

LANTERN

January 2015



Narcissus Queen Court and Contestants singing carols at Palolo Chinese Home with President Elect Eddie Flores, Jr. and President Robert Yu.



NARCISSUS FESTIVAL

With the start of the new year also comes the Narcissus Festival, which will be in full swing over the next several weeks. The upcoming events are:

- The 66th annual Narcissus Queen Pageant will be held on Saturday, January 10. The venue is the Hawaii Theatre and the program begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at \$34.00 and \$29.00. To reserve your ticket(s), call the Chamber at 533-3181 right away.
- The gala Coronation Ball will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on Saturday, January 31. The evening will begin with no-host cocktails at 5:00 p.m., and dinner and the program will start at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$80.00 per person or \$800.00 for a table of ten while a "wine table" with one bottle each of red and white wine is available for an additional \$100.00. To make your reservation, call the Chamber at 533-3181.
- The annual Chinatown Open House and *Choy Cheng* will be on Friday, February 13. Starting at 6:00 p.m., lion dancers from a number of Chinese lion dance and physical culture organizations will gather at the Chamber office. Following the *choy cheng* (feeding the lions) ceremony at the Chamber, the new Narcissus Queen and her Court, escorted by Chamber officers, will visit a variety of Chinatown and Chinatown Cultural Plaza

restaurants and businesses to wish the owners and staff a happy and prosperous Year of the Ram.

- Concurrently with the Chinatown Open House, the Chinese New Year Celebration will be held at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza on Friday and Saturday, February 13 (5:00-10:00 p.m.) and February 14 (9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.). Food, t-shirts, and perhaps even narcissus plants will be offered for sale.

Chinese New Year's Day is Thursday, February 19. This is the first day of the Year of the Ram, a day for family get-togethers, and handing out *li see* to the young (or maybe the lucky young-at-heart). Some restaurants like the Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant will have lion dances on February 18 and 19.

And don't forget that the new Narcissus souvenir book has been available for pick-up by members since mid-December. The first copy is FREE to Chamber members, and additional copies of the souvenir book are available for purchase at \$10.00. (Souvenir books from previous years may also be available for sale).





President
Robert Yu

I hope that you and your family had a safe and happy holiday season. The beginning of the year is always a busy time for the Chamber as we head into the Narcissus Festival season, consisting of the Narcissus Queen Pageant on January 10, the Coronation Ball on January 31, the Chinatown Open House on February 13, and the Chinatown New Year Celebration on February 13 and 14. The Chamber's staff and volunteers have worked hard to prepare for these events.

This year's Narcissus Pageant features 16 contestants vying to become the 66th Narcissus Queen. Trained, and guided by veteran pageant coordinator **Michele Choy**, the young women have made numerous public appearances, volunteered at several Chamber events, and taken classes on Chinese history and culture. They are sure to impress the judges and audience with their poise, talent, and beauty on Pageant night.

The Pageant night will also mark nearly the end of the reign of the 2014 Narcissus Queen and her Court. The Chamber would like to thank Narcissus Queen **Brittany Lee**, First Princess **Eula Chu**, Second Princess **Taj'a Wong**, Third Princess **Trisha Chong**, and Fourth Princess **Simeng Qu** for being outstanding ambassadors on the Narcissus Goodwill Tour to China and at many other Chamber events. It was a busy year, but they always had smiles on their faces. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Just a quick note that the Program Committee is in the process of finalizing and securing facilities for upcoming membership events. We will announce the events as they are finalized, so please check your e-mail frequently to make sure you don't miss any!

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

QI BAISHI EXHIBIT CLOSING SOON

In the September *Lantern*, Chamber members were notified of the opening of the "Qi Baisi: Modern Master" exhibit at the Honolulu Museum of Art (formerly the Honolulu Art Academy). The exhibit features works from the collection of Dr. **Gene Doo** and his wife, 1960 Narcissus Queen **Cecilia Ching Doo**, as well as the Museum's own collection. The exhibit opened on October 2, 2014, and will close on Sunday, January 25. The focus of the exhibition is on nine paintings by Qi Baishi and single paintings by **Ren Yi**, **Wu Changshi** (Qi's teacher), and **Tian Wei**. Starting on Tuesday, January 13, and continuing each day through Saturday, January 17, the weekly Spotlight Tour will highlight those paintings, with commentary on the content and symbolism of the paintings, including garden plants of China, by Cecilia. Those interested in the one-hour tours should meet by 1:00 p.m. at the Museum entrance. Admission is free for Museum members and visitors age 17 and under and \$10.00 for non-member adults. Parking at \$5.00 for five hours is available behind the Honolulu Museum Art School (formerly Linekona School), 1111 Victoria Street, with entrances on Beretania and Young Streets. (Please note that the admission fee also includes same-day admission to the Museum's Spalding House on Makiki Heights Drive). For more information, call the Museum at 532-8700 (Tuesday through Sunday, closed Mondays).

Minimum Wage Update

With the start of the new year, the state minimum wage has increased from \$7.25 to \$7.50. Those employers with any employees receiving only the minimum wage should adjust their payroll software, whether actual or just mental, accordingly. There will be incremental increases each year until January 1, 2018, when the Hawaii minimum wage will reach \$10.10. (Note that in 2014, the federal poverty level/line or FPL for Hawaii was at \$1,896.67 per month for a family of three, such as a working mother with two children, while working 40 hours a week at \$7.25 would bring in only \$1,160.00 per month).



Welcome dinner with the Guoqiaoban's Medical Delegation at Royal Garden Restaurant in early December, 2014.



Former Chamber presidents Jeff Lau and Warren Luke at the APEC China 2014 CEO Summit in Beijing.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

by Jeff Lau

Former Chamber president **Warren Luke** and I were fortunate to be invited as delegates to the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Beijing in early November to meet with 32 heads of state, including Presidents **Xi Jinping**, **Barrack Obama**, and **Vladimir Putin**. **Charles Morrison**, president of the East West Center and member of its inaugural advisory committee, was the third representative from Hawaii. He advised us that this may have been one of the largest gathering of heads of state.

Later in November, Chamber members **Leigh-Wai Doo** and Councilman **Stanley Chang** represented Honolulu at the Hainan Sister City Summit in Haikou where they were greeted by the Mayor and Foreign Affairs Director **Han Bing**. Leigh-Wai was also fortunate to meet Student Ambassador **Shirley Lin Yang** from Hainan University, who led the second student ambassador tour to Honolulu a year ago and has assisted the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Hainan Sub-council with a number of its annual summits and golfing events in Haikou. Hainan CCPIT Sub-council Chairman **Chen Zhong Wen** and Deputy Secretary General **Li Ping Gong** also mentioned their successful business summit and golf exposition in Haikou and Wanning when we met with them at the Beijing APEC CEO Summit.

More recently, in December, the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council sponsored a team of doctors of traditional Chinese medicine to Honolulu for a seminar and demonstrations of their treatment to a large crowd organized by the Chinese Chamber and assisted by the Chinese Tea Club of Hawaii. Afterwards, OCAO Deputy Director **Lu Haitian** held a meeting at the Chamber offices to explain the many benefits and assistance that his office can provide to the Chamber in its efforts to promote Chinese culture. He congratulated the Chamber for receiving OCAO's Top Ten International Award for the Promotion of Chinese Culture. The award was received last summer while the Narcissus Goodwill Tour group was in Beijing.



Far Left: Leigh-Wai Doo and Student Ambassador Shirley Lin Yang.



Left: Hainan CCPIT Sub-council Chairman Chen Zhong Wen and Jeff Lau.

ACA Reminder

Open enrollment for health care insurance for 2015 is open until Sunday, February 15. If you need coverage, you must enroll by January 15 for coverage effective on February 1, and if you don't enroll by the final deadline of February 15, you will have to wait until later this year to enroll for 2016. Most of last year's problems with the Hawaii Health Connector seem to have been worked out. If you have questions, call them at 1-877-628-5076 (for some reason, everyone has to call this 877 number). If you want more information, you can take a look at **Joan McCarter's** January 3 "diary," "Are you procrastinating on choosing a health insurance plan? Here's help" online at Daily Kos. She includes hotlinks to a simple outline quiz and a five-minute "Health Insurance Explained" video, both provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

NEW MEMBER

At its December 23 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Paul Alimbuyao**, a vice president and manager for First Hawaiian Bank (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**), and **Jeffrey Kao**, an agent with New York Life (recommended by **Robert Yu**). The board also approved the applications as associate members for 13 of the 16 Narcissus Queen Pageant contestants, off of whom were recommended by **Michele Choy**: **Milly Chang**, **Juliann Chen**, **Nicole Chong**, **Devin Anne Choy**, **Megan Chun**, **Michelle Hee**, **Angela Jia**, **Michelle Lam**, **Jessalyn Lau**, **Joanna Lee**, **Ying Li**, **Katherine Pang**, and **Erica Wong**.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 20	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Jan 27	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Jan 31	Sat	66th Narcissus Coronation Ball Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom – 5:00 p.m.
Feb 13	Fri	New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Feb 13	Fri	Chinatown Open House (Choy Cheng) Chinatown District 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Feb 14	Sat	New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Feb 19	Thu	Chinese New Year Day

Sunday, December 14, began as a rather blustery day and saw the 42nd running of the Honolulu Marathon. A number of Chamber members participated: **Dennis Hwang, Michael Zhang, Brandon Lau**, 2000 Narcissus Queen **Libby Lum**, and **Libby Lew**. Whether one runs or just walks, 26.2 miles is a long way to go, especially if your running shoes got soaked earlier in the marathon. Then again, “miserly loves company,” and at the start of the marathon, there were over 31,000 participants. Congratulations to each of you who took part. Just think, the next Honolulu Marathon is not until December 13, 2015, and in the meantime, there’s the *Hapalua* or half-marathon on Sunday, April 12. (Incidentally, Dennis and Chamber board member and Consuelo Foundation President and CEO **Jon Matsuoka** were featured in **Emme Tomimbang**’s “Haiyan ,, After the Storm,” which was broadcast twice in November and again on December 20).

With the end of 2014, various media – TV, newspapers, and magazines – list their top (usually ten) stories of the year. So too with *Honolulu* magazine’s **Martha Cheng**. On December 30, she posted online “HONOLULU Magazine’s 10 Most Popular Food and Dining Posts of 2014.” (And for Chamber members who write items that appear in public, note that Ms. Cheng does not use an ampersand – &). Leading off the list was “The Original *Ramen* Burger Versus *Saimin* Burgers,” which originally appeared in the February issue. The Original *Ramen* Burger™ was the brainchild of **Keizo Shimamoto** and debuted in New York City at \$10.00 at the beginning of the year, going on to be selected by Time magazine in January, 2014, as one of the “17 Most Influential Burgers of All Time.” (For McDonald’s franchisee **Victor Lim**, the McDonald’s Burger was #2 on *Time*’s list). The local *saimin* burger soon became available at L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, and is now sold at many of its ubiquitous Oahu locations at \$5.99. (It’s not bad, especially at the price, and the *saimin* “bun” is now a lot sturdier than the one the *Lantern* editor tried earlier in the year; if it comes partially wrapped like some of the burgers at Jack in the Box, it’s not quite as messy – otherwise, they’ll give you a lot of napkins). And speaking of L & L, President and CEO **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, has a new book out, *108 Tips on Business, Travel, and Culture in China*, now on sale for \$9.88. (As for Keizo Shimamoto, he has since come up with the perfect accompaniment to his *ramen* burger creation: double-fried, steak-fry sized *ramen* fries).

The LANTERN a monthly publication
of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
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