

LANTERN

October 2013

Splendor of China

by Gifford Chang

This year, the Splendor of China has presented challenges to the Chamber that no other chairperson has ever experienced. We got off to an early start, got delayed, and then started back up in the middle of July. We are now moving full speed ahead. Our vendor count is down, our sponsorship is down, and we are running out of time, but are not giving up. There are lots of new changes that your Chairman is implementing. We have moved our advertising dollars to the radio airwaves and social media experts. We have cut back on our entertainment, having a fashion show from the Honolulu fashion district, and are focusing on marketing our vendors and sponsors. We have brought in experts within our membership to design a new layout to better market vendor products and services. Our focus this year is on "COMMERCE." After all, we represent the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and we should be promoting commerce, particularly that of our members and their businesses.

We ask all of our members to attend and bring twenty friends not associated with the Chamber. The event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, and is FREE and open to the public. Everyone who attends has a chance to win 5 two-person round-trip travel packages to Las Vegas. Sponsored by Vacations Hawaii, air, hotel, and meals are provided. Other prizes include two round-trip tickets to Beijing from Hawaiian Airlines as well as tickets from Ali'i Catamaran and Magic of Polynesia, donated by Robert's Hawaii. There are also 100 gift certificates from McDonald's for our Kiddy Land participants. Finally, Panda Cuisine will be giving



away 50 lobster and 50 crab certificates, too. We are still gratefully accepting any and all donations. We will truly have a "Fashion, Flavor, and Travel: A Honolulu Bazaar" event for everyone to enjoy.

Many thanks to our Co-chairwoman, **Tina Au**, and all of our committee members and Executive Board members for all their hard work. Our leadership with **Betty Brow** at the helm has been outstanding.

夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII

LOCATION	<p>CHINA TOWN HALL Local Connections, National Reflections</p> <p>1 Aloha Tower Drive Hawaii Pacific University Hale Makai at Aloha Tower Marketplace (the former New Hope Market space)</p>
SCHEDULE	<p>Monday, Oct. 28, 2013 12:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. for out- registration 12:50 p.m. Opening remarks 1:00 p.m. Webcast featuring Madeline K. Albright 1:45 p.m. Q&A 2 p.m. Presentation by Brad Glosserman, Executive Director, Pacific Forum CSIS 2:45 p.m. Q&A 3:00 p.m. AA wrap</p>
PARKING	<p>Parking information will be forthcoming.</p>
RSVP	<p>PacForumEvents@pacforum. org by Thursday, Oct. 24</p>

Monday, Oct. 28, 2013

Pacific Forum CSIS is proud to join the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, Hawaii Pacific University, and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii to present the 2013 CHINA TOWN HALL: Local Connections, National Reflections Meeting in Honolulu. CHINA Town Hall is a national day of programming on China involving more than 60 cities throughout the country.

The program will feature two parts: first, a national webcast with **Madeline K. Albright**, former U.S. Secretary of State. The moderator of the national webcast will be **Stephen A. Orlin**, President, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. Second, a Honolulu-exclusive program will follow featuring **Brad Glosserman**, Executive Director of Pacific Forum CSIS. This event will be held at Hawaii Pacific University's new Hale Makai location at Aloha Tower Marketplace. This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.pacforum.org for more information.

China Town Hall

On Monday, October 28, the Pacific Forum CSIS, together with sponsors the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Pacific University, and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, will hold the 2013 China Town Hall. This year's theme is "Local Connections, National Reflections" and will feature former Secretary of State **Madeline Albright** via a live webcast to over 60 U.S. cities. Secretary Albright will address U.S.-China relationship issues between 1:00 and 1:45 p.m. and Pacific Forum CSIS executive director **Brad Glosserman** will speak to the Honolulu group from 2:00-2:45 p.m. There will be a 15-minute question-and-answer period following each of the presentations. This FREE event will be held from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at HPU's new Hale Makai location at 1 Aloha Tower Drive in the Aloha Tower Marketplace. Please RSVP to PacForumEvents@pacforum.org no later than Thursday, October 24. Parking information will be forthcoming.



President
Betty Hoang Brow

For the month of October, all our Chamber efforts and focus are on the upcoming 11th Splendor of China Cultural and Trade Festival. Titled “Fashion, Flavor and Travel: A Honolulu Bazaar,” our popular annual festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, 2013, at the Neal Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall. This year, the event will be FREE to the general public, and we expect a record attendance as a result of this.

The Splendor of China has been a hallmark of our Chinese Chamber for the past ten years and has attracted tens of thousands of visitors. The purpose of the festival was to showcase the rich Chinese cultural heritage with the Hawaii community. Over the years, the festival expanded to include the finest of international, local, and Chinese products, arts and crafts, and cultural entertainment. The visitors were treated to the delights of such memorable performances as Chinese acrobatic and martial arts shows, magical face-changers, cultural dances and songs from minority regions of China, dog shows, lion dancing on stilts, and fashion shows modeled by each year’s Narcissus Pageant contestants who, by Chamber tradition, always made their public debut at the Festival.

This year, SOC Chairman **Gifford Chang** and his Co-Chair, **Tina Au**, and their committee members, have been working very hard to make the 11th Splendor of China an even more spectacular event! As the title indicates, the festival theme has been broadened to

include other non-Chinese products and services, including such diversified areas as home improvement and construction businesses. There will be something to cater to every taste and interest, from fashion to jewelry, to collectibles, arts and crafts, a variety of cuisines from different countries, photo exhibits, and cultural health and wellness demonstrations. We also did not forget our young people, who will have fun at hands-on craft activities in the *Keiki*-Corner. And for those who would like to experience for a brief moment how they may look like as a royalty in ancient China, they can immortalize their dream with professional photos at the traditional costume booths. In addition, visitors can participate in games designed to get them acquainted with the merchants who will be at the festival, and then have a chance to win one of the valuable gifts generously donated by the merchants.

Thanks to our First Vice President, **Sonny Zhang**, one of the exciting highlights for this year’s SOC is the participation by two large Chinese delegations from Shanxi Province and Shanghai City, respectively each with 25 members. The Shanxi group is from CCPIT (China Council for the Promotion of International Trade) and will be here to introduce Shanxi province business opportunities to Hawaii citizens. The Shanghai group, calling themselves the “China Dream Delegation”, is sponsored by the Shanghai Federation of Cultural and Arts Circles and will be promoting the art of carving. Festival visitors will have the opportunity to purchase the carved *objets d’art* and watch carving demonstrations at the Shanghai group’s cultural booths.

Indicative of things that visitors could expect at the Festival, SOC Chair Gifford Chang is working on a spectacular entrance to the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, with a rendition of the Great Wall of China—an impressive change from our traditional Moon gate entrance that will be sure to awe the visitors.

If you know of anyone interested in selling any goods and services, please ask them to contact the Chamber as soon as possible to purchase a booth. We look forward to seeing all of our members and friends at the Splendor of China grand opening ceremony on November 2 and during the two days of festivities.



PEARL HARBOR BOAT TOUR

According to an article in *Ho'okele* (the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam newspaper), **Stanford Yuen** was the guide for a September 24 boat tour for former Southeast Asia refugees and other groups, including neighborhood boards and community leaders, in conjunction with the World Federation of Chinese Organizations from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Despite the recent 16-day shutdown of government operations and resulting cancellation of boat tours, a boat tour for Chamber members, family, and friends is tentatively planned for the afternoon on Friday, November 15. All of those interested in this special boat tour, which circumnavigates Ford Island and is not offered to the general public, should call the Chamber at 533-3181 and get on the list.

Fund-raising and Food

According to a blurb in the September 11 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* food section, Panda Express can help your school, youth group, team, church group, sorority or fraternity or after-school program raise funds. During the year, your group or organization can sign onto the Panda Express schedule at www.pandaexpress.com. On the date of scheduled event, your group or organization will receive 20% of purchases by customers who present a fund-raising flier to the cashier. What could be easier? (In addition, at the end of the year, Panda Express will look over the results for the groups which have taken advantage of this offer, and the group with the most money brought in will be given \$1,000.00). On October 2, Panda Express was offering a free single-serving of its new Honey Sesame Chicken Breast to customers presenting an appropriate coupon to the cashier. In addition, for October, there is a month-long **20%** discount on your purchase at any Panda Express Hawaii location. As always, the coupon (available online for download and printing) must be presented to the cashier.

L & L Hawaiian Barbecue has quietly introduced its new Hawaiian Burger, also known as its *Katsu* Burger. The star is a *katsu* hamburger (instead of its trademark chicken *katsu*), accompanied by a special sauce, lettuce, onions, tomato, and a sesame-seed bun. You can also get a Hawaiian burger combo (*katsu* hamburger, plus French fries) and a "regular" *katsu* hamburger plate lunch with the usual "two scoops rice, one scoop mac salad" and two *katsu* hamburger patties. (If you're not a macaroni salad fan, you can always get it "all-rice," and unlike other plate lunch operations, you can apparently get brown rice at no extra charge). With the plate lunch, you have a choice of *katsu* sauce, curry sauce as well as brown gravy. L & L President, CEO, and founder **Eddie Flores, Jr.** is quoted on the poster of the burger: "Tastes better than an In-N-Out Burger!" Try it yourself and draw your own conclusions.

Last, but not least, for a limited time (September and October), McDonald's has Mighty Wings, available with three, five, and ten wings, with a choice of sauces). Then next month, the McRib sandwich will make its annual return, also for a limited time. Finally, congratulations to franchisee **Victor Lim**, who was one of eight people inducted into the Hawaii Restaurant Association Hall of Fame. Since 2007, the HRA Hall of Fame annually recognizes individuals who have "made significant contributions to the restaurant industry in Hawaii." Congratulations, Victor.

Health Insurance Enrollment Opens

On March 23, 2010, President **Barack Obama** signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) or "Obamacare." In *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* (2012), the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the law, including the individual mandate requiring most Americans to have health insurance by 2014. As a result, on October 1, 2013, health insurance exchanges or "marketplaces" opened to enroll some 48 million Americans who have not been covered by health insurance. That "open enrollment" period lasts for six-months, ending on March 31, 2014. Actual health insurance coverage begins on January 1, 2014. Apparently, in order to have coverage start on that date, however, you must have enrolled and paid the appropriate premium by Sunday, December 15, 2013. Quite likely, the opening day crush on October 1 that crashed some of the servers due to software problems and sheer numbers may be repeated in early December. (Yet despite monetary incentives or inducements, such as the federal government paying all or most of the cost, about 26 governors have decided not to expand Medicaid for some of the neediest Americans, at least 5.2 million citizens in their states).

In 1974, the Hawaii state legislature enacted the Prepaid Health Care law (Chapter 393, Hawaii Revised Statutes), setting minimum standards of health care benefits for employees who work twenty (20) hours a week and earn 86.67 times the current Hawaii minimum wage a month (86.67 x \$7.25 = \$629.00). The PHC law makes Hawaii unique or *sui generis*, and instead of a health insurance marketplace as in the mainland states, Hawaii has the Hawaii Health Connector, which performs essentially the same functions for individuals and small businesses.

In order to help Chamber members better understand the rollout of Obamacare in Hawaii, on May 8 and July 8, informational sessions were held at the Chamber for interested members. At the May 8 session, **Coral Andrews**, executive director of the Hawaii Health Connector, spoke on "Connecting Hawaii's Residents with Quality Health Insurance." Like the health insurance marketplaces in most of the mainland states, our Connector provides a means for Hawaii residents to get further information on competing

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NEW MEMBERS

At its September 24 meeting, the Chamber board approved the applications for **Nathan Chang**, president, consultants M&R Facility Concepts, Inc. (recommended by **Walter Chang**) and **Keith Tse**, founder and director, iHawaii Travel (recommended by **Sonny Zhang**). Welcome and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.

Cyber Security Awareness Month

With recent reports of indiscriminate snooping by the National Security Agency into various media used by Americans, it is perhaps appropriate that October is National Cyber Security Awareness month. The month-long series of cybersecurity webinars was started ten years ago, and for those wanting more information on the weekly themes and a schedule of the webinars, visit the National Cyber Security Alliance's Web site at staysafeonline.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 14	Mon	Columbus Day
Oct 22	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Oct 29	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Oct 31	Thu	HALLOWEEN
Nov 2	Sat	11th Splendor of China Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Nov 3	Sun	11th Splendor of China Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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insurance plans, benefits, and costs. There are four levels of plans: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. The insurance is available for people who don't currently have health insurance or perhaps are considering different coverage or insurers. Premiums increase at each level while out-of-pocket costs increase, so it's like the old saying, "You pay your money and makes your choice."

After some initial problems, with high traffic crashing computers and software glitches, the plans and prices available from Hawaii Medical Services Association, Kaiser Permanente, and Hawaii Dental Service finally became available from the Hawaii Health Connector on Tuesday, October 15. For some lower-income residents, tax credits may be available, thereby subsidizing (and reducing) their premiums. Those earning below 400 percent of the Hawaii poverty level (\$52,920 for a single person and \$108,360 for a family of four) are directed to a separate portal at connecthawaii.com.

The Hawaii Health Connector is online (www.hawaiihealthconnector.com) and can also be contacted toll-free by phone (tel. no. 877-628-5076). (An article by **Susan Essoyan** in the October 19 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* suggests that people should call rather try to navigate the Web site). In addition, HMSA has walk-in customer service centers in Honolulu, Pearl City, and Hilo; and the other insurers may also have such personal assistance.

For comparisons of U.S. health care and those available in other developed nations, see **T. R. Reid**, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* (2009) and the transcript of CNN's **Fareed Zakaria**'s one-hour March 24, 2012 CNN special, "Saving Health Care." For more information on the skyrocketing cost of American health care, see **Steven Brill**, "Bitter Pill: Why Medical Bills Are Killing Us," *Time* (March 4, 2013) and also the *New York Times*' **Elisabeth Rosenthal**'s occasional articles in the series "Paying Till it Hurts." Even with Medicare, Medicaid, and Obamacare, the U.S. has a long way to go to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans.

Finally, even for those who are already covered by Medicare, you should be aware that we are currently in an "open period" for that as well. It runs from October 15 to December 7, 2013, and is an opportunity make changes to your health (Medicare Parts A hospital and B medical) and prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D). For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4223).

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