

LANTERN

May/June, 2015



CHAMBER INSTALLATION DINNER

On Thursday, May 28, the annual dinner and installation of officers took place at the Empress Restaurant. Some 640 people attended, including a number of local politicians, to see the installation of **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, as the Chamber's new president. Awards were presented to **Michele Choy**, Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer; **Sherman Wong**, Outstanding Chamber Volunteer; **Peggy Luu**, Outstanding Business Person; and **Daniel Lau**, Lifetime Achievement Award. The late Frank Mow was honored as honorary Chamber President, and special medallions were presented to the emeritus directors. To top it all off, there was the nine-course dinner and the usual lions, this year from the Gee Yung International Martial Arts Dragon & Lion Dance Association.



June Boat Tour

On May 27, the dock at the USS *Arizona* Memorial was damaged as the hospital ship USNS *Mercy* was being assisted out of Pearl Harbor by two tugboats at the start of a medical mission to the Western Pacific. The damage to the dock, the brow (the ramp between the dock and the Memorial entrance), and the Memorial has been repaired, and visitors from near and far can once more visit the Memorial using shuttle boats from the *Arizona* Visitor Center.

This of course has no effect on the special, not-available-to-the-general-public boat tours that **Stanford Yuen** is able to arrange for Honolulu community groups, including the Chinese Chamber. A visit to the *Arizona* Memorial is only a part of the hour and a half boat tour that circumnavigates Ford Island, going under the Admiral **Bernard Clarey** bridge, past the Pearl City peninsula; East, Middle, and West Loch (where a number of decommissioned ships are anchored); out to the Pearl Harbor entrance; back past the Submarine base and the USS *Missouri*; stopping briefly at the *Arizona* Memorial; and returning to the dock.

The next opportunity to go on the boat tour is on Thursday, June 11.



Space is limited, so contact Lucia (tel. no. 533-3181) at the Chamber right away so that your name can be included on the Navy's passenger manifest. Those included on the manifest should remember to bring a photo ID and there are some restrictions on what you can bring with you. Storage lockers are available

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.

near the entrance to the Visitor Center. Meet at by the flagpoles outside the entrance. There will be a short informational movie and the boat will leave promptly at 3:30 p.m. (If the boat is delayed, the stop at the Memorial will be skipped; this happened on a boat tour several years ago). Priority is being given to the Punahou Class of 1965, the third year that the 50th anniversary reunion week has included the boat tour.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Immediate Past President
Robert Yu

As the end of my term as president, I'd like to thank everyone for their support over the past year. I'd like to thank the Chamber board of directors and members, sponsors, and the dedicated volunteers who make the Chamber's activities possible. We would not be able to do it without your generous donations of time and financial support.

The last 12 months have been an extremely busy and exciting time. I had the chance to meet business and community leaders, attend cultural and educational events, and represent the Chamber at many Chinese society banquets. I have been humbled by the goodwill extended to the Chamber by so many organizations and individuals.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome **Eddie Flores, Jr.** as your next president. He is well known in Hawaii and abroad, and he brings his business experience and knowledge of China to the office of president. He and his executive board have great ideas for the Chamber's future. If you have any suggestions, please contact any of us. We're always looking for ways to better serve our members.

Thank you again for the opportunity to have served the Chamber and the Chinese community. It's been a great experience.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President
Eddie Flores, Jr.

It has been a quick 12 months as president-elect of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. During this time, I have enjoyed working with all the directors and members. I would especially like to thank **Robert Yu, Mona Choy-Beddow, Frances Goo, Tina Au, Leonard Kam, Gifford Chang, Michele Choy, Reuben Wong, Betty Brow,** and **Alvin Wong** for preparing me for my term as president for the Chinese Chamber

I am happy to say our Installation Banquet, which was held on May 28 at the Empress Restaurant, was a great success. I am grateful to all of the committee members and volunteers who helped to make it one of the

biggest installation banquets we have ever had. Michele Choy did a wonderful job as the chairperson of this event. We reached our goal of having over 640 guests. We had eight platinum sponsors, 11 gold sponsors, and three silver sponsors. We were able to make a hefty profit for the Chinese Chamber. I would like to give a warm *mahalo* to our platinum sponsors for their generosity: Central Pacific Bank, Domino's Pizza, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, Hawaii National Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Pepsi Co., **Johnson** and **Christina Kam**, and Servco Pacific Insurance.

After our delicious nine-course meal, we were treated to entertainment by local entertainment legend **Little Albert**, a former member of Society of Seven. We were also entertained by emcee **Al Waterson**, who thinks he is funnier than me.

During the banquet, we recognized a number of our distinguished members: Michele Choy, Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer; **Sherman Wong**, Outstanding Chamber Volunteer; **Peggy Yu Luu**, Outstanding Business Person; and **Daniel Lau**, Lifetime Achievement Award.

For my term as president, I have three goals that I would like to share with you:

First, the Chinese Chamber has many programs and activities. Some make a profit, some are marginal, and for some, we lose money. I intend to work with each committee chair to make certain that all Chamber programs and activities are profitable. With all the hard work that is put into each program and event, I want to make sure we benefit from it. With the support of Chamber members and directors, I am certain that we can reach that goal.

Second, during my term, I plan to emphasize member benefits and activities. Mona Choy-Beddow did a great job the past year. We will continue to follow her leadership, but will include more programs and seminars on entrepreneurship. We will continue to work with the Filipino, Japanese, and Korean Chambers in joint activities for our members. Robert Yu did a great job in initiating such joint programs and seminars this year.

Finally, I will re-visit the Chinatown Community Center's mission statement. I plan to work with **Alvin Wong** to resume services to help the Chinese community and the merchants in Chinatown. In order for us to obtain grants from the City and the State, we must provide viable community services.

I am honored to have been installed as the president of the Chinese Chamber for 2015-16, and I will do my best to represent the Chinese Chamber and Chinese community. I look forward to working with everyone.

Aloha, Eddie

City Chinatown Senior Housing Project

In the May 31 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, honorary Chinatown mayor **Joe Young** purportedly wrote an op-ed, "Proposed senior housing project would help Chinatown move forward," supporting the City's latest plan for its property on River Street, located *mauka* of the Lum Sai Ho Tong building and *makai* of North Vineyard Boulevard. (The City is actually in negotiations with a developer, Michaels Development Co., and is apparently not on the verge of signing a contract). Unlike an earlier moderate income housing project that would have included homeless people and drew opposition from a variety of Chinatown organizations, societies, and residents, this project named Halewai'olu or "house of comforting or enriching waters," would include 151 affordable rental housing units for people 62 years of age and over. Those eligible seniors would have incomes of less than 80% of the \$53,700 area median income (AMI) or \$42,960 (not "about \$40,000" as stated in Joe's puff piece and *Pacific Business News*, and for seniors on a fixed income, that extra \$2,960 makes a world of difference in the rental basis or range).

However, on June 4, Lum Sai Ho Tong president **Howard Lum** wrote a letter to the *Star-Advertiser* editor, "Lum Sai Ho Tong not fine with project." Mr. Lum pointed out that LSHT's objections included the towers' height, the project density, and open space, among other factors.

In addition, in a May 29 article in *Pacific Business News*, **Darin Moriki** wrote that Michaels Development Co. had been selected to develop the \$49 million Halewaiolu Residences. (While Michaels has been "selected," negotiations are ongoing for the terms and conditions of a development contract with the City). The project would include two towers, which could be as high as 23 stories (characterized as "mid-rise" in an earlier *PBN* article), as well as over three levels of parking, a street-level community center, and retail space. If the development comes to fruition by 2018, it remains to be seen how many market-price units, whether for rental or sale, would be included.

This latest proposal for this block (1331-1347) on River Street has echoes of an earlier proposal by the Hannemann administration. About ten years ago, the River Street Residences project was proposed for the homeless: individuals, couples, possibly young families, as well as people with disabilities and special needs. It was the latter group that caused concern for area residents, who noted the number of small children in the area, going to and from school (not to mention the children of the "young families" who might have come to live at the Residences). Eventually, due to community opposition, the project was finally abandoned and the City went back to the drawing board.

In contrast are two projects on state land in Kapolei for Kooloaula, phase 2, and Kulana Hale II. According to an op-ed in the June 6 *Star-Advertiser*, Kooloaula is designed to be affordable for those making less than 60% of the AMI or \$46,020 for a couple and \$57,480 for a family of four, with rents starting at \$415.00 for a 588 square foot 1 bedroom apartment. And according to a June 11 *Star-Advertiser* article, Kulana Hale, originally proposed with four towers, with about 600 units, has been reduced to two towers, with a total of 297 units: 154 senior citizen rentals from \$503.00-\$1,294.00 per month (depending on the size of the unit and income of the residents), 72 condos for moderate income (no more than 140% of the AMI), and 71 market priced condos.

As for Halewai'olu, on Tuesday, June 30, there will be a community meeting, starting at 5:00 p.m., in Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol. The meeting is being arranged by state Sen. **Suzanne Chun Oakland**, state Rep. **Karl Rhoades**, and councilwoman **Carol Fukunaga**. This is your opportunity to learn more about the Halewai'olu project and to provide your input, if you choose to.

Hurricane Season is Nigh

The Pacific hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 in the Central Pacific region (May 15 to November 30 in the East Pacific region). At a May 26 press conference, **Tom Evans**, acting director of the NOAA Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), said that 2015 will see more storms than average – five to eight – because of warmer ocean water. There is a 70% chance of having an above normal season. (A graphic showing the NOAA probable sea surface temperature for October-December accompanied the front page "Hurricanes Predicted" story in the May 15 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*).

According to **Dan Nakaso's** May 27 *Star-Advertiser* story, "Hurricane Forecast: 'It only takes one,'" forecasters predicted four to seven "tropical cyclones" (which includes, in ascending severity, tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) in 2014 and Hawaii was threatened by three. According to the graphic accompanying the story, since 1970, there have been 162 tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific: 46 in July, 78 in August, and 38 in September.

Former Chamber president and coastal hazard mitigation specialist **Dennis Hwang** was interviewed by AP's **Caleb Jones** on May 26 and said that "We dodged three major bullets last year, referring to Hurricane Iselle, which weakened to a tropical storm before it made landfall in Puna on August 8, and tropical storms Julio in early August and Ana in October. Dennis was interviewed on Think Tech Hawaii, and discussed hurricane predictions and disaster preparation. The hotlink to the show on "Hurricane Predictions: Preparing for the Worst!" is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTFbTY9sjdI>. The video runs for about 47 minutes.

Gov. David Ige proclaimed May 24-30 as hurricane preparedness week, encouraging residents to stock up on supplies: "The best we can do as a community is to be prepared," an echo of the Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared." FREE copies of the 2015 *Information Handbook for Emergency Preparedness* are available at City Mill and other home improvement stores in Honolulu.

Once weather reports warn of a tropical depression or worse, you may want to periodically check the following sources of up-to-date information: Central Pacific Hurricane Center (www.phh.noaa.gov/cphc/); AccuWeather (www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane); Weather.com (www.weather.com/storms/hurricane); Weather Underground [Weather Channel] (www.wunderground.com/hurricane); and Tropical Storm Risk (www.tropicalstormrisk.com). For more general historical information, there's 2014 Pacific hurricane season article (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Pacific_hurricane_season).



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Long-time Chamber director **Stanford Yuen** was recognized as a 2015 UH Distinguished Alumni. Back in 1966, he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UH Manoa before later receiving an MBA from Pepperdine University (1973) and a master's degree in

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 4	Mon	2015 Chinese Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament Pearl Country Club – 12:00 p.m.
May 10	Sun	Mother's Day
May 13	Wed	Financial Seminar – Social Security and Medicare First Hawaiian Bank – 5:00 p.m.
May 19	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
May 25	Mon	Memorial Day
May 26	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
May 28	Thu	104th Chinese Chamber Installation Banquet Empress Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.
June 2	Tue	2015 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour departure
June 14	Sun	2015 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour return
June 21	Sun	Father's Day
June 23	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
June 30	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
July 4	Sat	Independence Day

industrial engineering from the University of Southern California (1977). Stanford began his professional career as an engineer with Boeing and Lockheed on the mainland, returned to Hawaii as an account executive and stockbroker at Dean Witter, and then began a long career in engineering and management at Hickam AFB, the Navy Facilities Command (NAVFAC), and Navy Region Hawaii. A lifelong resident of Chinatown, he has been a longtime member of the Downtown Neighborhood Board, a past president of Mun Lun School, and a strong advocate of improving conditions in Downtown/Chinatown. Recently appointed to the UH Board of Regents, he was mentioned in **Ferd Lewis'** May 26 *Star-Advertiser* column, asking UH athletic director **David Matlin** about what fellow regent **Jeff Portnoy** referred to as 2015's "body bag games" football schedule, which includes 13 consecutive games without an open date, two of them on the road against Ohio State and Wisconsin.

Newly installed Chamber president **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, recently received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from *Pacific Edge* magazine at a May 22 "red-carpet gala" (presumably black tie and tuxedo, which Eddie was wearing, but many men in Honolulu think that term includes a suit or even an *aloha* shirt) at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Eddie, who has received numerous community and professional awards over the years, was honored for his "outstanding entrepreneurship and dedication to the community." Other previous awards include recognition by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as the Hawai'i regional 1998 Small Business Person of the Year, the 2006 Salesperson of the Year by the Honolulu chapter of Sales & Marketing Executives International (SMEI), and the 2000 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Food and Beverage. In addition to being a life-long entrepreneur, Eddie is known for being a consummate fund-raiser and also for being a very generous philanthropist. (Eddie reportedly will be receiving another award in July – more details in next month's Lantern).

Stephanie Wang, 2015 Miss Chinatown Hawaii and 2012 Narcissus Second Princess, competed in the Miss Hawaii contest on Saturday, May 30. According to the story in the May 31 Honolulu *Star-Advertiser*, Stephanie was chosen Miss Congeniality (based on the votes of all 28 contestants) and won Miss Photogenic (based on votes by the public) as well as receiving the Miss Hawaii Golf Scholarship, the Miss America First Hawaiian Bank Community Service Award, and perhaps best of all, a trip for two to Las Vegas for selling the most tickets and sponsorships. While she did not make it to the final round, Stephanie put in a 110% effort. The Chamber officers, directors, and members are all proud of you!

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