



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN  
NEWSLETTER

May, 2021

## OFFICERS 2020-2021

*President*

**Elvira Lo**

*President-Elect*

**Russell J. Lau**

*1st Vice President*

**Jonathan Cook**

*2nd Vice President*

**Gabriel Lee**

*3rd Vice President*

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

*English Secretary*

**Yu Shing Ting**

*Chinese Secretary*

**Jack Zhang**

*Treasurer*

**Sherman G.B. Wong**

*Assistant Treasurer*

**Sarah Moy**

*Imm. Past President*

**Michele C. Choy**

*Executive Vice President*

**Wen Chung Lin**



### New executive officers 2021-2022

(L-R): *Treasurer Sherman Wong, Chinese Secretary Cy Feng, Third Vice President Michael Young, Second Vice President Michelle Wong, President Russell Lau, President-Elect Jonathan Cook, First Vice President Angeline Shiroma, English Secretary Yu Shing Ting, and Immediate Past President Elvira Lo.*

## Chinese Chamber Annual Awards

*by Elvira Lo*

Every year, the Chinese Chamber invites its members and directors to nominate awardees who have contributed and supported Chamber events in previous years, then the award nomination committee reviews and confirms the award recipients in May. I want to congratulate this year's recipients: Outstanding Chamber Volunteer – **Michael Yee**; Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer – **Raymond Seid**; Outstanding Business Person – **Peter Shi**; Lifetime Achievement Award – **Reuben Wong**. Each individual has been dedicated and supporting the Chamber for many years, generously donating their time, service, and knowledge. The awards will be presented at the upcoming Chamber Installation dinner. Due to the pandemic and uncertainty as to when the City will allow large group gatherings, this year's Installation dinner will likely be combined with the holiday celebration on Thursday, December 2. More information to follow.



*Incoming and outgoing presidents*



President  
Elvira Lo

Aloha Chamber members, directors and friends:

I am really honored to have served as your president from June 1 last year until May 31, 2021. I recall that last year in June, we were already locked down due to COVID-19, which started in Mid March, spreading globally and causing the world to shut down. This lock down extended for more than a year and still has not been fully lifted in Hawaii. With vaccines widely distributed since January, we once 70% of the population has been fully vaccinated, we can go back to a normal life style, and Chamber activities – the Narcissus Festival, the Goodwill Tour, and the golf tournament will all be resumed. Nevertheless, the Chamber still had a busy and productive year during the lock down.

Last year, We started with in-person board of directors meeting, practicing 6-foot social distancing, and Governor **David Ige** spoke virtually in August at the Foreign Trade Zone conference room for our board meeting; so as the Quad chamber virtual workshop and celebration. From September on, all board meetings were conducted through Google Meet virtual meetings. The only in-person event we had was the drive-by Christmas party in December. We had over 100 attendees, and the committee worked really hard.

We have multiple small and large webinar presentations throughout the year, including City Prosecuting Attorney **Steven Alm** on “What Does the City Want to Do about Chinatown?” In March, we hosted a

one-hour webinar, “What to Expect from Hawaii Commercial Real Estate in the Year of Ox,” presented by Cushman & Wakefield ChaneyBrooks Honolulu Office. Thank you to **Betty Brow**, who organized and moderated the “Market Outlook and Merrill’s Investment Principles for 2021 and Beyond,” an exclusive invitation from Merrill Lynch New York Office in March. Thank you to **Jonathan Cook** and **Michael Young** who helped to put together the venues for the members to attend the webinars.

The Chamber applied to various City & County, SBA, and PPP programs, and luckily, we were able to receive all the grants we applied for, and also got approval on the forgiveness of the grants since all Narcissus Festival and fund-raising events were postponed and cancelled. This was a great help for the Chamber finances. Thank you to the City liaison, Hawaii National Bank, and Executive Vice President **Wen Chung Lin**, who worked diligently with me on these grant applications.

It took from June to March to renovate the Chamber’s two restrooms and hallway. Now we have a modern and brand new ADA-compliant restrooms and hallway. Thank you to the Michael Young, **Michael Yee**, Lina, and all those who helped to manage, coordinate, and oversee the progress of the project.

Every year, Chamber President traditionally leads a Narcissus Goodwill Tour, and this is the president’s obligation to the Queen and the court. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the GWT had to be postponed twice, in June of 2020 and June of 2021. The new projected tour date is February, 2022 after the Chinese New Year on Tuesday, February 1. Skyway Express Travel will package the tour itinerary, **Eddie Flores** will be the tour advisor, and Philippine Airlines is the airline sponsor. We will incorporate visit to several Chinese cities, as well as bring a business component to this tour, along with a flair of gourmet food experience. As soon as we have the airline schedule, we will send out the tour itinerary and details for your consideration. We welcome and invite each and every Chamber member, their families and friends to join the tour. We promise that this tour will be a brand new, fun, thrilling, and exciting trip.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and grateful thank you to all the 2020-2021 officers, President-Elect **Russell Lau**, First VP Jonathan Cook, Second VP **Gabriel Lee**, Third VP Michael Young, English Secretary **Yushing Ting**, Chinese Secretary **Jack Zhang**, Treasurer **Sherman Wong**, Assistant Treasurer **Sarah Moy**, immediate Past President **Michele Choy**, Advisors **Eddie Flores** and **Gifford Chang**, Legal counsel **Reuben Wong** and **Delwyn Wong** for your dedication, support, and hard work during this very difficult once in a 100 year pandemic lock down time. I owe you an installation and outgoing dinner, gift, and thank you message, and your copy of your Oath of Office Certificate. Hopefully, we can do a make-up celebration at the installation dinner set on Thursday, December 2.

As we are already in the new Chamber year starting June 1, my most sincere and profound congratulation to the new Executive Officers President Russell Lau, President Elect Jonathan Cook, First VP **Angie Shiroma**, Second VP **Michelle Wong**, Third VP Michael Young, English Secretary Yushing Ting, and Chinese Secretary **Cy Feng**. Under the leadership of Russell, Chamber and the executive committee will take on resuming all the Chamber events and the Narcissus Festival, with new ideas and new energy. I am confident that our members and directors will give 100% support to Russell and his administration.

A big *mahalo* to the Chamber staff, Wen and **Tina Ge**, for your unreserved dedication and punctilious engagement to the members and directors regardless of any difficult circumstances. And last, but not least, a big *mahalo* to the Lantern staff whose labors span nearly three decades, Lantern Editor **Gerald Chang** and Graphics Designer **Angela Wu-Ki**.

Wishing you all health and safety, marching on to Tier 4 and Tier 5, eventually back to 100% normal.



Mahalo to Hawaii National Bank's support and help

## COVID-19 Update

We're nearing the midpoint of the calendar year and for much of the country, the economy is beginning to open up. Since the beginning of the new year, vaccinations have ramped up and President Biden's goal of 100 million vaccinations in his first one hundred days in office was going so well that he increased to goal to 200 million and even that goal was beaten. At present, the number stands at 300 million, as of Sunday, June 6, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 41.9% of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated and 51.5% have received at least one shot.

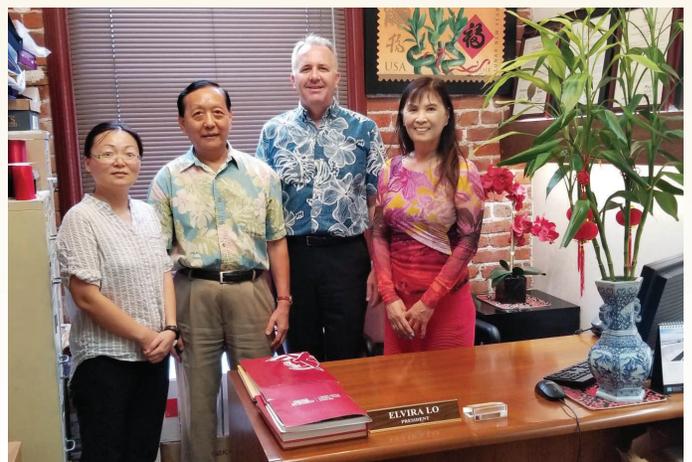
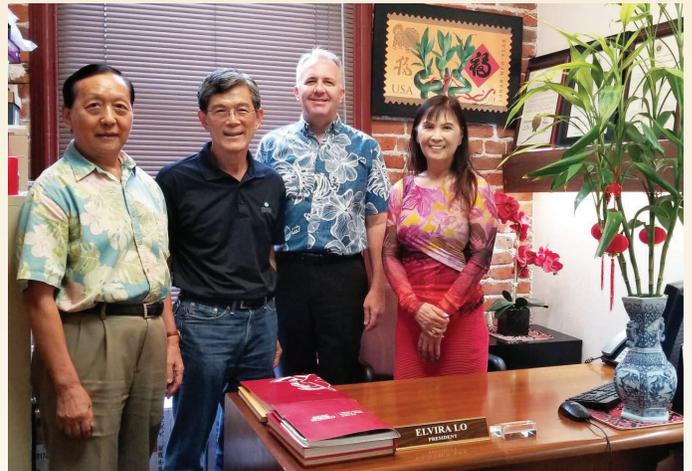
However, vaccinations peaked at 3.3 million a day in mid-April and just over a million doses a day at the present time. Much of the resistance seems to be coming primarily from southern states and a sprinkling of Midwest and Mountain West states, and there is concern that a fall outbreak could be devastating for residents of those states, especially since many of their citizens feel that they have a right to go mask-free. While people have a right to endanger themselves, they don't have a right to infect non-family members in public. And while the CDC announced on May 13 that fully vaccinated people need not wear in most settings, they are still needed in health-care settings, at businesses that mandate them, and on public transportation. (And more recently, in late June, due to the Delta variant spreading around the world, the World Health Organization is urging people, even those fully vaccinated, to once again start using their face masks while Los Angeles county wants people to wear them indoors as well; the CDC disagrees, claiming that those who are "fully vaccinated" are safe, despite the fact that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have a 95% – NOT 100% efficacy).

Meanwhile, here in Hawaii, restrictions have been eased regarding face masks and many businesses are reopening. While the new mayor has moved to Tier 4 at 50% inoculated,

the governor wanted it at 60%. (The governor has announced that all restrictions would be ended once 70% of Hawaii residents have been fully vaccinated, but with the current slow vaccination rate, that level may not be reached until October). Recall that in April, Dr. **Anthony Fauci** said that if 70-85% of Americans were fully vaccinated by late this year, we could return to some semblance of normality by 2022! So don't throw away your N95/CN94 masks just yet. (According to an Axios/Ipsos Coronavirus Index report covering March 2020 to May 24, 2021, respondents who reported never wearing masks were twice as likely to test positive for COVID as those who said they wore masks all the time (23% versus 11%)).

## Economic Update

Over a year ago, in April, more than 22 million Americans lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Since then, millions have been recalled (particularly white-collar office workers) or found other employment. Yet over nine million Americans are still unemployed, most of them women, in early May. (Bureau of



Chamber office virtual meeting group

Labor Statistics numbers have a one month lag). Many of them were working women with children, and with schools closed during the pandemic and now with long waiting lists for surviving childcare centers (some 20,000 may have closed during the pandemic), it's difficult for them to return to work, according to a May 26 *Washington Post* article by **Elliot Haspel**. (Childcare workers are among the many low-wage jobs and there is a massive shortage of people willing to work for minimal pay – the *Post* reports that the national median for child care pay is \$11.65 an hour, with half of them not receiving health care benefits – while most centers – except those serving the affluent – are severely constrained from raising prices in order to raise their workers' pay; a veritable vicious cycle).

Yet there are governors (25 Republican and one Democrat, **John Bel Edwards** of Louisiana) of a majority of states and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that take a superficial look at the numbers of unemployed and the number of jobs available and conclude it's due to low-wage workers collecting unemployment and the \$300.00 a week supplemental checks and staying home. (According to a June 18 Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii press release, in April, there were 53,000 people unemployed and 27,415 job openings). Their remedy: Stop paying the weekly supplemental (as well as the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program payments), even though it's due to end in September; never mind that at the beginning of June, according to the BLS, there were still some 9.3 million Americans still unemployed and at least some of them did not have the necessary training or experience to fill the jobs. (According to June 25 Bloomberg *Businessweek* article, however, at least 9 million unemployed Americans did NOT receive any benefits, due to red tape, fraud prevention efforts, and overwhelmed government agencies like Hawaii's Department of Labor and Industrial Relations). So just add those struggling Americans to the 20 million Americans who don't have enough to eat, according to a June 28 *Washington Post* article by **Heather Long**.

## Computer Security

Ransomware attacks are in the news, most prominently with the Colonial Pipeline, its May 7 shutdown affecting gasoline and jet fuel supplies in the southeast and east coast U.S. as well as its paying a \$4.4 million ransom in cryptocurrencies to the attackers, and then more recently with JBS Foods, the world's largest meat supplier, which paid a reported \$11 million ransom. As Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo** said on June 6, ransomware attacks "are here to stay." In recent days, the FBI (and Department of Justice) has announced that it is elevating such attacks to the same level of concern as terrorist attacks.

According to the DOJ, those attacks are a tiny fraction of what's directed at individuals as well as business and other organizations. For individuals, you should have "unique" or different passwords for each account. A "strong password," according to Microsoft is 12 characters long, with a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Some organizations make multi- or two-factor authentication (2FA) optional. Your list of passwords should be kept in a secure place and there are online password managers to help you keep track. (*PC Magazine* has May 12 articles on password and free password managers online). In addition, your computer security software, such as Norton Security, may also have a password manager included. And in the event that you are attacked, you may want to have previously downloaded and read the June 7 CNN business article by **Rishi Iyengar** on what to do if you're attacked. Finally, it may be wise to keep your data on the cloud or else on a flash drive like SanDisk's one- and two-terabyte Extreme Portables. (One terabyte equals 1,00 gigabytes or about 8 smartphones with 128 GB capacity).

On June 7, the FBI announced that it had clawed back most of the Colonial Pipeline ransom; the \$2.3 million figure shows how volatile payment (or "investments" ) in cryptocurrency can be since it is not backed by gold, silver or "the full faith and credit" of the company. Recall that in May, Bitcoin had a volatile month, losing half its value, according to a June 2 *Forbes* article, which warned that investing in cryptocurrencies or tokens is "highly speculative" and anyone considering putting their money at risk should be prepared to lose their entire investment. Bitcoin is now down 43% from its April high, and on CNN on May 19, Magnetic managing director and cryptocurrency expert **William Quigley** warned that **Elon Musk**, who "recently started dabbling," knows virtually nothing about cryptocurrency and shouldn't be listened to. (The same goes for Musk's deceptive marketing of Tesla "auto-pilot" capabilities when a real human being should be in the driver's seat; even on long distance flights, when at cruising altitude on auto-pilot, the pilot or co-pilot is always seated in the cockpit).

## Anti-Asian attacks

Since March 20, 2020, thanks to blame-shifting by the other guy, repeatedly referring to the "China flu" or "Kung flu," there have been unprovoked attacks on Asians, especially elderly ones, across the country. This despite, in the first couple months, his repeated complimentary remarks on how well **Xi Jinping** was handling the outbreak in China (a dozen times between Jan. 24 and Feb. 27) and that with only a handful of cases in the U.S., everything was under control (Feb. 25). Once U.S.



**Pearl Harbor Boat Tour for Chinese Chamber**  
CCCH was invited by Emeritus Director Stanford Yuen to the Pearl Harbor Boat Tour on May 26. It was a beautiful day, and we have total of 12 members attended. Mahalo to Stanford.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun 22 • Tue

Executive Committee Meeting  
Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.

Jun 29 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting  
Google Virtual Meet – 12:00 p.m.

Jul 20 • Tue

Executive Committee Meeting  
Google Virtual Meet – 4:30 p.m.

Jul 27 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting  
Google Virtual Meet – 12:00 p.m.

Aug 14 • Sat

Chinatown Cleanup  
Chinatown District – 9:00 a.m.

---

The LANTERN a monthly publication of the  
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
8 South King Street • Suite 201  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph: (808) 533-3181 / 533-3886  
Email: [info@chinesechamber.com](mailto:info@chinesechamber.com)

Editor: Gerald Y.Y. Chang  
Graphic Designer: Angela Wu-Ki  
Staff: Wen Chung Lin, Tina Ge

hospitalizations and deaths started to mount, however, finger-pointing became the order of the day and China was now the preferred scapegoat.

What is overlooked is that in July 2019, Dr. **Linda Quick**, a CDC epidemiologist training Chinese field epidemiologists at the China CDC in Beijing, was removed from her post. In addition, other U.S. CDC (as well as National Science Foundation and U.S. Agency for International Development) personnel in China were cut from 47 to 14. Once the first coronavirus cases occurred in November, those U.S. personnel could have given early warning and also utilized their Chinese contacts; instead, the U.S. and other countries were barred from entering China. So the U.S., in cutting funding for those overseas personnel, inadvertently blinded itself, yet another in a series of missteps in dealing with COVID-19. And now, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, the U.S. has passed 600,000 deaths on June 16; the death toll was 400,000 on January 19, 2021.

Since the anti-Chinese Tweets began in March 2020, according to a University of California San Francisco study, there have been 3,795 attacks across the U.S. between that date and February 2021. Surprisingly, however, according to a May 7 *Bloomberg* article, the cosmopolitan city of Vancouver, British Columbia, is “the anti-Asian capital of North America” with more anti-Asian hate crimes reported to Vancouver police than in the top 10 most populous U.S. cities combined.”

What is missed in all the finger-pointing and blame-shifting is that SARS-CoV-2 is an example of zoonosis, diseases (virus or bacteria) like the SARS outbreak in 2002-2004 (which originated in bats before jumping to masked civets) and the MERS outbreak in 2012 that can be transmitted from animals to humans. A global example of zoonotic transmission is HIV-1 and HIV-2, which originated in “bush meat” in Africa where the natives kill and eat monkeys, chimpanzees, and other primates. Similarly, according to reports in the June 11 *Popular Science* and June 7 *Nature.com Scientific Reports*, a survey from May 2017 to November 2019 by a China-Canada-UK team of scientists found that several wet markets in the major transit center of Wuhan were selling wild animals known to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. According to Tulane Virologist **Robert Garry** in a separate March 17 *Nature Medicine* report, “two distinct lineages of the virus appeared at different Wuhan markets,” and his U.S.-UK-Australia team found no evidence that the virus was made in a laboratory or otherwise engineered. And according to a June 14 *NY Times* article, China’s top virologist, sometimes referred to as “the bat woman” in Wuhan, Dr. **Shi Zhengli** said that lab leak reports are baseless. So do you believe the scientists in the field or conspiracy-minded U.S. politicians?



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

8 South King Street • Suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813