



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN

NEWSLETTER

May, 2020

## OFFICERS 2019-2020

President

**Michele C. Choy**

President-Elect

**Elvira Lo**

1st Vice President

**Michael C.K. Yee**

2nd Vice President

**Sarah Moy**

3rd Vice President

**Jonathan Cook**

English Secretary

**Yu Shing Ting**

Chinese Secretary

**Jack Zhang**

Treasurer

**Sherman G.B. Wong**

Assistant Treasurer

**Michael P.H.F. Young**

Imm. Past President

**Joseph K.M. Hu**

Executive Vice President

**Wen Chung Lin**

## 2020 Census Reminder

Due to the coronavirus crisis in the U.S., the 2020 census effort was paused. The original deadline for finishing the census collection was the end of July, but that has been extended to the end of October. If you have not yet submitted your household information (answering as of the April 1 census “reference date”), you can do so online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). This is the fastest, easiest way for you to answer the census questions, and rest assured that under applicable federal law, you (and any information that you provide) will remain anonymous. (Alternatively, you can respond by phone at (844) 330-2020 or by mailing in the lengthier paper census questionnaire that you may have received by mail if you hadn’t answered online).



## Congressional Gold Medal Reyn’s Shirts

In conjunction with the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) for Hawaii Chinese-American veterans of World War II, there is a limited-edition *aloha* shirt from Reyn Spooner. The shirts come in blue or red prints in XS, S, M, L, XL, and XXL. There is a Fourth of July “early bird” special of \$88.00, plus shipping and handling. Thereafter, the price goes up to \$108.00, plus shipping and handling.

Chamber members who buy Reyn’s shirts know that the regular retail price can be \$125.00 and up. For Chamber members wanting one of the shirts, you can arrange to pick it up at the Chamber and not have to pay for shipping and handling. Shirts can be ordered in advance for pickup by calling the Chamber at 533-3181. Payment can be by cash or a check payable to the “Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation.”

An update on the CGM is provided in **William Cole’s** front-page article in the May 25 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, “Memorial Day 2020: Honor Delayed.” The source for much of the article is former Hawaii adjutant general, Major General (Ret.) **Robert Lee**, and the photo

includes contemporary photos of **Hiram Fong** and **Wah Kau Kong** above the fold and **Dai Ho Chun**, **Gordon Paiea Chung-Hoon**, **Daniel Akaka**, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient **Francis Brown Wai** as well as the obverse (front) of the medal. According to the article, now cancelled events included an April 29 ceremony in Emancipation Hall in Washington and a May 17 ceremony at the Hilton Hawaiian Village while rescheduling of the events in DC and locally are pending, due to the COVID-19 crisis.





*President*  
Michele C. Choy

Greetings Chamber Members!

We are now at the end of May and my term ends May 31. It has been my honor to serve the Chamber, an institution I've been involved with for over 40 years. It's been a great year when I started my presidency and took office on June 1, 2019. Soon after, I left on the Narcissus Goodwill Tour. Upon our return, duty called, so I quickly got a bus pass and started catching TheBUS to the Chamber office every day for 3 weeks. (It actually was a pleasant adventure and so convenient.)

I immediately started working with **Elvira Lo** in the planning of the Narcissus Festival. It was a successful 71st annual Narcissus Festival upon completion of the Narcissus Pageant, *Choy Cheng* night, Chinese New Year Celebration, and the Coronation Ball. Luckily, all the events were completed when news of the COVID-19 broke out. Shortly after, many spring banquets and events from other organizations started cancelling, beginning in mid-March. It's unfortunate because the 2020 Narcissus Court was not able to enjoy the banquets and parades and missed out on meeting the many wonderful people from the different societies and organizations.

The year was filled with monthly Executive Committee and monthly Board of Director meetings. Sponsored brown bag workshops and general membership meetings were organized and Quad Chamber gatherings were held to exchange ideas and to network.

I'd like to take the time in this *Lantern* to express my sincere thanks

to those who have assisted in helping to make my job as President easier. A big thanks to the Chamber Executive Committee of **Elvira Lo, Michael Yee, Sarah Moy, Jonathan Cook, Yu Shing Ting, Jack Zhang, Sherman Wong, Michael Young, and Joseph Hu** for supporting me throughout the year. They have been an awesome group to work alongside. Each officer possessed special qualities, which enabled them to help in the success of the Chamber's events.

Special thanks to the 2019 Narcissus Court of **Tiana Wong, Jennifer Wong, Melody Lai, Deanna Choy, and Caroline Kodama** and the 2020 Narcissus Court of **Jamie Lee, Sabrina Young, Amanda Kurose, Melody Kaohu, and Vanessa Wong** for representing the Chamber and the State of Hawaii so well. The 2020 Court still has seven months to enjoy whatever comes their way. This will be a year that will never be forgotten by the 2020 Court.

*Mahalo* to Narcissus souvenir book editor, **Vernon Ching**, for putting the souvenir book together, which is always a big project each year; to long-time *Lantern* editor, **Gerald Chang**, for writing the monthly *Lantern* articles each month; and to graphic designer, **Angela Wu-Ki**, for putting the Narcissus souvenir book and *Lantern* together as well as the other extra projects asked of her.

Thank you for the legal counsel of **Jeff Lau** and **Na Lan** for your legal advice when needed. And to **Gerald Chang**, who in the last month came through on last minute requests to help the Chamber in writing important documents.

A special thanks to **Peggy Luu** of Skyway Express for working so hard to put the fabulous 2019 70th Narcissus Goodwill Tour together.

*Mahalo* to **Ashley Fu** and **Jill Fukumoto** who have been a joy to work with. They are two young, energetic ladies who worked so hard as leaders of the Young Professionals, along with their YP Board to promote activities to keep the young professionals engaged.

I'd also like to say *beaucoup* thanks to Chamber escorts **Richard Chow, Galen Lee, Brian Aiona, Scott Lee, Stuart Aldrich, Jason Nakata, Michael Chang, Ray Seid, and Lance Wong**, who for years have helped to provide transportation services to keep the Narcissus contestants safe when attending classes and public activities.

To all the sponsors, donors, committee chairs, and volunteers of the Narcissus Festival and other Chamber events throughout the year, many, many thanks for your generosity and valuable time. You are all very much appreciated.

Thank you to all of our Chamber directors and members for your support of the Chamber's mission and its events. We hope to resume soon with our regular Chamber business while staying safe.

A great big *mahalo* to the Chamber staff, Wen and Tina for holding down the fort even during the COVID19. Both are invaluable to the Chamber. Tina jumped into the fire quickly and transitioned well under the supervision of Wen, especially during these COVID times. They have been so helpful, especially during these times in the translation of important forms for the City to help the Chinese community. Much thanks for being there for me at all times and for getting back quickly to me with answers.

And finally, to the Past Presidents, thank you for the vote of confidence you placed in me during your term as president. It was thru my continued involvement with the Chamber while serving in different capacities that led me to move up the ranks.

I ask that you continue to support the incoming officers for 2019-2020. In the meantime, continue to practice social distancing and self-quarantine when you can and stay safe and healthy. I wish you all the best in the remaining months of the Year of the Rat.



Tina Ge



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ON ITS 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
NARCISSUS FESTIVAL



Hawaii Beauty  
& Wellness Center  
and Angela Pratt, M.D.







It is my distinct honor to extend greetings to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce 71st Narcissus Festival celebration.

Mahalo to all your dedication and accomplishments.

Elvira Lo  
President Elect

*Thank you and  
Congratulations!*



*Samarkand, Uzbekistan*



*Antartica*



*Machu Picchu, Peru*



*Myanmar*



*Taktsang monastery Paro, Bhutan*



*Potala Palace lhasa, Tibet*



*Ukraine*



## Chamber Award Recipients

by Michele Choy

Congratulations to this year's annual Chamber award recipients: Young Professional Volunteer – **Ashley Fu Holbrook**; Outstanding Chamber Volunteer – **Jill Fukumoto**; Outstanding Business Person/Company – **Mona Choy**; and Lifetime Achievement – **Alvin Wong**. The awards will be presented at the Chamber installation dinner, whenever clearance is given for large groups are cleared to meet and eat.



Ashley Fu



Jill Fukumoto



Mona Choy



Alvin Wong

## Chamber Foundation-Foodbank Challenge

by Michele Choy

The Chinese Chamber Foundation is launching a fund-raising challenge to benefit the Hawaii Foodbank. Our campaign will help to serve their vital mission to help feed Hawaii's hungry as \$0.93 of every \$1.00 donation goes to the purchase of food and as little as \$10.00 feeds 25 people.

This campaign will run from now until **Friday, June 12**. As Chamber Foundation president, I will be matching up to \$5,000.00 and I challenge you to donate whatever you can. (\$5,000.00 can feed up to 12,500 people). We have the opportunity to make an incredible impact! Although the Chinese Chamber Foundation-Hawaii Foodbank Virtual Food Drive Web page is currently not up to date, we are at \$902.56 which brings us to \$1805.12 feeding 4,500 of Hawaii's hungry. This is a worthwhile cause and donation of even \$10.00 will feed 25 people. Please go to: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/VFD/ChineseChamberFoundation>.

## Chinese Chamber Office Hours Update

Starting **Monday, May 26**, the Chamber will be back to its regular operating hours of Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Chamber doors will remain locked, but you can make an appointment by calling the Chamber at 533-3181.

## Chamber Executive Committee

by Elvira Lo

I'd like to congratulate all the 2020-2021 executive committee members: President-Elect **Russell Lau**, First Vice President **Jonathan Cook**, Second Vice President **Gabriel Lee**, Third Vice President **Michael Young**, English Secretary **Yushing Ting**, Chinese Secretary **Jack Zhang** Treasurer **Sherman Wong**, Assistant Treasurer **Sarah Moy**, and immediate Past President **Michele Choy**. Each of them will be signing the Acceptance of Office at the Chamber office by Friday, May 29. Executive vice president **Wen Chung Lin** will witness the signatures. I look forward to working with all of you over the next year.

Together, once the coronavirus crisis eases, we look forward to a future date to hold an official swearing-in ceremony and affirming our acceptance of our respective offices. In the meantime, we will serve you as best we can in these trying times.

## Small Business Relief and Recovery Fund

by Michele Choy

The Chinese Chamber recently helped to translate the City and County of Honolulu Small Business Relief and Recovery Fund. Having it translated in Chinese we are able to help the Chinese Community easily apply on-line without being so frustrated. As soon as the Chamber receives a call for help for translation, Tina and Wen quickly get on it. If you go to [www.oneoahu.org](http://www.oneoahu.org) you'll see the Chinese translation as well as the Japanese.

Hawaii total Self-Response Rate is 54.7%. 320,000 households have responded and total Internet Response Rate is 45.1%.

Ranking by County (Hawaii) 5/23/2020		
1	Honolulu	62.5%
2	Maui	45.0%
3	Kauai	43.1%
4	Hawaii	34.1%
5	Kalawao	5.0%







**THE CENTRAL**  
ALA MOANA





# KONA CENTER

P.H. HAWAII CORP.

P.H. HAWAII CORPORATION  
is proud to support the Narcissus Festival.



## SHOPPING/RESTAURANTS

808 Tattoo  
Burger King  
Chaego LLC  
Farmers Market Hawaii

Fitted  
H&R Block  
Manichi Ramen  
Sweet Creams

Taste Tea  
The Barbers  
Yung Yee Kee Dim Sum

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## (Postponed or Cancelled)

May 21 • Thu

### 109th Chinese Chamber Installation

#### Banquet – Postponed, TBA

Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.

May 27 • Wed

#### Executive Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Jun 23 • Tue

#### Executive Board Meeting – Postponed, TBA

Chamber's Office – 6:00 p.m.

Jun 30 • Tue

#### Board of Directors Meeting

– Postponed, TBA

Maple Garden Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

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## CHAMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING COVID-19

During these trying times the Chinese Chamber was able to get many items accomplished Pre-Covid 19 and current even while Wen and Tina worked part-time from home due to social distancing which was appreciated. They were kept productive and many thanks to those who had a hand in these.

- received an \$8000 grant in January from US Census for helping to promote the 2020 Census (pre-Covid)
- Sent PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to Zhangzhou (Pre-Covid)
- Received PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Loan
- Received (EIDL) Economic Injury Disaster Loan
- Received deferment of mortgage payment for 3 months
- Transitioned Wen Chung & Tina to work from home
- Put a call out for Chinese speaking volunteer translators for the State Unemployment Department
- Translated Unemployment Application forms in Chinese
- Translated parts of the 2020 Census forms in Chinese
- Translated PPP Loan Application Form and Loan Check List in Chinese
- Attended training session for PPP Loans to help Chinese & other ethnic minorities
- Helped to obtain 6,000 surgical masks and 300 N95 masks for Palolo Chinese Home
- Sent weekly email informational updates to the Membership
- Offered Chamber Membership masks for sale when it was in dire need
- Donated limited amount of masks, gloves and a thermometer to Chinatown Police substation
- Donated limited amount of masks and gloves to River of Life Mission
- Election ballots sent out to Board of Directors for voting
- Setup Chinese Chamber Foundation and Foodbank Challenge
- Translated City & County of Honolulu Small Business Relief and Recovery Fund
- Circulated letter along with Chinese businesses and community opposing proposal to establish a “homeless triage and comfort station” at 65 North Beretania Street



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