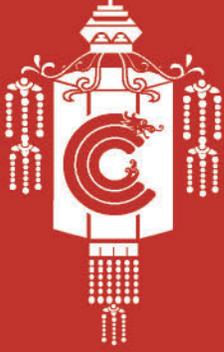


LANTERN

March & April 2014



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Qing Ming

The United Chinese Society will hold its 12th annual *Qing Ming* observance and ceremony at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery on Monday, April 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (Each year, the trustees of the Manoa Chinese Cemetery (*Lin Yee Chung*) have a private observance of the start of the month-long *Qing Ming* season on April 5 in most years, April 4 in leap years).

PCH Hapalua

Last call for participants in the Sunday, April 13 Palolo Chinese Home's *Hapalua* or half-marathon. It's either 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 nevertheless 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 shermanwong88@yahoo.com or call him at 223-4051.

CHAMBER ELECTIONS

The annual election of directors was held on Friday, March 7. Seventeen directors were elected to three-year terms, beginning June 1, 2014: **Betty Brow**, **Douglas Ho**, **Tim Law**, **Elvira Lo**, **Sylvia Louie**, **Bryan Luke**, **Henry Ou**, **Lily Tang**, **Yu Shing Ting**, **Robert Yu**, **Dan Yuan**, **Stanford Yuen**, and **John Zhang**. New to the board are **Joseph Hu**, President, Servco Insurance Services, **Brandon Lau**, partner at Prudential Locations, LLC; **Russell Lau**, vice chairman and CEO, Finance Factors Ltd; and **Michael Young**, senior associate, Bowers + Kubota Consulting. Officers to serve one-year terms beginning on June 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015, were elected on Friday, March 28: **Robert Yu**, president; **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, president-elect; **John Zhang**, first vice president; **Mona Choy-Beddow**, second vice president; **Gifford Chang**, third vice president; **Tina Au**, English secretary; **Lily Tang**, Chinese secretary; **Jan Leu**, treasurer; **Michele Choy**, assistant treasurer; and **Betty Brow**, immediate past president. Congratulations to all of you.

Chamber Installation Dinner

The officers for 2014-2015 will be installed on Thursday, May 29, at the Empress Restaurant. Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m. and the multi-course Chinese dinner and program begin at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$350.00 for a table of 10. Platinum, Gold, and Silver sponsor tables (including a vendor table to publicize your business or services) are available for \$1,000.00, \$750.00, and \$500.00, respectively. If you plan to attend, kindly call the Chamber at 533-3181 to RSVP, not later than May 19.

CHAMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The first general membership meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, April 17. The meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the recreation room of the *Hokua* condominium, 1288 Ala Moana Boulevard. (If you need a landmark or two, Tango Café and Panya Bistro and Bakery are located on the ground floor). Ample parking is available in the condo parking structure, accessible from Auahi Street. The cost is \$15.00 for regular members and \$10.00 for associate members, and this includes a *bento* dinner and non-alcoholic drinks. While there will be no speaker or topic for the meeting, the chairs of the various Chamber committees will be present and talk about what their committees do and the opportunities for Chamber members to volunteer. In effect, this is an orientation for members who have joined the Chamber in the last year or two to find out more about the Chamber. In addition, the 2014 Narcissus Queen **Brittany Lee** and her court will be present. If you plan to attend, kindly call the Chamber at 533-3181 to let them know you're coming so that there can be a proper headcount.

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.



President
Betty Hoang Brow

The Chinese Chamber held its annual election of directors on Friday, March 7. To prepare for this, and in accordance with the Chamber's By-Laws, I had appointed a nominating committee of five voting members that included **Dennis Hwang** (chair), **Frances Goo**, **Reuben Wong**, **Vernon Ching**, and **Alvin Wong**. **Ed Pei** and **Walter Chang** also participated as advisors. The committee nominated a total of 17 candidates for director, including four new members and 13 incumbent directors (including myself) whose terms were expiring on May 31. All were subsequently elected by Chamber members on March 7 for a 3-year term of 2014-2017.

It is my great pleasure to welcome **Joseph Hu**, **Brandon Lau**, **Russell Lau**, and **Michael Young** as new Chamber directors. I would also like to congratulate re-elected directors **Douglas Ho**, **Tim Law**, **Elvira Lo**, **Sylvia Louie**, **Bryan Luke**, **Henry Ou**, **Lily Tang**, **Yu Shing Ting**, **Robert Yu**, **Dan Yuan**, **Stanford Yuen**, and **John Zhang**, and thank them for agreeing to continue to serve on the board. **Yen Chun**, who has served as a Chamber director for 18 years, was nominated and elected to the status of *emeritus* director at the February 25 board meeting. On behalf of the Chamber members, I would like to congratulate and thank Yen for her dedication and contribution to the Chamber for all these years and look forward to continue working with her in her new capacity as an *emeritus* director. The Chamber is fortunate that most of our *emeritus* directors continue to be very engaged with the Chamber, and we have benefited tremendously from their knowledge and experience.

With the completion of the election of directors, the Chamber's nomination

committee turned its focus to identifying candidates for 2014-2015 officers. The election of officers will be conducted at a special session of the board on March 28.

Following the election of officers, the Chamber will be busy working on a number of major events that include a general membership meeting on April 17 and the golf tournament at the Pearl Country Club on April 24. For those members who have not signed up for either of these events, but are interested in participating, please contact the Chamber office. In addition, the 2014 Narcissus Goodwill Tour to China still has space for those who would like to join this 13-day VIP tour, June 2-14.

The annual spring banquets organized by a number of Chinese societies are continuing well into April and May, as almost all the organizations prefer hosting these on a weekend for the convenience of their members. These annual dinners are symbolic of Chinese hospitality and tradition, and provide an occasion for members of the Chinese community to come together to renew friendships and celebrate a new beginning, while enjoying traditional Chinese food and entertainment. It is a happy time and helps to boost the spirits of everyone who attends. For our young people, these events remind them of their roots and our rich Chinese culture. I am always happy and proud to see the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of our members joining in any of our festivities as this gives us hope that the Chamber's values and missions will continue to be carried on with future generations. Upcoming society dinners include the Lung Kong Kung Shaw's 95th annual Banquet, the Lum Sai Ho Tong's 125th anniversary as well as the birthday celebration for their Great Aunt Ku Po, Ket On Society's Chun Gun Nam Banquet, and Kams' Society Annual Banquet.

On April 7, our Narcissus Queen and Court will join me in attending the Hawaii Chinese *Qing Ming* Celebration at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery. This is a time-honored ceremony to pay respects to our ancestors. It is also an occasion for all of us to reflect on the contribution of those who came before us in working for the welfare of the Chinese community in Hawaii.

We continue to pursue potential business opportunities for our members with various cities and provinces in China. Guilin City, which our Narcissus Goodwill Tour group visited last year, and CCPIT Hainan Subcouncil, with whom we previously signed an MOU on cooperation, both requested invitations from the Chamber for their delegations to visit Hawaii. When we are able to confirm the dates of the visits, our Chamber office will organize meetings and dinners for Chamber members to meet and discuss potential business opportunities with members of the two delegations.

Last but not least, this is a reminder to all our members that our Chamber event and activity committees are open to anyone interested in helping. No specific invitation is sent to members to sign up for a committee. Instead, members should feel free to obtain from the Chamber office the details on available committees and approach the respective chairperson, expressing your interest in participating.



Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles Liu Jian and Madame Chen Xiaoling with Chinese community leaders

Chamber Golf Tournament

On Thursday, April 24, 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 for the latter will be split between the first player and the 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 Wednesday, 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.

2014 NARCISSUS GOODWILL TOUR

This year's cultural tour will be from June 2-14, a trip lasting 13 days and 12 nights. The tour group will visit Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. **Robert Yu**, newly installed Chamber president, will lead the group. The cost is \$3,815.00, plus tax, per person. There is also an optional one day tour on Friday, June 13, of either Macao (\$155.00 per person) or Hong Kong (\$120.00 per person). For further information and a tour brochure or to reserve a place, contact the Chinese Chamber at 533-3181 or Skyway Express, Inc. at 526-1347.

Chengdu International Youth Festival

by Jeff Lau

Our sister city will be holding its Chengdu International Youth Music Festival starting July 23 and ending August 1. Honolulu's sister city's program is looking for about a dozen participants to bring Hawaiian culture to Chengdu. Musicians, dancers, and singers are welcome to apply. All ground transfers, meals, hotel accommodations, and tours are covered by the Chengdu Municipal Foreign Affairs Office. Performers must cover their own air transportation and travel document costs. These costs have been approximately \$1,600-\$1,800 in the past.

Last year, over 30 international and Chinese groups performed. People performing as "youth" were mostly in their late teens to their thirties, but all you have to be is "young at heart" as some performers were older. This is an opportunity to meet youthful performers from China, Europe, Asia, and the U.S., most of whom speak some English. If you or your friends are interested in applying to attend this fun international experience or if you have questions, please contact Honolulu-Chengdu Sister City Liaison **Jeff Lau** at 535-1420 or email at jlau@ollon.com.



ACA Update

March 31 marked the end of the open enrollment period for private health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, known to many Americans as "Obamacare." (Not all Americans understand that the ACA and Obamacare are the same thing; that the ACA/Obamacare is not the same thing as the troubled healthcare.gov and hawaii-healthconnector.com Web sites; and that the ACA/Obamacare involves health insurance reform, not health care reform). Due to the Web site problems, some people who had been unsuccessful in enrolling prior to March 31 may have until April 15 to enroll.

As of March 31, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, 7.1 million people had enrolled through the federal and state (Hawaii, 13 other states, and the District of Columbia) online exchanges or marketplaces; 4.5 million formerly uninsured people have signed up for state Medicaid programs; and an additional 3 million young adults remain covered by their parents' health insurance until they reach their 26th birthday. Despite these numbers, however, there are still tens of millions of uninsured Americans still without health insurance coverage. Those who chose not to sign up will have to wait until October 15, 2014, for open enrollment for 2015. (Enrollment would be between that date and February 15, 2015). That may be a long time if a major injury or serious illness occurs in the meantime; over 60% of bankruptcies prior to the ACA were due to medical expenses. (However, there is a "special enrollment period" if a "qualifying life event" occurs some time in 2014: losing job-based health insurance, moving to a new state, getting married or divorced, having a child or certain changes in income). Note that enrollment remains open year-round for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). For reliable, unbiased health insurance information, there is *Consumer Reports'* HealthLawHelper as well as the Kaiser Family Foundation and Commonwealth Fund Web sites.

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Chinese New Year Trip to San Francisco by Douglas Ho

On Saturday, February 8, I attended a special afternoon Chinese New Year Concert performed by the San Francisco Symphony in the **Louise M. Davies** Symphony Hall. This was followed by a gala, early evening Imperial Dinner at City Hall for nearly 1000 people. (For those not familiar with the San Francisco Civic Center, the two buildings are diagonally across from each other at the Van Ness Avenue/Grove Street intersection). I attended as a special guest of San Francisco Mayor **Ed Lee**. Mayor Lee extends his personal greetings and fond *aloha* to the members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. Later that night, I attended the Miss Chinatown U.S.A. Pageant at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater and was surprised to see 2012 Narcissus Queen **Tiffany Au** as one of the twelve contestants. (Miss Chinatown U.S.A. 2014 is 17-year old **Karen Li**, a high school senior from Houston, Texas, who also won the talent award).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 17	Thu	General Membership Meeting Hokua's recreation room 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Apr 18	Fri	Good Friday
Apr 20	Sun	Easter Sunday
Apr 22	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Apr 24	Thu	2014 Chinese Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament Pearl Country Club – 12:30 p.m.
Apr 29	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
May 11	Sun	Mother's Day
May 29	Thu	Installation Banquet Empress Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.

MEMBER NEWS

On Thursday, February 27, state Senator **Suzanne Chun Oakland** was one of the five members on a “Panel on Homelessness” at a meeting of the Metropolitan Rotary Club of Honolulu. She was also pictured in a March 30 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* story, “Art & Politics,” on legislators opening their State Capitol offices on Friday, April 3, so that the public could see the art on display there. (This is the 6th annual “Art in the Capitol” program). Apparently Suzanne has an eclectic selection of art on display in her offices.

In 2013, U.S. Representative **Tulsi Gabbard** (HI-CD2) co-founded the Congressional Future Caucus to address issues that younger voters care about. Inspired by that example, a similar Future Caucus was formed in Honolulu for state and county politicians under the age of 40 on February 20, according to the Feb 21 *Star-Advertiser*. City Councilman **Stanley Chang** was a co-founder of the bipartisan local caucus. Among other things, with midterm elections coming up this November, the members of the caucus hope to increase turnout among younger voters, who tend to vote only in presidential year elections. (For years, Hawaii has had disappointingly low voter turnout).

The March 2014 issue of *Honolulu* magazine has a cover article on “Super Cheap Eats” available at \$6.00 and under. Co-authors **Mari Taketa** and **Martha Cheng** wrote that “It’s not easy to find meals for \$6 or less in Honolulu,” but they managed to find 23 selections. One of those was the \$5.99 *saimin* burger from L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (marketed as the *ramen* burger at L & L mainland locations). The “teriyaki-like sauce and crisped-up *saimin* noodles that form the buns of this sandwich” came in for praise. And not to be overlooked in the issue is a full-page interview with 2014 Narcissus Queen **Brittany Lee**.

NEW MEMBER

At its meeting on Tuesday, February 25, the Chamber board approved the applications for **Chui Hung “Nobe” Zhu**, the owner and an event coordinator (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**), and **Rod Medallon**, a real estate investment advisor with Las Vegas-based Gold Flow (recommended by **Sonny Zhang**). Then at its meeting on Friday, March 28, the board approved the application for **Min Liu**, owner of Yao Yao Xu, a clothing and jewelry store in Aiea (recommended by **Sonny Zhang**).

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