

## **Kapolei Toastmasters (KTM)**

Thursday, December 10, 2015

12:00-1:00 pm

Kapolei State Bldg. Room 577

Theme: "Nobel Prize"

Meeting Recap

(Submitted by Lani Abrigana, Kapolei Toastmasters)

### **1. Opening of Meeting:**

- **James Fu**, President, opened the meeting, and we followed his lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- We had 6 people total which consisted of 0 guests and 6 members.
- Members in attendance were: James Fu, Eddie Joseph, Lani Abrigana, Owen Tamamoto, Rose Martinez, and Sara Okuda.

### **2. Education Session:**

- James Fu introduced our TMOD who was **Sara Okuda**.
- Sara spoke about the theme of the day. In 1895, Alfred Nobel signed a will bequeathing most of his fortune to be given as prizes in chemistry, physics, literature, physiology or medicine, and peace. This week is Nobel Week in Stockholm where the laureates will give lectures and be honored at a banquet.
- Sara introduced our Timekeeper: **Lani Abrigana**
- Grammarian/Ah Counter/Word of the Day: n/a
- Sara introduced the Jokemaster/Inspiration speaker, **Eddie Joseph**. Eddie told a joke about a little boy who asked: "why the bride wears white". The response was: "it's the happiest day of her life!" The little boy then asked: "then, why does the groom wear black?" Regarding the Inspiration, he said that the true meaning of Christmas has become watered down and that we have forgotten why we celebrate it. He reminded us that Christmas is a Christian holiday honoring the birth of Jesus Christ. (See Eddie's handout.)

### **3. Featured Speakers:**

- **Featured Speaker #1: Eddie Joseph** told us an entertaining story that also had a moral: "The Talkative Turtle," based on project #3 from the Advance Manual, "Storytelling". There was a turtle who couldn't stop talking even when it got him into trouble. One day two geese flew into his pond. He greatly admired them but he talked so much that they decided to fly away to a quieter pond. The turtle persuaded them to take him too by getting each goose to clamp down on opposite ends of a stick, with the turtle clamping down with his beak onto the middle of the stick. By doing this, all three were able to fly high in the sky until they came upon some children who exclaimed at how smart the geese were to be carrying the turtle. The turtle wanted to claim it as his idea, so he opened his mouth to tell them this, naturally resulting in him falling to the ground. Eddie said that according to the Bible, pride goes before destruction.
- **Featured Speaker #2: Owen Tamamoto** delivered a persuasive speech, "The Hawaii Mediation Pledge," based on project #3 from the Public Relations advanced manual. In his daily work as a child support officer, Owen said he sees many people who only know how to fight. He asked us to remember three numbers: One, All, and None. "One" because we are all one people, one race---the human race; "All," because we should all get along or soon there will be "None" of us left. He has heard over 10,000 hearings on child support and in virtually all of them, the couples said they just can't get along so that's why they

broke apart. By getting along, there can be a huge difference in our society. He gave the example of a town called Rose in Pennsylvania, whose residents were unusually healthy with a longer life expectancy. Researchers found they were a supportive community where everyone was made to feel involved. Owen said that most of us have grown up with a knee-jerk reaction to fight if someone hurts or insults us but if we do that, none of us will be left. Mediation skills can help us to talk with one another and resolve the problem. He passed out copies of "The Hawaii Mediation Pledge," an aspirational pledge to agree to turn to mediation before turning to litigation. (See attached.) He said that mediation is a family of processes where a third party who is neutral will help the parties to carry on the conversation. Owen asked us to consider signing the pledge and to live by its values.

**4. Table Topics Master Rose Martinez** asked three questions with regard to the theme of the meeting:

- *Of the five categories: chemistry, physics, literature, physiology or medicine, and peace, which category would you be able to contribute to for the betterment of mankind?* **James Fu** answered that he would pick physics because he believes in the importance of renewable energy. We should look at other means such as water. If you separate the hydrogen molecule from water, you can get clean energy.
- *If you are part of the Nobel Prize committee in choosing the winners, what would the criteria that you would be looking at for the nominees?* **Eddie Joseph** answered that several years ago he was appointed to the Martin Luther King commission, so naturally he thinks of Rev. King who was for peace and non-violence. In considering the nominees, he would look at their body of work, what they have done, and the speeches they have given.

- *What ideas do you have to promote peace in the world?* **Owen Tamamoto** said that one thing that can be done is to realize that peace begins in the home. Most of us learn how to deal with conflict from our family. If we can start there, then that would be a good foundation for individuals to grow up and become responsible adults who will be able to resolve conflicts.

## 5. Evaluation Session:

- **Evaluator for Speaker #1:** There was a group evaluation for Eddie's speech:
  - **Owen** said that he enjoyed the story and that it led to a moral. Eddie had good body language and vocal variety with great eye contact.
  - **James** said that he couldn't tell that Eddie was using notes, even though he was stepping away from the podium. The way he told the story was very professional.
  - **Eddie** said that he should have been better prepared with the introductory song that he was going to play. He also felt the ending could have been improved on.
- **Evaluator for Speaker #2:** **James** said that Owen's speech was to have been a persuasive one to convince us of something on a logical and emotional level. He felt Owen's speech was very convincing and liked the example of the town of Rose to. Owen's speech was very smooth, with good vocal variety, as well as a visual aid, the pledge. James said that if he himself were giving such a speech, he would talk about the problem we had in our club and how it was such a learning experience for himself in going through the mediation process with Owen's help.

## 6. Reports:

- **Timekeeper:** **Lani** delivered her report.
- **Grammarian/Ah Counter:** We did not have one.
- **TMOD Closing Remarks:** **Sara** ended with a quote from Alfred Nobel: "If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good, then I am satisfied."

## 7. General Evaluator:

We had none so Sara invited the members to comment:

- **Eddie** said he thought it went well despite there being only six members. Any bumps in the road were handled smoothly and Sara did an excellent job with the theme.
- **Owen** commended Sara on the transitions and said that they were on theme.

## 8. Announcements/Adjourn:

- **James** said that because he and Holly would not be able to attend the January 7 meeting, how did we feel about cancelling it? The members present said this would be acceptable. James will notify the affected speakers. Post meeting note: Holly will be able to attend the Jan. 7 meeting, so this meeting will not be cancelled.
- **James** said that he said that due to the difficult situation that Holly and Joyce are currently undergoing, he will be taking over the VP Education duties for the time being to give Holly a break. Post meeting note: Correction: James later clarified with Holly that he would take over as VP Education for only the Dec. 17, 2016 KTM meeting, and Holly would take over after that.
- Our next meeting is at Kapolei Hale and he will be sending out a notice about it.
- There is an officers training this weekend at the University of Hawaii. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 p.m.