

LANTERN

January 2014



(L-R): 3rd Princess Trisha Naomi Chong, 1st Princess Eula Mai Chu, 65th Narcissus Queen Brittany Wie Lin Lee, 2nd Princess Taj'a Kam Lin Wong, and 4th Princess Simeng Qu

NARCISSUS PAGEANT

The 65th annual Narcissus Pageant was held at the Hawaii Theatre on the outskirts of Chinatown on Saturday, January 11. The evening was the culmination of months of hard work by the contestants, who at last had an opportunity to “show their stuff” to their families and many friends. Master of ceremonies **Billy V**, Hawaiian 105 KINE DJ, did a commendable job of moving things along. Narcissus Queen **Diana Chao** had the opportunity to give a farewell speech, summarizing what her year had meant to her and thanking a number of people. This year, a “Miss Photogenic” was added to the special awards, based on votes by the public *via* social media. The special awards were presented to Miss Photogenic **Christen Young**, Miss Popularity (based on Pageant ticket and souvenir book sales) **Brittany Lee**, Miss Congeniality (based on a vote of the eleven contestants) **Nancy Cheung**, and Miss Talent **Eula Chu**, who performed “A Champion Approaches” on the piano. Finally, the moment everyone had been waiting for, the announcement and presentation of the members of the 65th Narcissus Court: Fourth Princess **Simeng Qu**, Third Princess **Trisha Chong**, Second Princess **Taj’a Wong**, First Princess **Eula Chu**, and Narcissus Queen **Brittany Lee**.

L & L New Year T-Shirts

With the imminent arrival of Chinese New Year, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue once again has t-shirts for sale at \$15.00. The black Year of the Horse t-shirts come in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes, and reportedly have been sold at many of the L & L locations. To save time and effort, call the L & L office (located at 931 University Avenue, Suite #202) at 951-9888.

NARCISSUS FESTIVAL

The holiday season has come and gone and the new year of 2014 has begun. With the start of the new year, a host of events in the 65th annual Narcissus Festival will take place. On Saturday, January 11, the Narcissus Queen Pageant will be held at the Hawaii Theatre Center; followed on Friday, January 24, by the Chinatown Open House; the Chinese New Year Celebration in Chinatown on Friday and Saturday, January 24 and 25, Chinese New Year’s Day on Friday, January 31; and finally, the gala Coronation Ball on Saturday, February 1.

The annual Narcissus Festival souvenir book is now available and a free copy can be picked up by members at the Chamber office, 8 South King Street. 2013 Narcissus Queen **Diana Chao** graces the cover.

馬

HAPPY NEW YEAR

恭賀新禧



President
Betty Hoang Brow

The end of December to the beginning of January has been a busy period for the Chamber. Soon after our members enjoyed the fellowship at the Chamber's December 12 Christmas party, all of us were scrambling with preparations for the festivities with friends and families to celebrate the holiday and to ring in a new year.

The Chinese lunar calendar recognizes the start of the Year of the Horse on January 31. However, in many parts of the world, others start the Year of the Horse on January 1, 2014. Many Chinese societies in Hawaii also use the western calendar year to mark the term of their officers. Thus, I was honored to have been invited and I attended a number of installation banquets, including the ones for the Lung Doo Benevolent Society and the See Dai Doo Benevolent Society on the very first day of the (western) New Year! The Chung Shan Association of Hawaii and Lung Kong Kung Shaw also had their installation ceremonies on the first weekend in January and the United Chinese Society held a New Year reception for the presidents of Chinese societies in Hawaii! The Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association combines its Chinese New Year celebration and installation ceremony on January 26, the same day as the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO)'s New Year reception – both at the Chinese Cultural Plaza.

On January 11, the Chamber held one of the biggest events of its year – the Narcissus Queen Pageant. As expected, it was a wonderful and exciting evening, as **Michele Choy** gave us once

more a spectacle of beauty, music, and color. The eleven contestants were magnificent on stage and **Billy V** proved once again that he is a great emcee and entertainer. We have a new Queen and Court, and the torch passes to a new group of young ladies who will do our Chamber proud as the Chamber's goodwill ambassadors.

Following Chinese New Year's Day on Friday, January 31, many of our Chamber members will be welcoming the Year of the Horse with a flurry of spring banquet celebrations held by a number of Chinese societies. To date, the Chamber has received invitations from the Hawaii Chinese Association; the Hawaii Teo Chew Association; the Association of Chinese from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos; the Wong Kong Har Tong of Hawaii; and the Lung Doo Benevolent Society of Hawaii, with many more spring banquets being planned by other societies to mark the auspicious Year of the Horse.

The weekend of January 24-25 is a busy one for the Chamber and other Chinese societies participating in the Chinatown New Year celebration. Friday evening includes *Choy Cheng*, with seven lion dance clubs performing for merchants in Chinatown. The Queen and Court, escorted by officers of the Chinese Chamber, will be visiting over 30 merchants to wish them a happy new year. The Chinese Cultural Plaza and Chinatown will host tourists and visitors coming to watch the lion dance performances and shopping for New Year flowers and food. Saturday, January 25, includes an afternoon Chinatown parade organized by the Chinese Chamber and other Chinatown organizations in conjunction with the City and County of Honolulu.

The highlight of the New Year celebration for the Chinese Chamber will be the Narcissus Coronation Ball, which will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on Saturday, February 1. We will be able to enjoy the magnificent procession, pageantry, and crowning which, as usual, will be orchestrated to the last detail by Coronation Ball Chair Michele Choy and her team. Governor **Neil Abercrombie** will handle the crowning of the new Narcissus Queen, **Brittany Lee**.

All in all, this is a happy season for the Chinese community, a time that reminds us of our rich heritage of Chinese culture and history, and to proudly showcase this to the Hawaii community and to the world.

My best wishes to everyone for a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous Year of the Horse! *Kung Hee Fat Choy! Xin Nian Kuai Le!*



65th Narcissus Queen Pageant (L-R): Narcissus Festival Chairman Robert Yu, Chamber President Betty Brow, 65th Narcissus Queen Brittany Lee, Pageant MC Billy V, and First Vice-President Sonny Zhang. Photo courtesy of John Berger.

Below: Chamber officers with Narcissus Queen and Court at Chinatown New Year celebration.



Upcoming Chinese Dinners

The new year brings with it many spring banquets. The UH Manoa Center for Chinese Studies and Confucius Institute will hold a Welcome the Year of the Horse dinner on Saturday, January 25, at the Royal Garden Restaurant on the third floor of the Ala Moana Hotel. As usual, there will be a seven-course dinner, with a choice of either “regular” dishes or vegetarian ones. For more details or to make reservations, call CCS/CI at 956-8891 or send an e-mail to china@hawaii.edu by Wednesday, January 22. Include your name and menu preference for yourself and all in your party. (For a table of 10, everyone should choose the same menu). The cost of dinner is \$30.00. To make payment, please write a check payable to “East Asian Outreach” or pay cash, and mail or deliver it to the Center for Chinese Studies so that they receive payment by January 22, please.

Then on Sunday, January 26, the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association will hold a Chinese New Year party at the Empress Restaurant. The evening Chinese dinner and program begin at 6:00 p.m. Our own English Secretary **Tina Au** will be installed as HMCOA’s president. The cost is \$30.00. If you plan to attend, please notify the Chamber by calling 533-3181 or sending an e-mail to info@chinesechamber.com.

Pearl Harbor Boat Tour

Chamber members, family, and friends have the opportunity to go on a special boat tour of Pearl Harbor. The hour and a half-long boat tour is not offered to the general public, and circumnavigates Ford Island, sailing under the Admiral **Bernard Clarey** Bridge, past East, Middle, and West Lochs out to the harbor entrance before turning around to pass the Naval Shipyard, USS *Missouri*, and Submarine Base, stops briefly at the *Arizona* Memorial, then returns to the dock at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. (The general public rides a shuttle from the VIPNM dock to the *Arizona* Memorial and back). The boat tour will take place on Thursday, February 27, and those going on the boat tour must meet at the dock by 3:30 p.m. and the boat will depart promptly at 3:45 p.m. In order to go on the boat tour, you must call the Chamber and give the names of everyone in your party; if the names are not on the manifest, you will not be permitted to board the boat. If you want to go on the boat tour, now is the time to call the Chamber at 533-3181 and get on the list. (More detailed instructions and a map of the boat’s route will be sent to you if you call by Monday, February 24). Our tour guide, **Stanford Yuen**, cannot predict when there will be another boat tour, so don’t miss your chance.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT UPDATE

Despite problems with the national and Hawaii Web sites (www.healthcare.gov and www.hawaiihealthconnector.com, respectively), health insurance coverage for millions of Americans who had signed up and paid their first month’s premium by December 23 began on January 1. According to news reports, by mid-January, 2.1 million Americans had signed up through the exchanges/marketplaces, 4.3 million Americans were covered by expanded Medicaid/CHIP, and 3.1 million Americans under 26 years of age were covered under their parents’ health care insurance.

The enrollment window, which opened on October 1, 2013, will remain open until March 31, 2014. Those who have not yet signed up and paid may still do so by the 15th of the month (January, February or March) and will have their coverage begin on the first day of the following month (February, March or April). If you do not currently have health insurance coverage and do not sign up and pay your first month’s premium by March 31, 2014, the enrollment window for 2015 will not open until around November 16, 2014 and coverage will not begin until some time after that, perhaps not until January 1, 2015.

For the so-called “young invincibles” (19 million Americans, 18-34 years of age), there is a Web site (www.younginvincibles.org) just for them, and the issues covered there are higher education, jobs and economy, entrepreneurship as well as health care. If you or someone you know is in that age group, and you have not yet signed up for health care insurance because of the premiums and your current good health, consider the “cosmic gamble” that unexpected serious injury or sickness won’t suddenly throw all your plans out the window. According to a June 25, 2013 report by CNBC health reporter **Dan Mangan**, “Bankruptcies resulting from unpaid medical bills will affect nearly 2 million people [in 2013],” and medically-related debt is responsible of three out of five bankruptcies, more than from credit cards and mortgages.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1	Wed	New Year's Day
Jan 11	Sat	65th Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center – 7:00 p.m.
Jan 20	Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 21	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Jan 24	Fri	Chinatown Open House (Choy Cheng) Chinatown District 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Jan 24	Fri	New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Jan 25	Sat	New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Jan 28	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Jan 31	Fri	Chinese New Year Day
Feb 1	Sat	65th Narcissus Coronation Ball Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom – 5:00 p.m.



Gifford Chang was photographed at the annual IREM awards and installation dinner, the photo appearing in the December 11 *Midweek*. A photograph of **Gordon Au** attending the Bank of Hawaii December 9 luncheon was in the December 18 issue of *Midweek*. **Veronica Kaneko** was pictured in the December 25 *Midweek* while attending the November 23 Ronald McDonald House Charities Share-a-Night. **Yu Shing Ting** was photographed at the **Takeo Kobayashi/Eric Chandler** holiday tea party as was perennial photographer **Stan Okada**, and their photos appeared in the January 1 *Midweek*. The January 8 *Midweek* had a photo of **Ed Pei** at the December 15 **Tadd Fujikawa** Golf Classic. And while on the subject of golf (albeit belatedly), according to the list of “Local Aces” in the November 7 *Star-Advertiser*, former (and first female) Chamber president **Lily Yao** made a hole-in-one on October 22 at the Leilehua Golf Course’s 104-yard 12th hole with a 6-hybrid club.

NEW MEMBER

At its December 20 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the membership applications of **Leighton Chong**, an intellectual property and patent attorney (recommended by **Reuben Wong**), and **Scott Settle**, an attorney and managing principal at Settle Law (recommended by **Delwin Wong**). Welcome to the Chinese Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.



2014 Narcissus Queen and Princesses walking thru Chinatown and extending greetings to stores and organizations.

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