

LANTERN

July, 2015



66th Narcissus Goodwill Tour at Great Wall of China. Photo courtesy of Jeff Lau.



Narcissus Queen Search

The search for contestants for the 67th Narcissus Pageant on January 9, 2016 has begun. Contestant qualifications are: Minimum of 25% Chinese ethnicity, single (never have married or given birth to a child), at least 19 years of age and up to 26 years of age on the date of the pageant, and a resident of Hawaii for at least twelve (12) months prior the pageant. If you know of any young women meeting those qualifications and are interested in competing in the Pageant, please have them download the application (67thApplicationForm.pdf) and send it to the Chinese Chamber. Contestant applications must be received at the Chamber not later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 7. For more information, the 2016 Queen Search poster is available online (2016QueenSearchPoster.pdf) as are the Pageant rules (67thRule.pdf), and interested young women can also contact the Chamber office at 533-3181.

MOON FESTIVAL

The Chinese Chamber will be presenting the largest Moon Festival in Hawaii on Friday and Saturday, September 25-26, at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza. (The Moon Festival is also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival). Moon Festival activities will include: A "Taste of China," with numerous food booths selling food from various regions in China; performances by Chinese and local entertainers; appearances by Narcissus Queen **Erica Wong** and her court; Chinese gifts and crafts available for purchase; a moon cake (*yue bing*) eating contest; moon cake and tea pairings; performances of "The Myth of the Moon Goddess" (the Lady of the Moon, *Chang'e* or *Chang-o*, originally known as *Heng'e*); a health fair; lantern-making demonstrations and contest; and a lantern parade in the Cultural Plaza. This exciting event will be FREE and open to the public. For more information about the Festival as well as sponsorship opportunities, which are still available, please contact the Chinese Chamber of Commerce at 533-3181.

Dragon Boat Races

by Eula Chu

It's summertime and time to once again spend a few hours on the water in a genuine Chinese dragon boat! On Saturday, July 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., teams from Hawaii and elsewhere will be paddling their dragon boats at Ala Moana Park, competing to win their heat and advance to the next round during the day to the finals. Cash prizes to the winning crews will reportedly be donated to the charity/charities of the winners' choice.

Associate members and event chairs **Eula Chu** and **Stephanie Chan** are (as of this writing) looking for one or two more paddlers, experienced or novice. If you're interested, send an e-mail to CCCoH.associates@gmail.com, giving your name, contact information (phone and e-mail), which position(s) you're interested in (paddle, steer, drum, flag catch), and shirt size if you need a Chamber t-shirt. A few volunteers are also needed to help out with the FREE picnic lunch. That's right, there will be a lunch for the Chamber dragon boat team as well as members and friends. Unlike previous years, the lunch will not be predominantly Chinese food, so come and be surprised. We do ask that if YOU're coming or even thinking of coming, please call the Chamber at 533-3181 or send an e-mail to the above address so that we can have an accurate headcount and order enough food.

For race day, we're also looking for the loan of folding tables and chairs and coolers as well as donations, including ice, snacks, non-alcoholic drinks, and bottled water. If you are able to lend or donate, please notify us at the above e-mail address, and we will arrange for your items to get to the event. We will also accept monetary donations to help subsidize lunch; if you're writing a check, please make the check payable to "Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii." We look forward to seeing you on race day!

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS EVENT

Hurricane season has begun. In order to assist their members be prepared, the Chinese, Filipino, and Korean Chambers of Commerce are holding an event on Thursday, July 30, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The presentation will cover hurricane risks and El Niño; lessons learned from the 2014 hurricane season; the outlook for the 2015 hurricane season; emergency supplies; evacuation planning; and preparing your house and family (retrofits, wind-resistant envelope, roofing, solar panels). Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited, so if you plan to attend, call the Chinese Chamber right away at 533-3181.

夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Eddie Flores, Jr.

The 66th annual Narcissus Queen Trade and Goodwill tour was a great success. We left Honolulu on June 2, with over 105 travelers in our group. The group included four past presidents (**Frances Goo, Jeffrey Lau, Vernon Ching, and Dennis Huang**), **Michele Choy**, the queen and four princesses. We also included over 35 Realtors® and their families, Narcissus Queen **Erica Wong**'s family, and twelve members of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. We were very pleased to fly on Hawaiian Airlines' direct flight from Honolulu to Beijing. The flight was impeccable and the service was great. **Peggy Luu** and her staff did a fantastic job with the ground tours. We were very happy with the service of Skyway Express Travel. The tour leaders included Vernon Ching, Frances Goo, Michele Choy, and **Wen Chung Lin**, who all did a marvelous job.

Day 1: We arrived at 6:00 a.m. Everyone was tired, but we went straight to sightseeing, which included Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven. As an added bonus, we were treated to Beijing Zoo to see the pandas. Although it was raining, we were happy to make the excursion. In the evening, the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council hosted a dinner for us. The Queen and her Court did a fantastic *hula* performance. We were totally exhausted when we returned to the hotel.

Day 2: We visited the Summer Palace and *hutongs*, which included a rickshaw ride. For the real estate group, we toured a large real estate development. We were amazed at the size of the development and the hospitality of the developer at the project. In the evening, we were hosted to dinner by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Beijing.

Day 3: Everyone was excited to visit the Great Wall. A few brave souls accomplished the task of climbing up onto the Wall, but most of us just admired the awesome scenery. In the evening, we were hosted by the China Association for International Friendly Contact. We enjoyed a sumptuous dinner with many dishes. Some of the group members were sick after we returned to the hotel. Fortunately, it was not that serious.

Day 4: The trip by coach from Beijing to Tianjin took four hours. We saw many real estate projects along the way. Upon arrival in Tianjin, the group visited the Farmer's Painting Museum and former foreign concessions: French, Russian, and Italian. Most of the group, who knew little about 19th century Chinese history, was amazed by the European influence.

Day 5: More sightseeing was in store for us. We were awed by the ceramic house and the residence of the last emperor. For lunch, we were hosted by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Tianjin at a well-known Tianjin restaurant called Dog No Care (Goubuli Baozi), established in 1858 and now found throughout China. In the afternoon, the group went to the airport to fly to Shanghai.

Day 6: The group had not had a chance to shop since leaving Honolulu. Our hotel in Shanghai was located at Nanjing Road. Everyone was happy to see endless shops and department stores. We started the day with sightseeing and the group had Shanghai style *dim sum*. The official group was hosted by The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Shanghai. After lunch, we met with the rest of the tour group and visited the Bund before returning to the hotel. There was no function in the evening. I finally had a chance to rest.

Day 7: Today was a free day. Most of the group signed up for the full-day tour that included the Shanghai acrobatic show in the evening. I chose to spend a quiet day relaxing with my wife, **Elaine**. We finally got our first massage after seven days in China.

Day 8: We traveled to Suzhou to visit the Humble Administrator's Garden and were hosted by the Overseas Affairs Office of Suzhou. We arrived in Wuzhen, our final destination. The town was quaint and different from the four big cities that we had visited.

Day 9: We had a walking tour of Wuzhen in the morning. In the afternoon, most of the tour members went for foot massages. We had a last minute notice to have dinner with Wuzhen government officials from various agencies.

With over 105 people, China Travel Service did a marvelous job. We had very little complaints. Everyone enjoyed the trip immensely. Some of the comments were: "This is the best trip of my life," "I never expected China to be like this. It is way out of my expectations," "This is my happiest trip," and "I should have been it earlier".

I want to say a big *mahalo* to Peggy at Skyway Travel; CTS; Vernon, Michele, Dennis, Frances, Jeffrey, Wen, Narcissus Queen Erica Wong and all the Princesses; and all the people in the tour group.

I got back to Honolulu on June 21. I want to thank **Mona Choy-Beddow** for taking care of the Moon Festival planning while I was gone. Frances Goo did an unbelievable job in Shanghai. She was able to invite a Lantern Master in Shanghai to come as one of the main attractions. This is at no cost to CCCH.

I am looking forward to my term as president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. I thank you all for the support, and I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Aloha, Eddie

Photos courtesy of Jeff Lau



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REPORT

by Jeffrey Lau

Thank you to everyone at the Chinese Chamber, and especially **Tina Au**, Territorial Savings Bank, and the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association for their substantial monetary and physical support in filling seats that were provided to both the Chinese and USA volleyball teams. Both teams had a fabulous experience here in Hawaii during the USA Volleyball Cup matches, held June 5 and 6 at the UH Manoa's **Stan Sheriff** Center. Rave reviews were garnered all around for the crowds and support provided to both teams. The third-ranked Chinese team really made it competitive for our top-ranked U.S. team and even took the second evening's match! (The U.S. team won two matches in California, so the series was U.S. 3-China 1). A good time was had by all, and I am sure that promoter Mindspring-Sports will be sure to consider our Hawaii venue again for a third consecutive year.

President **Eddie Flores**' Narcissus Queen Trade and Goodwill Tour was a huge success, which he has detailed in his President's report. I'll just add that the 33 members of the tour who went on to Zhongshan continued to have a fabulous experience,

first visiting **Sun Yatsen's** family home and museum, being hosted by the Vice Mayor of Zhongshan, and then visiting family villages, including Narcissus Queen **Erica Wong's** family villages of Tanzhou and Namlong,



complete with welcome celebrations and dinners. Princesses **Nicole Chong** and **Christina Yee** also got to experience their family villages in China and met with relatives in Macao and Hong Kong.

Next up is the Chengdu International Youth Music Festival from July 22 to 28. Former 2008 Narcissus Princess **Leilani Soon** will produce another spectacular event as she did last year, this time with the assistance of 2010 Narcissus Princess **Karen Chang**, associate member **Crystal Lin**, member **Chris Loo**, and her dance mate, **Nicole Luna**. We will be accompanied by Professor **Denise Konan**, dean of the UH School of Social Sciences as well as **Nicole Velasco**, executive director of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, who will explore opportunities for UH Manoa and the City and County, respectively. As always, we are seeking monetary donations to help fund Lani's program; she has given so readily of her time and effort over the years.

Non-Chinese Chamber Events

On Friday, July 10, Finance Factors will hold its 20th annual charity breakfast at Finance Factors Center, 1164 Bishop Street, from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. On the menu (or plate) are Kukui Portuguese sausage, eggs (presumably scrambled), and rice. The breakfast donation is \$6.00, and all proceeds this year and next will go to Kupu's Capital Campaign to develop a Green Job Training Center in Kakaako. Since this charity event began two decades ago, Finance Factors has donated more than \$120,000 to over a dozen charities. Then on Saturday, July 11, local foodies can purchase a variety of Korean food from vendors at the 14th annual Korean Festival, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ala Moana Beach Park. There will also be Korean cooking demonstrations and a *kim chee*-eating contest as well as Korean dance, music, and art on display. Organizers of the Festival are our friends at the Korean Chamber of Commerce, who will be using proceeds for projects such as annual college student scholarships. According to the July 8 *Star-Advertiser*, call 522-2000 for more information on the Finance Factors charity breakfast and visit koreanfestivalhi.com for more on the Korean festival. (HECO's July 8 "The Electric Kitchen" in the *Star-Advertiser* features three Korean recipes for you to try).

Hawaii's Best 2015

The latest listing of Hawaii's Best was included as a tabloid-type insert in the June 21 issue of the *Star-Advertiser*. A number of Chamber member owned or operated food operations were included in the "Food & Dining" category: first place in Fast Food was McDonald's of Hawaii (**Victor Lim**, owner of 6 of the 76 locations in Hawaii); first place in Italian Food was Assaggio (**Thomas Ky** with 6 locations); first place in Plate Lunch was L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (**Eddie Flores, Jr. Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam** with multiple locations in Hawaii, the continental United States, and in Asia); second place in Chinese Food was Panda Express (**John Zhang**, Regional Director) and third place was Little Village Noodle House (the late **Nancy Chan**); and second place in *manapua* was Royal Kitchen (the late **Kwock Nam Lau**). Congratulations to each of the winners. (Late-breaking news: According to the July 6 *Star-Advertiser*, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue will be operating the food concession stands at Ala Moana Park. First to open will be the Diamond Head stand near Magic Island, and after renovations, the stand near the Ewa end of the park will open).

NEW MEMBERS

At its June 30 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the membership applications of **Susanne DeVore**, program coordinator for the Chinese Language Flagship Education, UH Manoa (recommended by **Gerald Chang**); **Andy Huang**, area manager, Advantage Rent A Car (recommended by **William Chang**); **Madeline Spring**, a professor with the East Asian Language and Literature Department, UH Manoa (recommended by **Gerald Chang**); **Yvette Tu**, a relationship banker at Central Pacific Bank (recommended by **Michele Choy**); **Jamie Wong**, branch manager for Central Pacific Bank Kapahulu (recommended by **Michele Choy**); and an associate membership application from **Daniel Yu**, a student at the UH Manoa Shidler School of Business (recommended by **Jan Leu**).

Previously, at its April 28 meeting, the board approved the membership applications of **Sara Coes**, attorney, Damon Key Leong Kupchak Haster (recommended by **Gerald Chang**); **Gary Lee**, massage therapist, Mandara Spa (recommended by **Gifford Chang**); and **Brandon Reid**, owner, Manifest Hawaii (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow**). Then at its May 26 meeting, the board approved the membership applications of **Stanley Ching**, principal broker, 2020 International Real Estate (recommended by **Tina Au**); **Elisia Flores**, chief financial officer, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**); **Paul Fong**, attorney, Paul K. P. Fong, attorney-at-law (recommended by **Winnie Chan**); **Albert Mak**, personal banker, HomeStreet Bank (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow**); **Erica Miyashiro**, assistant sales manager, HomeStreet Bank (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow**); and **Judith Sykes**, Realtor® and president, Sykes & Sykes Properties, Inc. (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**).



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At the annual LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.) leadership awards gala at the Los Angeles Omni Hotel on July 16, Chamber president **Eddie Flores, Jr.** will receive an award. While there have been four previous awardees from Hawaii (Sen. **Daniel K. Inouye**, Rep. **Patsy T. Mink** (posthumous), **Richard Paglinawan**, and Major General **Antonio Taguba**), Eddie is the first one of Chinese ancestry. (For those of you who remember the Iraq fiasco, “Abu Ghraib” gave a black eye to U.S. forces, and Tony Taguba, a West Point graduate and the second Filipino-American to be promoted to general officer, was the investigating officer). Eddie (in shades and an “Eat Aloha” L & L t-shirt) was photographed with daughter **Elisia** and members of the L & L team at the Hawaii’s Best reception at the Pacific Club and with wife **Elaine** at the Filipino Entrepreneur of the Year Awards banquet at the Hawaii Prince Hotel in the July 1 issue of *Midweek*.

Former Chamber president and now retired “banker lady” **Lily Yao** was photographed at the **Francis I’i Brown** golf tournament, appearing quite well in a photo in the June 24 *Midweek*. Presumably she played in the tournament. Lily was last mentioned in *The Lantern* several years ago after hitting a hole-in-one. Then in the July 8 *Midweek*, Realtor® and Locations partner **Brandon Lau** was photographed on July 3 outside the company’s main office in Kapahulu, handing out free Sidestreet Inn fried rice as thanks for Locations being voted Hawaii’s Best Real Estate Firm for the fifth consecutive year.

Neighborhood Board Members

Following elections earlier this year, members of 36 Neighborhood Boards were installed on Saturday, June 27. Chamber members serving on their Neighborhood Board include: **Melvin Yap** (NB 2, Kuliouou-Kalani Iki), **Stanford Yuen** (NB 13, Downtown), **Wesley Fong** (NB 14, Liliha/Puunui/Alewa/Kamehameha Heights), and **Cy Feng** (NB 15, Kalihi/Palama). Congratulations and thanks to each of you for serving multiple terms over the years.

Chamber Associate Members First Seminar

The Associate Members of the Chinese Chamber had their first seminar on July 9. The Seminar Series features speakers that will help to educate the Associate members on their future. Held at the New York Life Conference Room, the seminar was well attended by 16 Associate and 2 non-Associate members. Roger Higa, agent of New York Life gave insight into the world of planning their future and touched upon several topics to put a bug into their ears. The "Creating a Blueprint for Financial Success Workshop" was a success. Roger who is a member of the Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Hawaii Chambers of Commerce sponsored the seminar beginning with a delicious dinner, giving his presentation, then having a question and answer period ending with Gift Card prizes based on answers given by the Associates on the topics covered. Three more Seminar Series are already scheduled and the members are looking forward to them. (Those attending: Simeng Qu, Chi Jow, Megan Muramatsu, Eula Chu, Ivy Yeung, Deborah Ing, Jessica Chen, Torin, Brittany Lee, Carly Young, Nicole Chong, Katherine Pang, Taj'a Wong, Roger Higa, Emily Moore, Rod, Stephanie Chan, Teresa Chi and Selena Chou.)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 4 Sat **Independence Day**
- July 21 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
- July 25 Sat **Hawaii Dragon Boat Festival**
Ala Moana Beach Park
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- July 28 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
- July 30 Thu **Community Preparedness Event**
Chamber Office – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 25 Fri **Moon Festival Celebration**
Chinatown Cultural Plaza
5:00 to 10:00 p.m.
- Sep 26 Sat **Moon Festival Celebration**
Chinatown Cultural Plaza
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



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