

LANTERN

December 2014



Chamber Christmas Party

The annual Chinese Chamber Christmas party was held on Thursday, December 11, at the Willows Restaurant, 901 Hausten Street. The evening's festivities began at 5:30 p.m. It was an evening of seasonal good cheer and networking.

CHINA SEMINAR

This month's China seminar (mistakenly attributed to the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council in the last *Lantern*) was on Thursday, December 11, at Maple Garden, 909 Isenberg Street. Ambassador **Raymond Burghardt** gave an "Update on US-Taiwan Relations: Prospects After Two Mid-Term Elections." Amb. Burghardt has previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Director of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), U.S. Consul General in Shanghai, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Manila and Seoul, and Political Counselor in Beijing. He also served with the National Security Council as Special Assistant to President **Ronald Reagan**. The cost for the seminar and lunch was \$20.00 for Friends of the East West Center (EWC) members and EWC and UH students, and \$25.00 for non-members.



NARCISSUS FESTIVAL

The third and final public appearance of the 16 Narcissus Queen contestants was on Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ala Moana Shopping Center's Centerstage.

And it's not too early to mark your calendars for the 66th annual Narcissus Queen Pageant on Saturday, January 10, and the Narcissus Coronation Ball on Saturday, January 31. The Pageant will be held at the Hawaii Theatre with the curtain going up at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$34.00 and \$29.00 and are available from the Chamber office (Tel. 533-3181) as well as the Hawaii Theatre Center box office (Tel. 528-0506, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday). More details for the Coronation Ball will be provided in next month's *Lantern*.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Robert Yu

Holiday greetings! It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner...

Congratulations to Dr. **Joseph W. C. Young**, who was honored as the Honorary Mayor of Chinatown by Mayor **Kirk Caldwell** at a banquet held at the Empress Restaurant on November 14. Dr. Young is a well-respected and prominent member of the Chinese community. He is also a long-time Chamber member and currently on the board of directors. *Mahalo* and congratulations to the Honorable Mayor of Chinatown!

As 2014 comes to a close, I'd like to thank the CCCH staff, members, volunteers, sponsors, and everyone who has supported the Chamber throughout the year. Without your hard work, talent, and generosity, we would not have been able to accomplish the things that we did. Thank you for supporting the Narcissus Pageant, Splendor of China, and all of the Chamber's other activities.

We are presently planning next year's events, so if you have an idea or suggestion, please contact me or any board member. We want to know what your interests are and how we can support you and your business.

I close this message with sad news. **Bernard Choy**, the husband of **Michele Choy**, passed away unexpectedly at the end of November. Michele is a driving force behind the Narcissus Pageant and Coronation Ball and serves on the Chamber's executive board. Please keep Michele and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

C H A M B E R N E W S & A C T I V I T I E S

HOBNOBBING IN SAN FRANCISCO

by Douglas Ho

Long-time Chamber director **Douglas Ho** joined **Joan Chen**, the celebrated actress and filmmaker, for the exclusive northern California premiere of the newly restored 3-D release of "The Last Emperor," held at the historic Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Joan and the Consul General of Italy introduced **Bernardo Bertolucci's** masterpiece about the life of Emperor **Pu Yi**. Joan was the female lead in the film, which was first released in 1987 and won nine Academy Awards in 1988, including Best Picture.



The event was sponsored by the 1990 Institute, a non-profit organization made up of prominent academic, business, and community leaders from the San Francisco Bay Area, including **Charles Huang**, who recently sold his rights to the computer game "Guitar Hero" for \$100 million. The Institute held a brunch benefit the next day at the Porcelino Restaurant as Joan talked about her work with historical China, including her latest film "Marco Polo," the new original Netflix TV series airing this December. Interviewing Joan was **Ben Fong-Torres**, the iconic San Francisco journalist known for his *Rolling Stone* interviewer years and being portrayed by Cameron

Crowe in "Almost Famous." The event was capped off with Doug making the winning bid of \$10,000 to have a personal dinner with Joan Chen on January 27, 2015 in San Francisco.

(Editor's note: For those who don't know much about San Francisco, one of its 44 hills – not seven as is often claimed – is Nob Hill, named after the Central Pacific Railroad's Big Four (**Leland Stanford, Collis Huntington, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker**) nabobs or "nobs" who built mansions there in the late 19th century. The term "hobnobbing" is used in this context to denote association on friendly terms).

Condolences

On November 9, long-time Chamber member and emeritus director **Kwock Nam Lau** passed away. He was the well-known owner of Royal Kitchen and its "cha siu bao," but prior to that, he founded C & L Market in Chinatown. During World War II, Kwock Nam served with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific and he was a proud member of American Legion Kau Tom Post 11 as well as the boards of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the United Chinese Society, the Lung Kong Kung Shaw, Leong Doo Society, and the Lau Family Association. He and wife **Eunice** had three children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren as well as a *hanai* daughter. At the time of his passing, Kwock Nam was 95 years young. Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to his extended family.



Christmas Gifts

Just in time for Christmas, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue President/CEO, Chamber President-Elect, and author **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, is making his acclaimed cookbook, *\$266 Million Winning Lottery Recipes: L & L Hawaiian Barbecue Recipes*, available for purchase at a special price of \$5.95 (regularly \$9.95). That's 40% off the list price, so get your copies for yourself and friends at this special price! (At the same time, you may want to consider gift certificates from member-owned or operated food establishments like Assaggio Ristorante Italiano; Atlantis Seafood and Steak, Seafood Village, and Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant; Ba-Le Sandwich Shops and La Tour Bakehouse; Blue Hawaii Lifestyle; Empress Restaurant; Helemano Plantation; Little Village Noodle House; McDonald's, The Mandalay; Pah Ke's Chinese Restaurant; Panda Express; and of course, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue).

ACA Update

As you know, open enrollment for those who don't have employer-provided health insurance or who enrolled for 2014 through the Hawaii Health Connector (hawaiihealthconnector.com) began on November 15. What this means is that you have until February 15, 2015 to either sign up for or make changes to your health insurance plan under the Affordable Care Act. Note that if you sign up between the 1st and 15th of the month (December, January or February), health insurance coverage begins on the first day of the following month (January, February or March). If, however, you sign up between the 16th and last day of the month (December or January), coverage starts the first day of the second following month (February or March). For those who had ACA coverage in 2014, those policies will expire on December 31. If you want coverage under either a renewed or new health plan, you must renew or choose by December 15, 2014. Note also that enrollment in either Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) can be done at any time during the year.

For many (perhaps most) people, changing from an existing ACA health plan level can be a complex and confusing process, something to be put off like a wisdom tooth extraction. **Wendell Potter**, a former CIGNA lobbyist and author of *Deadly Spin: An Insurance Company Insider Speaks Out on How Corporate PR Is Killing Health Care and Deceiving Americans*, has written "Don't wait 'til last minute to enroll in Obamacare," a cautionary article available online at <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/12/08/16383/dont-wait-til-last-minute-enroll-obamacare>. Written on December 8, it's well worth taking the time to read, especially if you've been putting off deciding whether "just" to roll over your current ACA coverage or switch, due to the complexity and research needed to make a decision. If you need objective health insurance answers, you may want to consider going online and making use of *Consumer Reports' HealthLawHelper* (www.healthlawhelper.org) or the AARP's Health Law Answers (<http://healthlawanswers.aarp.org>).

U.S.-China Update

President **Barack Obama** spent time in Beijing for the November 10-12 APEC meeting, much of it meeting with Chinese President **Xi Jinping**. As a result of those meetings, on November 10, an agreement to extend tourist and business visas was announced by the two presidents. Instead of only a year, the visas would be valid for 10 years while student and cultural exchange visas were extended to five years. The effective date was announced as November 12, according to the article "U.S.-Chinese travel visas are extended" by **Allison Schaefer** in the November 11 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. Then on November 12, the two presidents announced a bilateral agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions, a first for China, and Nobel laureate **Paul Krugman** deemed it "a big deal" in his November 11 *New York Times* column titled "China, Coal, Climate." (It should be noted that some of those "Chinese" emissions are from U.S.-owned factories in China).

According to Marketwatch and **Joseph Stiglitz's** "The Chinese Century" in *Vanity Fair* (January 1, 2015 issue), purchasing power parity (PPP) calculations by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) show that China is now world's largest economy again. (It was the world's largest in the mid-19th century, and had been for "19 of the past 20 centuries," according to **Tim Worstall** in the December 7 issue of *Forbes*, so "why shouldn't 18% of the people on the planet have 18% of the economy of the planet?" Nobel laureate Stiglitz stresses the need for cooperation rather than containment: "The economic interests of China and the U.S. are intricately intertwined. We both have an interest in seeing a stable and well-functioning global political and economic order." (If you read the Worshall and Stiglitz articles, the difference is like night and day).



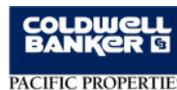
Jinsong C. Riles (S)
Retail Services & International Divisions
License No. RS-74977



220 South King Street, Suite 1800
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAIN +1 808 524 2666
MOB +1 808 295 5034
FAX +1 808 521 0977
EMAIL jinsong.riles@colliers.com

www.colliers.com



Patrick Graham (R) ABR, SFR
REALTOR®



808.387.2942 Cellular
808.262.3131 Direct
808.628-6012 Fax
patrickg@cbpacific.com

Windward Office
970 N. Kalaheo Avenue, Suite C-215
Kailua, HI 96734

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Merry Christmas!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 10	Wed	Contestants Public Appearance Ala Moana Shopping Center Centerstage – 7:00 p.m.
Dec 11	Thu	Christmas Party The Willows Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.
Dec 16	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Dec 23	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Dec 25	Wed	Christmas Day
Jan 1	Wed	New Year's Day
Jan 10	Sat	66th Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center – 7:30 p.m.
Jan 19	Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 31	Sat	66th Narcissus Coronation Ball Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom – 5:00 p.m.

As reported last month, former Chinese Chamber President **Wesley F. Fong** was honored as the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association's Mandarin of the Year. The occasion was the installation dinner for the 2015 HCCA officers and directors at the Hawaii Prince Waikiki Hotel on November 8. Wes, wife **Linda**, and **Frances Goo** and **Terry Lo** were all shown *lei*-bedecked in a photo in November 11 *Star-Advertiser*. Then in the November 26 *Midweek* "Honolulu Pa'ina," Wes and Linda Fong were pictured, along with daughter **Cecilia Joe** and granddaughter **Riley Joe**, **Terry Lo**, **Joseph Young** (and wife **Barbara**), **Linda Louie**, **Betty Brow**, **Elvira Lo**, and **Susanna Cheung**.

The inauguration of Dr. **Joseph Young** as Honorary "Mayor of Chinatown" took place on the Moon Gate Stage at the Chinese Cultural Plaza on Friday, November 14. A photo of Joe with Mayor **Kirk Caldwell** appeared in the November 18 *Star-Advertiser*. In addition, a story "Chinatown Mayor Stays on the Move" by **Yu Shing Ting** ran in November 19 *Midweek*, along with a photo of Joe and wife **Barbara** and another photo of Joe and Barbara and their four grown children and nine grandchildren.

NEW MEMBER

At its November 25 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications of **Erik Chang**, a web development consultant who is starting AXS Media, an electronic media analytics consultancy (recommended by **William Chang**); **Roger Higa**, a financial services professional with New York Life (recommended by **Robert Yu**); Dr. **Karen Lee**, an associate optometrist with Ala Moana Advanced Eye Clinic (recommended by **Gerald Chang**); **Angela Lim**, a home mortgage consultant with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**); **Manuel Menendez**, owner of MCM Group (recommended by **Tina Au**); **Kathy Pang**, a home mortgage consultant with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**); and **Lynn Ruth**, a business development officer with HomeStreet Bank (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.

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8 South King Street • Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph: (808) 533-3181 • Fax: (808) 537-6767

Editor: Gerald Y.Y. Chang
Graphic Designer: Angela Wu-Ki
Staff: Wen Chung Lin, Lucia Liang



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII
8 South King Street • Suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813