

LANTERN

July 2014



On behalf of the Chinese Chamber, our immediate past President Betty Brow accepting an award from Vice Minister Overseas Chinese Affairs in the Seventh Conference for Friendship of Overseas Chinese Associations at the Beijing Hotel.

Foreign Relations Committee

by Jeff Lau

A delegation from the Hainan Province China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) paid a visit to Honolulu, visiting the city Office of Economic Development, the state Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism, and then had dinner with some of the Chamber officers that evening at Panda Cuisine. **Leigh-Wai Doo**, the founder of the sister state and Haikou sister city relationship also attended. The group was led by Chairman **Chen Zhong Wen** and Vice Executive Director **Li Ping Gong**, both whom were here when we signed the Cooperating Agreement with them at the Chamber during the 2011 Asian Pacific Economic Forum (APEC). They traveled on to New York and Toronto and wrote back expressing their gratitude and that they really enjoyed their stay, and that they appreciated our hospitality.

Performances by **Lillian Liao's** Kunming Flying Tiger Opera Troupe were performed at Ala Moana Center's Centerstage on Wednesday, July 2, and Monday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m. There were two different programs; the first was a Yunnan Minority Cultural Program and the second was the Flying Tiger Opera performance in appreciation of our American Volunteer Group (AVG) airmen who fought for China against the Japanese invasion. Both were performed on Saturday evening, July 5, at Mission Memorial Auditorium next to City Hall to great applause and appreciation by an enthusiastic audience. The troupe, which paid their own way here, also performed at the Pacific Aviation Museum at 3:30 p.m. on

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Dragon Boat Festival

This year, the Dragon Boat Festival will be held in late July. The "divisional" races will be held on Saturday, July 26, at Ala Moana Park. The festival runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Twenty-one volunteers are needed to paddle, steer the boat, keep cadence on a drum, and catch the flag as well as 10 volunteers are needed for two hours to help the teams at the start and finish. A practice will be arranged so that the crew will have an initial chance to work together. Also needed are a pop-up tent, folding tables, coolers, and food/snacks/drinks. Please email **Selena Chou** (selenaqy53@yahoo.com) or **Megan Muramatsu** (mmuramatsu09@cmc.edu) if you are interested in paddling, volunteering or providing supplies on race day. The Dragon Boat Festival Web site is at dragonboathawaii.com.

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
Robert Yu

On June 15, 2014, we returned from the Narcissus Goodwill Tour with a better understanding of and appreciation for the culture and people of China. Narcissus Queen **Brittany Lee**, Princesses **Eula Chu**, **Taj'a Wong**, **Trisha Chong**, and **Simeng Qu** did an awesome job representing the Chinese Chamber, Honolulu's Chinese community, and the state of Hawaii. As hectic as our schedule was, they fulfilled their commitments effortlessly.

Our tour took us to five cities in 12 days. Our first stop was Shanghai, known for its Western-style architecture and modern skyline. What struck us immediately after we arrived was the way people drive and seeming lack of traffic rules. It took some getting used to, but there are unwritten rules and expectations that drivers and pedestrians follow. It may look unsafe to us, but it works. We attended a dinner hosted by Director **Xu Li** of the Shanghai Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. We had the opportunity to promote the Chamber's mission and upcoming events.

We took a high-speed train to Beijing, traveling close to 200 mph. I was told that it took three years to construct this 800-mile train system. We visited the Great Wall, *Tiananmen Square*, and the Forbidden City. The highlight of Beijing and arguably the trip was a formal dinner at the Great Hall of the People, hosted by Mr. **Lu Yong Xiang**, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Mr. **Chen Zu Ming**, Vice President of the China Association for International Friendly Contact. It was truly a privilege. The Queen and Court performed a *hula*, and younger tour members took photos with a Chinese staff member, who looked strikingly like singer **Bruno Mars**.

We also attended the Seventh Conference for Friendship of Overseas Chinese Associations where our immediate past President **Betty Brow** accepted an award on behalf of the Chinese Chamber.

Our third stop was Xi'an, home of the ancient *terra cotta* warriors and many varieties of dumplings. We had dinner with Mr. **Wang Qi** from the Xi'an Overseas Chinese Affairs Office on our first night. On the second day, we rode bicycles atop the city wall and enjoyed a dinner show at the Tang Dynasty Theater.

We spent a day in Shenzhen to relax and shop before heading to Hong Kong. We had no official business, and past President **Jeff Lau** and a few others took the opportunity to accompany Brittany and her dad to visit their ancestral village in Zhongshan. Other than a special dinner hosted by the Hong Kong China Travel Service, our stay in Hong Kong was purely for leisure. Some of us took day tours. On a personal note, I was born in Hong Kong and have many friends and family who I had not seen in 30 years. It was nice to have a chance to catch up with them.

We were fortunate to have Jeff along on our trip. As chair of the Chamber's Foreign Relations committee, he knew many of the government officials that we met. This was a big help since most of us had not been to China and did not know what to expect.

A big thank you to China Travel Service and Skyway Express Travel for handling the trip arrangements. They did a fantastic job booking the transportation and hotels and organizing all of our sightseeing activities and meetings with Chinese officials. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that it was a great experience that we'll remember for many years to come.

Before I close, I want to say that I look forward to working with all of you this coming year. With your ideas and support, we can develop new, meaningful programs and events for Chamber members.

A new event this year is a tea tasting seminar and dinner on Monday, July 21, at Jade Dynasty Restaurant. It will be led by renowned tea master **Andrew Lau**, who has conducted tea tasting seminars and dinners throughout China. He will talk about the history of tea making, varieties of teas, and the health benefits of tea. During dinner, Mr. Lau will pair each entrée or dish with a particular type of tea. This event is both educational and a great way to entertain friends, family, and business partners.

Also in July is the Chamber's team entry in the annual Dragon Boat races at the Ala Moana Beach Park. This event will be held on Saturday, July 26, and pits dragon boat racers from various businesses and community groups. It is a fun day for members and their families even if you don't paddle.

Please contact the Chamber office for more information on these and future events.

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Friday, the Fourth of July, and performed many days of volunteer service at their facility, according to PAM Director **Kent DeHoff**.

Not to be overlooked is the upcoming Tea Pairing Seminar and Dinner at Jade Dynasty on Monday, July 21, featuring Tea Master **Andrew Lau** from Hong Kong. This will be the most elaborate event of its type held in Hawaii. Please come and support our Chamber!

Finally, the Chamber will again send members to perform in Chengdu at its Sister City Youth Music Festival on Wednesday, July 23. The group will be led by **Leilani Soon**, who is well respected there after performing the opening number for the event last year. Accompanying her will be associate Chamber members **Taj'a Wong**; her sister, **Tiana Wong**, who will be performing an *oli*; **Crystal Lin**, as mistress of ceremonies; and **Christopher Loo** as well as Past President **Jeff Lau**, who is Honolulu's liaison to Chengdu. They are seeking contributions again like last year to help offset their personal costs in performing on behalf of the Chamber and the City and County of Honolulu. They will again have a night of celebration and appreciation when they return. Last year, they received recognition for the Chamber from Governor **Neil Abercrombie**, Mayor **Kirk Caldwell**, and the U.S. Commercial Services office in Honolulu. This program representing Honolulu was much appreciated by the Mayor.



Kunming Flying Tiger Opera Troupe performing at Ala Moana Center's Centerstage.



Affordable Care

UPDATE

The Affordable Care Act or Obamacare appears to be working. According to a July 10 Gallup poll, the uninsured rate of 13.4% in the second quarter is the lowest since 2008 when tracking began; the previous low was 14.4% in the third quarter of 2008. (It peaked at 18.0% in the third quarter of 2013, about the time ACA open-enrollment began). The number of uninsured Americans has gone down according to the Urban Institute (8 million), RAND (9.3 million), and the Commonwealth Fund (9.5 million). This compares to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's 2013 estimate that 6 million would be insured, down from 8 million after the problematic rollout of the Healthcare.gov Web site. In addition, the number of younger people insured is greater than their share of the population, negating fears of a "death spiral." For more information, "Health Care Coverage under the Affordable Care Act – A Progress Report," was published on July 2 by the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Now that the 2014 national open enrollment period has closed (and will reopen for 2014 in November), the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) is now being emphasized in Hawaii by the HealthConnector. A lengthy article by **Kristen Consillio** in the June 30 *Star-Advertiser* gives some good insight into the pros and cons of the program with two businessmen recounting their experience, one positive, the other negative. For small business owners who are looking for insurance for their employees (25 or fewer "full-time equivalent" employees, averaging pay of about \$50,000 or less), they can contact the Health Connector at HawaiiHealthConnector.com or by calling 1-877-628-5076.

IN THE NEWS

Earlier this year, the U.S. and the People's Republic of China announced a joint effort to share information on global warming. On July 7, the Center for American Progress published an "issue brief" by **Melanie Hart**, "Primer on Beijing's Slice-and-Dice Approach to Energy and Climate Reform." Among other things, it points out that China is not a monolithic government and efforts must be made at not just the national level, but a lower levels of government as well. It is available either for reading online or downloading to your printer. Cooperation in another area is the subject of the Pacific Forum's July 9 newsletter *PacNet #53*, "Continuing and Expanding U.S.-China Cooperation in Nuclear Security," by **Hui Zhang**.



Above: At the Beijing Hotel Conference

Left: At the Great Hall of the People



Minimum Wage Update

One argument against raising the minimum wage in Hawaii and elsewhere in the U.S. is that it would "kill jobs." This sounds good in the abstract, but actual figures show otherwise. According to a new report from the Center for Economic Policy Research, job creation in 2014 has been faster and stronger in the 13 states that started 2014 with a raise than the 37 states, including Hawaii, that did not. Specific examples of increased minimum wage and job growth include San Francisco, which has had the fastest job growth of any big city over the past 10 years, even with a minimum wage of \$10.74 an hour that is one of the highest in the country. Similarly, Washington state has the highest state minimum wage in the country at \$9.32 and has seen faster job growth than any other state. While seemingly counter-intuitive, pay increases for low-wage worker mean they have more to spend on food, housing, clothing, and medical care. And in a consumer economy, more money for the hard-pressed middle class and working-class Americans means more spending and a boost to the overall economy. And over the last three decades, while worker productivity has soared, their compensation has been relatively flat. As **Amy Traub**, senior analyst at the Demos think tank, put it, "If you want more consumption, you need a middle class."

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Two Narcissus Queens were mentioned recently in print. 1992 Narcissus Queen and *kumu hula* **Maile Loo Beamer** was mentioned in **Ben Wood's** "Wood Craft" column in the June 13 *Star-Advertiser*. Apparently **Kanoe Miller**, the Halekulani's long-time *hula* dancer, will be putting out *HulaStudio* digital magazine. Maile will be one of several knowledgeable writers for the magazine. 2000 Narcissus Queen **Libby Lum** is the broker in charge (BIC) for Keller Williams' Honolulu office. She was pictured in *Midweek's* June 18 "Honolulu Pa'ina" at the opening of the new, larger KWH office on Kapiolani Boulevard. When not managing the KWH office or selling real estate, she's either on the golf course or running marathons (sometimes off-island, like in Seattle).

Several weeks ago, Hawaii's **Michelle Wie** finally won a major LPGA tournament, the U.S. Women's Open at Pinehurst, N.C., and the *Star-Advertiser* naturally had many photos of the hometown favorite. Even those who watch golf tournaments on TV may

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4	Fri	Independence Day
July 21	Mon	Tea Seminar and Dinner Jade Dynasty Restaurant 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.
July 22	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
July 26	Sat	Dragon Boat Race Ala Moana Beach Park 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
July 29	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

have been wondering about several long tapes on her left leg. **Yu Shing Ting** cleared up the mystery in the July 2 *Midweek*, "What's on Michelle Wie's Legs." It turns out that those are kinesiology tape (also known as "kinesio tape" or "KT tape"). It's been used since 2004. To read her article, go to the *Midweek* Web site at www.midweek.com. And while Yu Shing has apparently "chopped" her hair and now has bangs, her *Midweek* photo has not yet been updated.

In the same issue of *Midweek*, former Chamber President **Wesley Fong** had an article, "Making a Five-year Dream a Reality." The dream is a combined multi-cultural community center and affordable senior housing. Chinatown has housing, but very little of it is dedicated to seniors, most of whom are living on fixed incomes. In 2013, the City Council unanimously passed Resolution 13-167, which directs the city to build the center/senior housing at 1353 River Street, on land *mauka* of the Lum Sai Ho Tong Society building. Wes also discussed the Chinatown Community Center Association (CCCA), its purpose, and its work. (According to the July 10 *Star-Advertiser*, **Gordon Pang** reports in "Council leaders rethink sale of housing" that may scrap the planned sell-off the city's rental housing. Instead, the Council would resurrect a full-fledged housing department to oversee buildings and programs for the homeless and others needing affordable housing).

In the July 9 *Midweek* "Movers" column, newly installed Chamber President **Robert Yu** and President-Elect **Eddie Flores, Jr.** had their photos and brief biographies featured. (By the way, it appears that **Keizo Shimamoto**, originator of the *ramen* burger, is working on *ramen* fries).

NEW MEMBER

At its June 24 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Jonathan Fung**, an audit senior assistant at DeLoitte & Touche (recommended by **Wen Chung Lin**); **Rei Kidahashi**, president of Lizhiyi Consulting, a training center (recommended by **Jan Leu**); **Jia-Ching Lin**, an insurance representative with AFLAC (recommended by **Wen Chung Lin**); **Eric Lum**, assistant director/student services manager for Global Village Hawaii (recommended by **Cy Feng**); **Joan Sato**, principal, J.Sato & Associates (recommended by **Jeffrey Lau**); **Paul Tse**, loan officer with Pacific Access Mortgage (recommended by **Tina Au**); **Yan Wang**, owner, Hawaii Metro Trading (recommended by **Wen Chung Lin**); **Cynthia Yamasaki**, CEO and founder of CMY Consulting (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow**); and **Michael Yee**, director of development, The Howard Hughes Corporation (recommended by **Bryan Li**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.

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