

LANTERN

January, 2016



The 67th annual Narcissus Pageant was held at the Hawaii Theatre on Saturday, January 9.

(Photo courtesy of Dennis Hwang)

Coronation Ball

The elegant 67th annual Coronation Ball was held on Saturday, January 30, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. No-host cocktails began at 5:15 p.m. and dinner and the program started at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the coronation ceremony for 67th Narcissus Queen **Ashley Fu** (with Gov. **David Ige** doing the honors), there was after-dinner entertainment. First up was **Jay Lai Yi-chieh**, a Taiwanese *guzheng* artist. Following her in performing was **Hong Wang**, an accomplished acrobat and performing artist. There was also the post-coronation waltz with the 2016 Narcissus Queen and Court partnered with the Dance Magic Ballroom Dancers, followed by dancing until midnight. The cost was \$85.00 per person or \$850.00 per table of ten; "wine tables" with one bottle of red wine and one bottle of white wine were available for an additional \$100.00.

Chinatown Open House/ Choy Cheng

Colorful lions from a number of Chinese clubs and associations will gather at the Chinese Chamber building on King Street at around 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5, for the traditional *choy cheng* ceremony, with *li see* given in a blessing of the lions. Narcissus Queen **Ashley Fu** and her Court, escorted by Chamber officers, will then walk around Chinatown, visiting many of the restaurants, shops, and Chinese clubs and associations, wishing them *Kung Hee Fat Choy/Xin Nian Kuai Le*.

Chinatown New Year Celebration

The Chinatown New Year Celebration will take place at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza on Friday, February 5, from 5:00-10:00 p.m., and Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00. There will be vendors at the Cultural Plaza selling a variety of food and drink, different t-shirt designs for the Year of the Monkey, Chinese calligraphy, and other items. There may also be narcissus plants for sale; many consider blooming narcissus flowers as the sign of good luck.

The Year of the Monkey

Monday, February 8, will mark the start of the Year of the Monkey. As most Confucian Asian societies know, the Chinese "zodiac" has a twelve-year cycle, with a different animal, real or mythical, to represent each year. It is believed that the attributes, good or bad, of the animal are reflected in the personality and future of people born in a given year. Less well known is a five-year cycle with different elements: wood, fire, earth, metal, and water. The animals and elements are combined each year, with each animal combined with a different element, so that a "full cycle" is 60-years long. This year, the element is fire, so this is the Year of a Fire Monkey, 2004 was the Year of a Wood Monkey, and 2028 will be the Year of the Earth Monkey.

夏威夷中華總商會

THE

CHINESE

CHAMBER OF

COMMERCE

OF HAWAII



President
Eddie Flores, Jr.

December was a very busy month. I visited the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles on December 6 to discuss future cooperation with the People's Republic of China (PRC) in culture and business. The meeting was very productive. Deputy Consul General **Wang Lei** agrees that the Chinese Chamber would be involved in more cultural and economic activities in the future.

Three vessels of the People's Republic of China's Navy (PLA-N) arrived on December 13, making a port call to Pearl Harbor. Members of the Chinese Chamber, along with those from several Chinese societies, enthusiastically welcomed the vessels. We were given a tour of one of the vessels and later treated to lunch with the crew members. I would like to thank **Jan Leu** and **Wen Chung Lin** for helping with the English translation and **Wesley Fong** for representing the Chinese Chamber at the dinner aboard the flagship *Ji-Nan*.

Our Chinese Chamber Christmas party was held on December 14 at the Pearl Country Club. The traffic was a little challenging, but a crowd of over 90 members and guests arrived with great excitement. I would like to thank all those who helped: **Robert Yu** with the facility, **Michele Choy** with a great program,

Linda Louie with the Christmas decorations, **John Zhang** of Panda Express with gifts, and **Thanh Quoc Lam** of Ba-le Sandwich Shop and Bakery with the desserts. We had a great time with games and lots of food.

We had our last board of directors meeting for 2015 on December 22. I passed out door prizes for the first ten directors who arrived early. We were short of one director for the quorum and deferred the approval of the minutes and financial statements as well as new members until January's meeting.

I hosted a luncheon on December 17 for the Korean, Filipino, and Japanese Chambers of Commerce. The meeting was very fruitful. All four chambers agreed in principle to cooperate more in the future and to share our event calendars. We should be participating in more activities and networking with other chambers. This will be a tremendous benefit for our members.

The Chinese Chamber has many events scheduled for January. We start with the Narcissus Queen Pageant at the Hawaii Theatre on Saturday, January 9. Michele has a great program planned for the eleven lovely contestants. The Coronation Ball will be held at Hilton Hawaiian Village on Saturday, January 30. Please support both events. To make reservations or for more information, you can contact Lucia at 533-3181.

The Narcissus Queen Trade and Goodwill Tour will be in June with visits to Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, and Shanghai. **Mona Choy-Beddo**, our president-elect, will be leading the group. This will be a very exciting and interesting trip. For information, please contact Lucia at the Chinese Chamber office at 533-3181 or Skyway Travel at 526-1347.

I have also planned a business trip to Manila, departing on Tuesday, February 16, to study real estate in Manila. The cost is \$1,398.00. It includes airfare, transportation, breakfast, 5 days and 4 nights hotel, and a city tour. The Filipino Chamber of Commerce plans to join my tour as part of its 2016 trade mission to the Philippines. If you are interested, please contact me at 951-9888 or **Peggy Luu** at Skyway Travel at 526-1347.

Finally, our next networking event will be on Sunday, January 24, at the Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. This will be our first "A Taste of Chinese New Year" event. We will feature food that we enjoy during Chinese New Year. Please join us and enjoy the delicious food at Jade Dynasty. The cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. You can buy a table of ten for \$225. To make reservations or for more information, please contact Lucia at 533-3181.

Have a Wonderful and Prosperous 2016.

Aloha, Eddie





Photo courtesy of Dennis Hwang

Narcissus Pageant

The 67th annual Narcissus Pageant was held at the Hawaii Theatre on Saturday, January 9. The evening began at 8:00 p.m., with the opening number, choreographed by **Leilani Soon**. After welcoming remarks by Chamber President **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and Chamber president-elect **Mona Choy-Beddow**, the talent portion began, followed without an intermission by the gown phase and entertainment by **Chunlai Li**, “China’s Top Oriental Golden Clown, who also demonstrated both acrobatic and magician skills. Then came the speech phase where the eleven lovely contestants had a chance to show some of what they learned about their Chinese heritage. Following the line-up of the contestants and an opportunity for family and friends to at last take flash photographs, the 2015 Narcissus Court was introduced and Narcissus Queen **Erica Wong** gave her farewell speech.

Then five special award winners were made: the Miss Photogenic award went to **Ashley Fu**; the Social Media award went to **Tiffany Ching**; the Miss Popularity award (based on souvenir book and pageant ticket sales) went to Ashley Fu; Miss Congeniality was Tiffany Ching; and Miss Talent was Ashley Fu, who performed a martial arts sword dance, “Mulan Dancing with the Phoenix.” Finally, the moment that everyone was waiting for, the announcement of the 2016 Narcissus Court: **Lena Zheng**, fourth princess; **Jessica Cheng**, third princess; **Jill Lau Fukumoto**, second princess; **Cassandra Chang**, first princess; and **Ashley Fu**, Narcissus Queen. Congratulations to all eleven contestants for your months of hard work, and your willingness to learn more about yourselves and your Chinese heritage.

Thanks to Mistress of Ceremonies (NOT Ceremony) and 1986 Narcissus Queen **Lisa Ontai** for keeping the program moving. Special thanks also to the “Title Platinum Sponsors”: L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (Eddie Flores, Jr.) and the Beatrice M. H. Young Foundation (**Douglas Ho**) as well as the many Platinum, Gold, and Silver Sponsors, and the Supporters.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 5	Fri	New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza – 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Feb 5	Fri	Chinatown Open House (Choy Cheng) Chinatown District – 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Feb 6	Sat	New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Feb 8	Mon	Chinese New Year Day
Feb 10	Wed	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Feb 15	Mon	President’s Day
Feb 16	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Mar 4	Fri	Chamber General Election Day Chamber Office – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MEMBER NEWS

In the December 23 *Midweek Pa’ina*, Dr. **Vernon Jim** (and wife **Yun Soong**), **Victor Lim**, **Mona Choy-Beddow**, 2015 Narcissus Queen **Erica Wong**, First Princess **Nicole Chong**, and Second Narcissus Princess **Christina Yee** were attending the United Chinese Society banquet.

Following the January 9 Narcissus Pageant, **John Berger**’s photo of mistress of ceremonies **Lisa Ontai**, pageant title sponsor **Douglas Ho**, newly selected 67th Narcissus Queen **Ashley Fu**, and Chamber president **Eddie Flores, Jr.** appeared in the January 12 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*.

New Members

At its January 26 meeting, the Chamber board approved the membership applications for **Raymong Kang**, a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties (recommended by **Angeline Shiroma**); **Jonathan Lee**, president of Kukui Meat & Foods (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**);

Lawrence Liang, a revenue analyst with The Queen’s Health Systems (recommended by **Megan Chun**); **Cherie Martyn**, property manager with Jones Lang Lasalle (recommended by **Gerald Chang**); and **Darlene Nakayama**, chief operating officer, Palolo Chinese Home (recommended by **Eddie Flores, Jr.**)



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GOOD LUCK
IN THE YEAR
OF THE MONKEY

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