

LANTERN

May 2014



Chamber Golf Tournament

FREE Skin Exams

Each year, the Queen's Cancer Center offers free skin cancer exams, performed by doctors from the Hawaii Dermatologic Society. This year, it will be held on Wednesday, May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration is from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call **Darlene** at 691-8984.

ASSOCIATES' CAR WASH AND FUN-RAISER

by Megan Muramatsu

The Chinese Chamber's associate members will be holding a car wash on Saturday, May 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Waiialae Chevron (next to Times Supermarket), 4117 Waiialae Avenue. The price is \$10.00 for cars and \$15.00 for SUVs, trucks, and vans. (The fun-raiser part comes in when you meet younger Chamber members and perhaps members of the 2014 Narcissus Court while waiting for your vehicle to be washed and dried).

Please come down to help support the associate members. Proceeds will be used for networking and the professional development of members as well as to subsidize fees to send members to Chamber-related events. Contact **Megan Muramatsu** at mmuramatsu09@cmc.edu for questions or if you would like to donate your time or supplies to the car wash.

Installation Dinner

The annual installation of officers for 2014-2015 will be held on Thursday, May 29, at the Empress Restaurant, 100 North Beretania Street, in the Chinatown Cultural Plaza. Cocktails and networking will start at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner and program will start at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$350.00 for a table of ten. Please call the Chamber at 533-3181 to reserve your seat(s) by Monday, May 19.



Narcissus Goodwill Tour

The 2014 Narcissus Goodwill Tour is departing Honolulu on Monday, June 2, and returning to Honolulu on Saturday, June 14. The group will visit Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. For those of you who have never been to China, the GWT is the one to go on because everyone in the group is treated royally and hosted at an official function in each of the cities. There will be an orientation meeting for GWT members on Saturday, May 17, at 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber.

The passports for 21 people who have signed up have been sent to the PRC Consulate General in Los Angeles. If you are thinking about going, don't wait any further, call **Peggy Luu** at 526-1347 right away to see whether your passport can be processed for the PRC visa, and more importantly, whether you can get a seat on the plane. Right now, seating is "tight" so this is not the time to procrastinate any longer.

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.



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THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Betty Hoang Brow

A year has quickly passed and these will be the last remarks that I will be writing for our Chinese Chamber *Lantern*. I would like to begin this month's remarks by thanking all of you for your kind support for me throughout my year as President of the Chamber.

Since my joining the Chamber seven years ago, I discovered that the Chamber is one of the busiest organizations in Hawaii. As President, I found out first-hand how busy we were as I was asked to participate in all Chamber activities and issues, big and small, even those that I did not have to be present! I hit the ground running, starting on the first day of my term, on June 1, 2013, leading our Narcissus Court and other travelers from Hawaii on a two-week Narcissus Goodwill Tour through six Chinese cities. Sandwiched between the tour and another business trip to China, our Chamber held the long-awaited Centennial Book launch in late June. The Dragon Boat Festival followed in July, and the all-important Narcissus contestants' orientation in early September.

September and October saw us furiously working on several major events. First, there was the historic visit to Hawaii by three People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) ships and the first visit by the new Ambassador/Consul General **Liu Jian** of the PRC Consulate General in Los Angeles. The Chinese community was well represented at the docks to welcome the ships and attended the banquet hosted by the LA Consulate. This was followed by a Mid-Autumn/China National Day banquet that the Chamber helped to organize for the Chinese community. Then there was the 6th Hawaii Veteran Good-

will tour to China, organized by **Wes Fong** for retired U.S. generals and flag officers to promote mutual understanding between retired military officers from the U.S. and China. One of the largest undertakings by the Chinese Chamber for the past 11 years has been the staging of the annual Splendor of China. The November 2-3 event counted a number of "Firsts" for SOC. This year's title was changed to include "Fashion, Flavor and Travel" in its byline to incorporate a broader theme for the show. For the first time, a Great Wall replica greeted the visitors at the entrance instead of the traditional moon gate. Also, for the first time at SOC, we held a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on trade cooperation with a Chinese organization, the Shanxi Sub-Council of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) during the grand opening ceremony on center stage. The Shanxi CCPIT delegation bought five booths at SOC to introduce the unique arts and crafts products from Shanxi Province, home to the revered **Guan Gong**. In December, while traveling on business in China for the Bank of Hawaii, accompanied by the Chamber's First Vice President, **Sonny Zhang**, I made a special trip to Shanxi to follow up with Shanxi Sub-Council and Shanxi Provincial officials on the joint cooperation with the Chamber. The Sub-Council was interested in exploring two-way trade between Hawaii and Shanxi Province and extended an invitation to our Chamber to send a trade delegation to attend Shanxi's special Trade Festival in September 2014. In return, they committed to send further delegations to participate in future Chamber events, such as SOC, and to explore investments in Hawaii.

Our members celebrated the winter holidays with a fun-filled Christmas party at the Honolulu Country Club that was attended by over 100 members, including our Narcissus Court and most of our Pageant contestants. We enjoyed good food, good company, great gift exchanges, and great fun with creative games by the organizers, **Michele Choy** and **Linda Louie**, and the Christmas party committee.

Our Chinese Chamber started 2014, as with all previous years, with a flurry of activities. The long-awaited and exciting Narcissus Pageant kicked off the year with eleven contestants vying for the title of Narcissus Queen. It was an evening to remember as the Chinese community and the Hawaii community at large held our collective breath in anticipation of the results, which were exciting and welcome, with the contestants displaying beauty and talent in abundance during the competition. The Chinese New Year celebration followed on the heels of our Narcissus Pageant, and an exciting weekend was enjoyed by many in Honolulu as Chinatown rocked with the New Year festivities, with the Chamber being an organizer and participant in most of the activities, including *choy cheng* lion dances, visits to merchants, booth sales at the Chinese Cultural Plaza, street festivities, and the colorful Chinatown Parade.

From February to May, many of the 100 Chinese societies in Hawaii organized installation dinners, Spring Festival banquets, and anniversary celebrations. These were happy occasions and very much part of the Chinese culture. These get-togethers offer opportunities for old friends to meet, business connections to be made, and society leaders to exchange warm greetings with each other. A major highlight in April was annual Chamber golf tournament at the Pearl Golf Country Club, jointly organized by Chamber and the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association (HMCOA). Over 160 golf players participated, and we had a record number of sponsors, many of whom were not from the Chinese community, but from the Hawaii community at large. This is the type of event that gives very positive exposure to the Chinese Chamber, and the partnership with HMCOA for the second year in a row has proven to be tremendously successful for both associations.

Between all these major events, we also held three general membership meetings during the past year to give an opportunity to new members and potential members to network with more veteran members. We hosted countless lunches and dinners for visiting delegations, and participated in forums, interviews, and briefings to educate the Hawaii community about the Chamber. Being President of the Chinese Chamber is a great honor, but also carries with the position a great responsibility to ensure that the Chamber and the Chinese community's best interests, whether in public or in private, are always preserved.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as the Chinese Chamber's 77th President. On behalf of the 2013-2014 Chamber officers, I would like to thank everyone for all your support of our Chamber and our Hawaii Chinese community.

My best wishes to all for a long and prosperous life!



Madam Bian Lixin, Acting Consul General of PRC in LA, with Deputy Consul Zhao Shousheng met & hosted a dinner for the representatives of some local Chinese societies during their visit in April for Hawaiian Airlines' inaugural flight to Beijing

HKBAH Hong Kong/China Forum

The Hong Kong Business Association will be holding a day-long business, tourism, technology, and investment forum, "China's Next Chapter – How to Tap Into the New Opportunities," on Friday, June 6, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. In addition, there are a number of other activities for people attending from the U.S., Canada, Hong Kong, and of course China, before and after the forum: There will be a welcome dinner on Wednesday, June 4; two concurrent workshops will be held on Thursday, June 5; and on Saturday, June 7; a sponsored luncheon and seminar on the EB-5 and immigration.

In order to receive the early bird discount on any or all of the activities and events, reservations must be made not later than May 20. (Thereafter, the forum prices will go up \$125.00). For more information on portions of or the entire program, contact **Barinna Poon** at 383-5008 or bpoon@hawaiiintel.net.

Chamber's Palolo Home Runners' Run for the Money

by Sherman Wong

A group of 15 energetic, hard-core running fanatics took part in the 2014 *Hapalua* – Honolulu's Half Marathon on Sunday, April 13, to raise money for the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Foundation. The 13.1 mile route took runners through downtown Honolulu, Waikiki, and around Diamond Head to the finish line at Kapiolani Park. The race day activities also included a relay race in which teams of 4-7 runners combined to complete 7 laps around Kapiolani Park. This was the second consecutive year at the *Hapalua* for the Chinese Chamber fund-raising team, netting the foundation approximately \$500.00 in donations.



The Wong Kong Har Tong Society donated \$250 to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation and gathered 11 runners for two relay teams.



ACA Update

As of the end of the 2014 extended open enrollment period on April 30, 8 million people (28% between the ages of 18 and 34) now have coverage under qualified health plans (QHPs) through the federal and state marketplaces; 4.8 million are covered under Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); and 3 million young adults (under the age of 26) are covered under their parents' health insurance, for a total of 15.8 million. Please take note that the Medicaid/SCHIP numbers will continue to increase throughout the year since those two programs essentially have year-long open enrollment and a handful of people may still enroll in Obamacare if they have a "qualifying life event" during the year. Otherwise, they will have to wait for open enrollment, starting on October 15 and coverage starting on January 1, 2015. That's a long time and there are still millions of Americans without health insurance.

In Hawaii, the troubled Hawaii Health Connector has been thrown a lifeline of sorts by the Legislature – \$1.5 million for the first part of 2015. That gives Governor **Neil Abercrombie** and the legislature some time to decide whether to follow Oregon in folding its even more problematical online marketplace (Cover Oregon had no online sign-ups compared to Hawaii's 9,785) into the federal one. (According to a *New York Times* report in early April, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Oregon all had technology problems with their marketplaces; Hawaii and Massachusetts, which provided the model for Obamacare, both used CGI as the software contractor).



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Late in February, **Stanford Yuen** was one of four individuals named to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents by Governor **Neil Abercrombie**. (FYI, Neil has been a Chamber member since 1999, which is longer than some Chamber members have been). Following testimony before the Senate Committee on Higher Education, he (and the other nominees) was confirmed by the committee and then the full Senate on April 1. Congratulations, Stanford, we know you will do a great job!

With the state legislative session ended, it's time for Gov. **Neil Abercrombie** to approve, approve without signature or veto a number of bills that made it through the session. One bill that may mean a new boost to Hawaii's agriculture is S.B. 2175, relating to industrial hemp, which the governor signed on April 30, thus becoming Act 56. Under

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11	Sun	Mother's Day
May 17	Sat	2014 Associate Membership Car Wash Waialae Chevron – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
May 20	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
May 26	Mon	Memorial Day
May 27	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
May 29	Thu	103rd Chinese Chamber Installation Banquet Empress Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.
June 2	Mon	2014 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour departure
June 14	Sat	2014 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour return

the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, the states are authorized to conduct research into industrial hemp and Hawaii joins 22 other states. For nine reasons why such a crop would be beneficial, financially and environmentally, see **Chloe Fox's** May 3 online article in *Huffington Post*, "Why Hemp, the Sustainable Wonder Crop, is Sweeping the Nation." (State Rep. **Cynthia Thielen's** two decade-long crusade appears to be coming to fruition and State Sen. **Suzanne Chun Oakland** was photographed and perhaps facetiously labeled on Facebook as a member of the Senate's "hemp caucus").

As many Chamber members know, Chamber member and City Councilman **Stanley Chang** is running for Hawaii's congressional district 1 (CD1) seat. He stopped by and briefly addressed the Chamber board at its April 29 meeting. A number of Chamber members were present at the grand opening of his campaign headquarters on the second floor of Manoa Marketplace on April 30. (If you're looking for it, it's upstairs from the pizza parlor, and FYI, Stanley is NOT related to the *Lantern* editor). He rounded out a busy week by addressing delegates to the Democratic Party of Hawaii's Oahu county convention on Saturday afternoon, as did the other five Democratic candidates.

Each year, *Hawaii Business* magazine compiles a "Best Places to Work" list, perhaps inspired ten years ago by *Fortune* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For." This year's list of large (250 or more Hawaii employees), medium (50-249 Hawaii employees), and small businesses (15-49 Hawaii employees) includes Panda Express at #3 out of ten large companies. In addition to that recognition, Panda Express continues to innovate with its menu. Long-time customers may be aware that Panda Express is credited with introducing Hunan-inspired Orange Chicken to America. Its most recent items are *Shiitake* Kale Chicken Breast and Orange Chicken with Bacon. (As everyone knows, "Everything goes better with bacon!"). Presumably, there will soon be a coupon offer of a free single-serving of one or the other.

NEW MEMBER

At its April 29 meeting, the Chinese Chamber's board approved the applications for **Bree Deverill**, sales manager for catering for Starwood Waikiki (recommended by **Jeff Lau**); **Ming Graham Ting**, a Realtor®-Associate with Sachi Hawaii (recommended by **Sonny Zhang**); and **Junior Wei**, CEO and president, Foundation International Trade and World Investment (recommended by **John Zhang**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber membership event.

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