

# LANTERN

September 2013



## 65th Narcissus Festival Contestants

Back Row (L-R): Jackie Huang, Trisha Chong, Taj'a Wong, Eula Chu, Christen Young, Sonya Ling. Front Row (L-R): Wai Yan Chan, Nancy Cheung, Brittany Lee, Diane Qu, Chi Jow (Photo courtesy of Galen Lee)

## JA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 14th annual Junior Achievement golf tournament, sponsored by Finance Factors, will be held on Thursday, September 26, at the Hawaii Prince Golf Course, 91-1200 Fort Weaver Road. The tournament will be a three-man scramble format, with check-in/lunch starting at 10:30 a.m.; welcome and shotgun start at 12:00 p.m.; and awards banquet at 5:30 p.m. The hole-in-one contests have prizes such as Vacations Hawaii trip for two plus \$2,500.00, a Staycation prize package, and \$5,000.00. In addition, lucky drawing prizes include Go! *Mokulele* tickets, Trump staycations, restaurant gift cards, and more. Call (tel. No 545-1777) or e-mail ([education@JAHawaii.org](mailto:education@JAHawaii.org)) the JA staff to sign up or for more information.

## PLA-N Ships Visit

(and Upcoming Pearl Harbor Boat Tour)

On Friday, September 6, a group of 100 people greeted the arrival of three ships of the People's Liberation Army-Navy: the Luh-class destroyer *Qingdao* (DDG 113), the Jiangkai-class frigate *Linyi* (FFG 547), and the Fuqing-class fleet oiler *Hongzehu* (AOR 881). This was a return visit for *Qingdao* and *Hongzehu*, which visited Pearl Harbor in September, 2006. The number of greeters was limited to 100 this time due to the small space available on Bravo Pier and the number of people wanting to attend, according to **Stanford Yuen**. (Empress Restaurant owner **Kenneth Lee** was among those on the pier and was mentioned in the *Star-Advertiser* story). Those with sharp eyes may have noticed the Chinese ideograms "8" and "1" on the ships' flags, which refer to the date that the PLA was founded on August 1, 1927. While in port, the sailors were free to visit the McDonald's located across Pearl Harbor Boulevard from the pier and also the

*continue on last page...*

## APEC meeting

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Telecommunications and Information Working Group will be meeting in Honolulu from Monday through Sunday, September 16-22, according to a September 10 press release from U.S. Senator **Brian Schatz** and a September 14 Honolulu *Star-Advertiser* article (largely based on that release). Meetings will involve policymakers, regulators, telecom industry representatives, and other delegates. The 21 member nations include the People's Republic of China and "Chinese Taipei" (Taiwan). The event will be headquartered at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, and three other local hotels will benefit from the visiting delegations. Perhaps to develop and enhance a reputation as "an excellent place to do and conduct business" (to quote Sen. Schatz), local tourism authorities should look at Sin City's "Vegas Means Business" advertising campaign directed at trade shows, conventions, and meetings.

## LANTERN ADVERTISING RATES

Chamber members wishing to publicize their services or goods to our 300-plus members should be aware of the following rates: \$150.00 full-page, \$75.00 half-page, \$40.00 quarter-page, and \$25.00 for business card-size ads. To run your ad, contact the Chamber at 533-3181.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE  
CHINESE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
OF HAWAII



President  
Betty Hoang Brow

In August, I had the opportunity to participate in two speaking engagements related to the Chinese Chamber and Chinese overseas investments, both topics I thought might be of interest to our membership.

On August 1, I was interviewed on “Asia in Review,” which is part of the Pacific Forum’s “Issues & Insights” on ThinkTech Radio. The topic was “Narcissus Queens, Regional Security, and Economic Revitalization: The Evolving Role of Hawaii’s Chinese Chamber of Commerce.” The Pacific Forum was interested in my insights into our Chamber’s activities due to the recent two-day “Sunnylands Shirt-sleeve Summit” between President **Barack Obama** and People’s Republic of China President **Xi Jinping**, and the public’s focus on the evolving Sino-U.S. relationship. The Pacific Forum is a Washington-based U.S. think tank that believes that while these two leaders addressed national-level issues, such as territorial disputes and “a new type of great power relationship,” organizations like our Chinese Chamber were already quietly working at the local level to generate business and cultural contacts between the U.S. and China.

**Kerry Gershaneck**, the interviewer, is also a member of our Chamber and his leading questions gave me the opportunity to provide the listeners with a brief history of the contribution by the first Chinese immigrants to Hawaii, the sandalwood trade, and the breakthrough of the political and business barriers by such notable Chinese community leaders as Senator **Hiram Fong** and **Chinn Ho**. I promoted the major events of the Chamber during the year, including the Splendor of China and the Narcissus

Pageant and Coronation Ball. I even brought our Centennial Book to the interview and described its contents to encourage interested listeners to purchase the book from the Chamber.

I also gave a lecture for the UH Shidler School’s Pacific Asian Lecture Series (PALS) on “Why Chinese Invest Overseas and What Can Hawaii Offer.” My talk was designed to provide insights into what the Hawaii could do to attract Chinese investments. PALS organizers mentioned that I had a record attendance compared to their previous lectures that included video-conferencing to audiences on the Neighbor Islands, probably because the topic was of such interest. A number of attendees were from the Chinese Chamber and other Chinese organizations.

The gist of my presentation was that in order for Hawaii to attract any significant investment from China, there must be a concerted effort by the state government and the business community to organize comprehensive programs and provide incentives for foreign investors. Hawaii as a state has not been effective at attracting Chinese investments because we are not as well-coordinated or as organized as other mainland states. Part of the Chamber’s mission is to assist our members to identify business opportunities with China and Southeast Asia. For this reason, the Chamber has been supportive of initiatives by the state to engage in dialogues and activities with Chinese, Taiwanese, and other delegations from the greater China region, and I believe we can play a significant role in helping to bring Chinese investors to Hawaii.

In September, the Chamber is welcoming new contestants for the annual Narcissus Pageant, which will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014. The Narcissus Queen Pageant is now in its 65th year and going strong. It is a central event of our Narcissus Festival as the Queen and Court participate in many of the Chamber events and are also our goodwill ambassadors for other Chinese and Hawaii community events throughout the year. A number of activities for the Narcissus Festival would not happen without a Narcissus Queen and Court. This includes the Coronation Ball and the Narcissus Goodwill Tour. The success of the Pageant and the training of the contestants, as well as the oversight for our overall Narcissus Queen and Court program, is largely thanks to the dedication and loving care of **Michele Ching Choy**, who has chaired the event for over 30 years.

Some of you may not be aware that the Narcissus Pageant takes months and months of preparation and hard work. The recruitment of the contestants is a year-round activity (the past two years being chaired by **Jasmine Nip**), with a number of Chamber members, officers, and past presidents pitching in to help identify and recruit appropriate candidates. It is an activity that Chamber members all feel a part of and become very engaged in. We began the Narcissus Pageant period with the orientation for this year’s contestants and their families on September 4. The contestant orientation, held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, was really the first event of the 65th Annual Narcissus Festival. The 11 contestants received their first glimpse of what the Narcissus Festival encompasses and they will undergo four months of personal development and Chinese cultural classes from September to December. The classes include Chinese history, martial arts, traditional Chinese cooking, narcissus bulb carving, Chinese knotting, paper cutting, acupuncture and herbal medicine, just to name a few. In addition, the contestants will receive tips on poise and grooming, work on refining their talent numbers, and help design that unique *cheongsam* that they will be wearing as part of the Pageant competition. Many contestants in past pageants have credited the Narcissus Festival with helping them in their personal and even career development, and that what they learned during the training classes was valuable throughout their personal life. The success of the Narcissus Pageant and the mentoring of the contestants are dependent on the support of all Chamber members, especially from our officers and past presidents. I urge all of you to support Michele in her work with the Pageant and contestants.

In closing, I wish each of you a “Happy Mid-Autumn Festival” celebration on September 19.

Chamber hosting a dinner banquet to welcome CTS Beijing North America Manager Mark Wang with his wife and son at Jade Dynasty Restaurant.



## Center for Foreign Relations

by Jeff Lau

It's been a busy summer for Chamber delegations to China. Besides the Narcissus Goodwill Tour led by President **Betty Brow**, Immediate Past President **Leonard Kam** led a delegation from a *hula halau* to the Chengdu Intangible Cultural Festival, sponsored by its Ministry of Culture and the Arts, that took place during the first week of June before he headed to Beijing for the Overseas Chinese Young Leaders Conference.

Former President **Jeff Lau** also spent time in Chengdu, escorting our very own former Narcissus Princess **Leilani Soon**, who has also held titles and awards from Miss Chinatown Hawaii and Miss Chinatown USA as well as Miss Asia International, while she performed on stage in the Chengdu International Youth Music Festival. While there, they were hosted by the Chengdu Foreign Relations Office and visited with many of our sister city student ambassadors who came from as far away as Haikou to visit. Lani was proud to sing the opening duet, "We Are the World" with American singer **Jackson** from Nashville and LA in front of a sold-out theater. While they were only a party of two, all of the groups spent time spreading international goodwill. Altogether, 16 international groups performed at the festival. All were excited to perform at the multiple venues provided as well visiting many of Chengdu's famous tourist sites, such as the Panda Research Center. Lani and Jeff also presented our Chamber centennial book, recent Narcissus souvenir books, a centennial lapel pin, and a Honolulu Marathon cap to be added to our display in the sister city museum in downtown Chengdu. Should you visit Chengdu, please be sure to visit our Honolulu display.



On the way there, Jeff also met with **Chen Wen Jie** of China Travel Service Research School in Shenzhen and fellow Chamber director **Eddie Ngan**. Both have worked with the Narcissus tours for many years and always welcome the tour in Hong Kong and Shenzhen where Eddie manages restaurant services at Windows of the World. Jeff also had the opportunity to visit his good friend, Curator **Wang Ming Hui** of the Guangdong Overseas Chinese Museum, and presented our centennial book and the last two Narcissus souvenir books. He was anxious to have the 2011 souvenir book with Queen **Ningjin Miao** on the cover as she accompanied the earlier delivery of 40 or so past books to the museum, which did not include hers, published the following year. Curator Wang is very much interested in expanding his Narcissus artifacts collection and perhaps someday tour China and the U.S. with it. So former Queens and Court members, should you be interested in donating some items, please contact Jeff. [Editor's note: On August 19, a commemorative memorial stone honoring Chinese Nationalist service members was unveiled, with due ceremony, and will be installed on the walkway between the Punchbowl National Cemetery and the cemetery lookout. At the private luncheon at the Pacific Club that followed the official morning ceremony, Jeff was present on the dais as honorary Belgian consul and vice-dean of the Hawaii consular corps].

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## NEW MEMBERS

Due to lack of a quorum at several summertime board meetings, a number of membership applications submitted for board consideration in May and June could not be approved until the July 30 meeting when a quorum of directors was finally present. (Directors and emeritus directors, please try to attend the monthly meetings and kindly let Lucia know that you're coming so that enough food can be ordered). At its July 30 meeting, the board approved the applications for **Peter Carlisle**, attorney, O'Connor Playdon Guben (recommended by **Jeff Lau**); **Ying Yan Chen**, CPA and senior tax manager, N&K CPAs, Inc. (recommended by **Leonard Kam**); **Cannie Chum**, Realtor® and solar consultant, Lee International Properties (recommended by **Danny Auyoung**); **Maggie Lui**, Realtor®, Prudential Locations (recommended by **Leonard Kam**); **Joanna Mak**, Realtor®, accountant, and business owner, Wireless & Computer Rentals (recommended by **Ronald Young**); **Zhao Meng**, client service manager, ProWorks, Inc., a business support service (recommended by **Loretta Kam**); **Catherine Ngo**, executive vice president and chief accounting officer, Central Pacific Bank (recommended by **Jeff Lau**); **Lauren Hong Wright**, director of member services, Pacific Links International (recommended by **Betty Brow**); **May Lew Tyrrell**, executive vice president and marketing director, Jack Tyrrell & Co., a real estate brokerage corporation (recommended by **Jeff Lau**); and **Kevin Young**, project manager, Green Solar (recommended by **Michele Choy**). Then at its August 27 meeting, the board approved the applications of **William Chang**, general manager, Mobile IT Force, an information technology company (recommended by **Bryan Li**); **Sarah Moy**, financial specialist, Wealth Strategy Partners (recommended by **Jeff Lau**); **Roderick Peroff**, corporate banking officer, Central Pacific Bank (recommended by **Catherine Ngo**); and **Josephine Vourlas**, president, Pacific Enterprise Service, LLC, an investment company (recommended by **May Tyrrell**). A warm welcome to each of you and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber event.

Far Left: Leilani Soon and Jackson Wells of Nashville rehearsing "We are the World" for the Opening of the Chengdu International Youth Music Festival 2013.

Left: Hula Dance Troupe visited the sister-cities pavilion. (L-R) Aedward Los Banos, Andrea Siu, and Juliette Sheehan.

## MEMBER NEWS

The August 22 wedding of 2009 Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong** and **Nolan Kido** was held in the Hale Koa Hotel's Maile Garden. **Leilani Soon** danced a beautiful *hula* "From This Moment" for the newlyweds at their reception at the Hale Koa. Best wishes, Lisa, and congratulations, Nolan.

Governor **Neil Abercrombie** proclaimed Saturday, August 31, Naval Air Museum Barbers Point Day. This also marked the delivery of a McDonnell Douglas DC-8, the world's oldest in flying condition. It made its very last flight from Hickam Air Force Base to NAMBP on May 18. There was an appropriate turnover ceremony last month on NAMBP Day.

On October 1, Chamber director **Michael Zhang** will open a Blue Hawaii Surf outlet in Sanya, Hainan. This will join the outlet in Beijing. Sanya is one of three prefecture-level cities in Hainan as well as the southernmost city on the island. Good luck with your newest venture, Michael.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 2 Mon **Labor Day**
- Sept 15 Sun **China National Day Celebration & Mid-Autumn Festival**  
Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom  
5:30 p.m.
- Sept 17 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**  
Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
- Sept 19 Thu **Mid-Autumn Festival**
- Sept 24 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**  
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

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Navy exchange (NEX). Earlier in 2013, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, ADM **Cecil Haney**, visited China as the guided-missile cruiser USS *Shiloh* (CG 67) made a port visit to Zhanjiang.

On Monday, the three ships joined with the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser, USS *Lake Erie* (CG 70), and conducted one-day at-sea training in search and rescue, military medicine, communications, pipe patching, and firefighting. Sailors from both navies responded to a "distressed vessel" with an injured sailor and that was taking on water after a fire. Later that day, the PLA-N flotilla departed from port visits to New Zealand and Australia.

In conjunction with the ship visit, **Cui Tiankai**, PRC ambassador to the U.S.; **Liu Jian**, PRC consul-general in Los Angeles; and Rear ADM **Wei Gang**, chief of staff of the PLA-N North Sea Fleet, visited various historic sights at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Those wanting to learn more about the PLA-N may want to look for **Bernard D. Cole's** *Great Wall at Sea: China's Navy in the Twenty-First Century* (2d ed. 2010).

While on the subject of Pearl Harbor, Chamber members are invited on what may be one of the final boat tours that Stanford Yuen may be arranging before his departure as a Department of the Navy civilian employee. The boat tour would be some time in November, and names of interested Chamber members and friends are being taken by the Chamber office. More details will be forthcoming, but the names are needed in order to gauge the proper size of the Navy boat.



*Lisa Wong with her husband Nolan Kido. Michele Choy with Narcissus girls attending Lisa Wong's wedding at the beautiful Maile Garden of Hale Koa Hotel.*



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