

# LANTERN

February 2014



Newly crowned 65th Narcissus Queen with Governor Neil Abercrombie, Chamber President Betty Brow, and her court.

## Pearl Harbor Boat Tour

Last call for the Pearl Harbor boat tour! This special, not-offered-to-the-general-public boat tour will be on Thursday, February 27. (This boat tour should not be confused with the relatively short shuttle to and from the USS *Arizona* Memorial available to the general public). Meet at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument entrance by 3:30 p.m. and make your way to the boat dock. Please be aware that the Navy operates on a tight time schedule and the boat will depart promptly at 3:45 p.m. While the boat tour is open to all, you must be on the passenger manifest or you will not be allowed to board. The boat will circumnavigate Ford Island in a counter-clockwise direction, sailing under the **Bernard Clarey** Bridge, past East, Middle, and West Lochs, and on out to the Pearl Harbor entrance channel, then turn around to go past the Naval Shipyard and USS *Missouri* before stopping briefly at the *Arizona* Memorial and returning to the boat dock by around 5:15 p.m. If you want be on-board, please contact the Chinese Chamber at 533-3181 by Monday, February 24. You will receive further instructions on what you can and cannot bring. Don't miss this rare opportunity, thanks to long-time Chamber director **Stanford Yuen**.

## CHAMBER ELECTIONS

The annual election of directors is scheduled for Friday, March 7. All Chamber members in good standing are entitled to vote in the election, with voting taking place at the Chamber office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. At the same time, Chamber members who have not yet picked up their free copy of the 2014 Narcissus souvenir book can do so before or after they vote.

## Palolo Chinese Home Benefit

On Sunday, April 13, the Palolo Chinese Home will again be holding its *Hapalua* or half-marathon. It's 13.2 miles for individuals or 12 miles for relay teams of 4-7 people, with 1.8 mile segments (so depending on the number of relay team members, one team member or more may have to run more than one segment). For those wanting to run, the registration/entry fee is \$20.00 per individual and \$40.00 per relay team. If you're not a runner, donations can still be made to Palolo Chinese Home *via* the Chinese Chamber, with recommended tax-deductible donations of \$25.00 for individuals and \$125.00 per team. Checks should be made payable to "Chinese Chamber Foundation." If you're interested in participating as a runner or if you have questions, contact **Sherman Wong** at [sherman-wong88@yahoo.com](mailto:sherman-wong88@yahoo.com) or call him at 223-4051.

## 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

Chinatown rocked as our Chinese Chamber led the celebrations to welcome the Year of the Horse with great and noisy displays of firecrackers during the weekend of January 24-26! *Choy Cheng* night on Friday, January 24, saw the Cultural Plaza packed with vendors and shoppers. The 2014 Queen and Court, together with officers of the Chamber, opened the celebrations on stage at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza and then moved to the Chinese Chamber office on King Street to witness the lighting of the large string of firecrackers to start off the lion dances and celebrations by the Chinatown merchants. We visited 30 merchants, societies, and banks throughout Chinatown to wish them a Happy New Year. The parade on the afternoon of Saturday, January 25, and the various street celebrations during that weekend attracted a large crowd, estimated at over 50,000 for the 2-day celebrations, according to information provided by the City & County.

The Narcissus Coronation Ball on Saturday, February 1, the second day of the Chinese New Year, was a great success and well-attended! The pageantry that was arranged by **Michele Choy** and her team was reminiscent of scenes in **Bernardo Bertolucci's** 1987 movie, "The Last Emperor," and was unmatched in splendor by any other gala in Hawaii. Governor **Neil Abercrombie**, who performed the crowning ceremony for the 2014 Queen **Brittany Lee**, was particularly impressed with the procession of the beautiful ladies in minority costumes, and commented that it was great for Hawaii that our Chamber showcased the diversity of the Chinese people and culture.

As is customary in Hawaii, the Year of the Horse is welcomed by the many Chinese societies with banquets to mark the auspicious occasion, the arrival of spring. In addition to banquets that are being held that I mentioned in the January *Lantern*, there have been many more announcements and invitations for spring banquets that recently arrived at my office. They included the Wong Leong Doo Benevolent Society, the Chang Wing Yong Tong, the Kwangtung Community Honolulu Lin Yee Hui, the Kung Sheong Doo Society, the Tsung Tsin Association of Hawaii, the See Yup Benevolent Society, and the See Dai Doo Society. On behalf of the Chinese Chamber of Hawaii, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Chinese societies for including our Chamber in your society celebrations. A number of societies also invited our Narcissus Queen and Court, and I believe that this is very generous of you to include these beautiful young ladies, who I know very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with their elders and other members of the Chinese community. To show his support for the Chinese community in Hawaii, the Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles, Ambassador **Liu Jian**, and his wife, Madame **Chen Xiaoling**, also came to Honolulu to host a spring banquet for Hawaii Chinese community leaders on February 15.

In addition to attending banquets, and even before we finished with Chinese New Year festivities and the Coronation Ball, many of our Chamber members were already actively working on other upcoming events. Critically, we are preparing for our annual election of directors and new officers for the coming fiscal year, which will start on June 1, 2014. The nomination committee has been meeting to discuss and identify new directors to fill a number of vacancies. The actual election of directors will be held on Friday, March 7, at the Chamber Office. All Chinese Chamber members are eligible to vote and should exercise this right to ensure the effective oversight of our Chamber organization and activities. The election of new officers will be conducted later at a special board meeting; and in May, we will hold the installation ceremony for the swearing in of the new officers for the fiscal year, running from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015.

On Thursday, April 24, the Chamber will be holding our annual Golf Tournament, which this year will be held at the Pearl Country Club. Our 2013 golf tournament was a huge success and we expect this year's to be even better, as the committee members have gained more experience from last year's event. Panda Express and the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association will again be co-organizing the tournament with the Chamber. The Tournament is open to both Chamber members and the general public, and we expect a large number of sponsoring teams and players to participate with our Chamber teams.

I am looking forward to attending all the Chinese society spring banquets, playing in the Chamber Golf Tournament, and participating in all our other activities, and hope to see many of you at those same events. Once again, Happy Chinese New Year!



Top: A luncheon hosted by the Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles.



Above: Honolulu Chinatown Parade 2014

Left: 65th Narcissus Choy Cheng visitation to Bank of Hawaii.



65th Narcissus Festival Coronation Ball

## Chamber Golf Tournament

The Chinese Chamber 2014 golf tournament, sponsored by the Chamber and the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association, will be held on Thursday, April 24, at the Pearl Country Club, 98-535 Kaonohi Street, Aiea. Player check-in and lunch begin at 10:30 a.m. The shotgun start will be at 12:30 p.m. for the three-person teams. The awards banquet will begin upon completion of play. The format is three-person team scramble, 4 minimum drives, and maximum of 2 putts once on the green. In addition to team and door prizes, there are also prizes for closest-to-the-pin and hole-in-one (\$10,000.00 cash split between first player and Chinese Chamber).

The \$125.00 per person/\$375.00 per team entry fee includes green fees, cart, box lunch, awards banquet, and prizes. For those who don't golf, but may want to enjoy the post-tournament camaraderie, you can sign-up for just the awards banquet at \$35.00 per person. Entry deadline is Friday, April 11, and payment may be made by credit card or by check payable to "Chinese Chamber Foundation." Tax-deductible donations as well as eagle, birdie, and hole sponsorships are also available. For more information on hole sponsorships, call the Chamber at 533-3181.

## ACA Update and Reminder

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, is like a moving target, and it seems that every month, there are new developments. While there still seem to be problems with the Hawaii Health Connector, some 3.3 million people had signed up by the end of January and 6-6.5 million people may sign up by the end of the 2014 6-month open enrollment period, which ends on March 31. There are reports that some small businesses have checked the cost (and coverage) through the marketplaces and found that they could cover all of their employees for less monthly/yearly, meaning that they can actually considering expanding their business and hiring more employees. And despite Hawaii's Web site problems, a February 17 story in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* said that its Hawaii Poll had found that "nearly three-quarters of Hawaii residents support the law as is [60%] or with some changes [12%]." Presumably, the latter group includes those who favor a single-payer public option or "Medicare for all."

On February 3, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released a report (written in language almost as opaque as press releases from the Fed) that was quickly misinterpreted by "journalists" and critics that Obamacare would result in the loss of 2.5 million jobs. What they overlooked or failed to understand was "job-lock," employees holding onto their jobs because they had employer-provided health insurance; this was especially true for older workers with serious health conditions. A day later, CBO Director **Douglas Elmendorf** stated that unemployment would be reduced because with the wider availability of health insurance under Obamacare, workers were free to retire or reduce their hours worked, thereby opening up jobs. Similarly, an article by **Carla Johnson** of the Associated Press on February 18 indicated that older Americans, particularly the Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964), were among the early ACA winners, no longer locked into working to keep employer-provided health care insurance.

Finally, as a reminder, the six-month open enrollment period ends on March 31. If you don't currently have health insurance and wait until the very last day to apply and pay the first month's premium, coverage may not start until May 1.



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## MEMBER NEWS



Honolulu Chinatown Parade 2014

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |        |     |  |
|--------|-----|--|
| Feb 1  | Sat | <b>65th Narcissus Coronation Ball</b><br>Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral<br>Ballroom – 5:00 p.m. |
| Feb 17 | Mon | <b>President's Day</b>   |
| Feb 18 | Tue | <b>Executive Board Meeting</b><br>Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.                                   |
| Feb 25 | Tue | <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b><br>Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.                           |
| Mar 7  | Fri | <b>Chamber Election Day</b><br>Chamber Office<br>9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.                        |

Back in the summer of 2013, **Keizo Shimamoto** came up with the *ramen* burger, a beef patty in a *ramen* “bun,” which he introduced at a Brooklyn food fair. By September, the popularity of this novel sandwich led to **Betty Shimabukuro** providing a recipe for making the *ramen* “bun” in the September 13 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. Mr. Shimamoto uses Sun Noodles, apparently from their factory in New Jersey, and Tanaka Saimin on North Nimitz was offering its version for \$8.95. On January 14, *Time* had an article, “The 17 Most Influential Burgers of All Time,” with the *ramen* burger listed as #12. In recent weeks, Mr. Shimamoto made three appearances (January 15, 29, and 31, the latter at the monthly Eat the Street event in Kakaako) in Honolulu, selling burgers at \$10.00 apiece, limit of two to a customer.

Not to be outdone, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue’s **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, who had already introduced the *katsu* hamburger as either a burger and a two-patty plate lunch a few months ago, tasked corporate chef **Raymond Cheng** to come up with a “saimin burger,” using Sun Noodles, which it has used for years in its saimin offerings. The L & L version was officially kicked off on Friday, January 31, at its Keeaumoku Street location as a benefit for the Hawaii Foodbank: five canned foods for the burger and 15 for a *loco moco* saimin burger. (Ordinarily listed at \$5.95 and \$6.95, respectively). Since then, according to the “Dining Out” insert in the February 9 *Star-Advertiser*, there are now four options: *teriyaki* beef, salmon, barbecue chicken, and *loco moco*. In her February 4 “biting commentary” blog for *Honolulu* magazine, **Martha Cheng** reviewed the original *ramen* burger and the saimin burgers from Tanaka Saimin (loved the sauce, not so for the “bun”) and L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (“almost half the price” of the original). If you haven’t tried one yet, it’s definitely “interesting,” and perhaps as an alternative to a saimin “bun,” there could be a less fragile “cake noodle burger.”

## NEW MEMBER

At its January 28 meeting, the Chamber board approved the applications for **Ina Chang**, president and owner of Aloha Data, a document scanning firm (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow**) and **Fawn Shang**, travel agent at ReadUSA Travel (recommended by **Sonny Zhang**).

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