she remembered him and actually knew his biological mother’s family. She called Steve’s maternal grandmother who was still listed in the phone book in St. Louis, but she was in her late 90s, had dementia and could barely talk. But the good news was that she had three daughters, one of them being Steve’s biological aunt, who was there when she called, and immediately called Steve. She informed Steve that his biological mother had passed away in 1977, but that her other sister lived in Honolulu. Steve heard from that aunt within the hour, and she was in Steve’s office soon thereafter, for what turned out to be a very joyful and emotional meeting. Turned out the aunt had lived in Honolulu for 40 years, and was married to a physician Steve had used as an expert in his medical malpractice cases. Even better, they had two daughters, Steve’s biological cousins, that had graduated from Punahou and they had mutual friends in common. One of his cousins owns and runs an antique shop in the lobby of his office building and had been helping Steve shop for gifts for years. They welcomed Steve like family.

They explained to Steve how religious differences precluded his biological parents from marrying, and that each moved on and married
someone else. Steve discovered he has five half-siblings. There has been an on-going, fascinating process of discovery i.e., Steve’s maternal grandfather was also a graduate of Notre Dame and started the golf team there. Steve is a golfer. Steve has hearing loss in his left ear and so did his grandfather. In the last fifteen years, Steve’s aunt and cousins often remark at how Steve’s mannerisms imitate his grandfather’s. Steve’s biological mother was an artist. Steve’s teachers growing up always commented that he had great talent for art which should be developed, but being into sports at the time, Steve had no interest. Therefore it was gratifying recently for Steve when several of his photographs were selected for showing at the most recent art exhibit at Pauahi Tower.

Steve met his biological father before he passed away a few months ago, and it turned out he adopted a boy and named him Stephen, and also has a daughter who lives on Maui. Not surprisingly, his father had started his career as a military officer, he was a Rotarian for 40 years, was past president of his Rotary Club, played golf, and like Steve, had a 15 handicap. His father showed him his family genealogy dating back to the 1200s. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of the men in the family had two occupations: military officers and/or lawyers. Steve’s paternal grandfather had been an officer in WWI. Steve was recruited for the Notre Dame crew team, being told he had the perfect physique for it, and it turns out both his father and grandfather were captains of the Yale crew team. During law school, Steve spent several summers as a canoe guide in Canada. Steve closed by saying that if you know anyone who is pregnant and thinking of an abortion, have them consider adoption.

President Connie thanked Steve for his presentation and asked him to sign a children’s book Pinocchio by Walt Disney which will be donated to Aiea Elementary School in his honor.

Carl Myers led us in the Four-Way-Test.

**January**
- Jan 23: Paul Goto, HMSA, Health Plan Enrollment Fraud
- Jan 29: Club Assembly, Waikiki Yacht Club, 5:30 P.M.
- Jan 30: DARK (Assembly the night before)

**February**
- World Understanding Month
- Feb 6: Barbara Troegner, USO Hawaii
- Feb 13: Musical Program with the Walkers
- Feb 20: DARK (Presidents Day)
- Feb 27: A. Lynn Tremblay, Pearl Harbor Subs

**THE 4-WAY TEST**

Of the things we think, say or do
1. Is it the TRUTH?
   ‘Oia ‘i’o i keia o’lelo
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
   Kupono ia ka kou
3. Will it BUILD GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
   Kukulu lokomaika’i a me pilialoha maika’i a’e
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
   Pono ia ka kou