



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN

NEWSLETTER

July/August/September 2021

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Free FBI Webinar

by Mike Young

Save the date: Wednesday, September 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This FREE webinar via MS Teams will be hosted by the FBI Honolulu field office and cover "Services the FBI Provides." Highlights are current national and local concerns of Cyber Security and Identity Theft. To sign up or for more information, look for the email invitation or please contact Tina Ge at 533-3181.



THE CHINATOWN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESENTS 13TH ANNUAL INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT HOAKALEI COUNTRY CLUB Thursday, October 14, 2021 | Assigned Tee Times Spend a day at the exclusive Hoakalei Country Club designed by "The Big Easy" himself, Ernie Els REGISTRATION FEE \$250 Includes: Green fees, Bento Lunch & Boxed Dinner, Awards Banquet, Tournament shirt, 1 Lucky number ticket, Free tournament putting contest, Longest drive contest, Closest to the pin contest, Hole in One prize (such as): Use of BMW for a year, \$10K (split 50/50) between winner/CCCF, Scotty Cameron Putter, Apple iPad, 1st Cooler Mahalo to our sponsors: HEMIC, HAWAIIAN AIRWAYS, HONOLULU AIRPORT, HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT, HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT, HONOLULU POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, HONOLULU FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT, HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT, HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT, HONOLULU POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, HONOLULU FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION For more information on registering or sponsorship opportunities, please contact: info@chinesechamber.com | (808) 533-3181 *Subject to change per current covid guidelines.

Chamber Golf Tournament by Mike Young

Aloha All. Hurry and sign up for the Chinese Chamber Foundation Golf Tournament, Thursday, October 14, at the beautiful Hoakalei Country Club. (This new golf course is usually exclusive, members only). Lots of fun games and contests, with prizes valued at over \$5000 to be given out to the participants! The registration fee of \$250.00 per individual or \$1,000.00 per team of four includes a golf shirt and a bento box lunch for each player, and the post-tournament awards banquet. The tournament is already two-thirds filled, so please reserve your place now before we run out of space. Come out and enjoy this great outdoor, social-distanced activity, and opportunity to network with Quad Chamber members. Please see the Chamber website for more information or contact Tina Ge at 533-3181. (In addition, volunteers are needed to help with the tournament between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on October 14; kindly contact Tina by Friday, October 1, if you can pitch in).

The Chinese Chamber Cares about Chinatown

by Wesley Fong

It all started during the board of directors meeting on June 29. I mentioned that there has been criticism that the Chamber has done nothing for Chinatown. Before I knew it, I was the chair of a Chinatown committee. Without more, several board members volunteered to be on this new and unnamed committee. The committee is now called the CCCH Chinatown Outreach Task Force. Its mission is to show the community that the Chamber does care about Chinatown.

The Task Force's first initiative was a major cleanup of Chinatown on Saturday, August 14, chaired by Yu Shing Ting. The project was very well received and supported by the City, Chinatown, community organizations, and major business organizations.

Aside from this initiative, the other concerns of the Task Force are: Homelessness, graffiti, collaboration with other organizations to help Chinatown, education and initiatives that would benefit the Chinatown merchants, security and safety in Chinatown, parking, crime, legislation to help Chinatown, and marketing Chinatown to our residents and tourists.

Besides Wes and Yu Shing, the members of the Task Force are John Chang, Mona Choy, Cy Feng, Patrick Graham, Elvira Lo, Angie Shiroma, and Michael Young. Mahalo for their community spirit and service to the Chamber and our Chinatown community.



President
Russell Lau

As I enter my first year as president, I am fortunate to be surrounded by a dynamic group of leaders. Their enthusiasm and commitment to our mission both inspire me and ground my positive outlook about what lies ahead. Your Executive Committee has been working very hard on numerous current and future events and activities, including the building of new relationships and reviving our past programs since the 2020 COVID shutdown of Chamber activities.

The Saturday, August 14, **Chinatown Cleanup** spearheaded by Event Chair **Yu Shing Ting** invited Chamber members and the general public to help clean up Chinatown. This effort exceeded all expectations, including the number of organizations involved, number of volunteers (in excess of 250), the engagement of the political arena (Mayor of Honolulu Rick Blangiardi and his administrators, including his housing director **Anton Krucky**) and the large police assistance and overall community support contributed to this effort. Media coverage was extensive with at least two television stations having cameras and reporters present. Civil Beat and the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* (see article included in the Lantern) also were in attendance. **Wes Fong** looked great on television. Yu Shing will provide more coverage about this event in her article, but this effort was clearly an enormous success and it brought great attention to the efforts of the Chamber and how it is reaching out into the Chinatown community to provide assistance.

Michael Young has been working very hard on the golf tournament scheduled for Thursday, October 14. His team, including, **Michelle Wong**,

Sharon Zambo-Fan, Gordon Au, Angie Shiroma, Caroline Chan Kodama, Cy Feng, Desiree Koyanagi, Jonathan Cook, Kristin Pereira, Tiffany Chen, and Brenda Cochran, have been holding many meetings trying to coordinate all the logistics and location of the tournament. The tournament will be held at the exclusive Hoakalei Country Club and will include wonderful prizes. The planning is now complete, but **HE NEEDS YOUR HELP** to get the golfers out to our tournament. He is currently two-thirds to his goal but **please help Mike make this a sold-out event!** (From a financial perspective, this tournament is very important to us as it will go a long way in helping keep our Chamber fiscally strong. We need this to be successful.) COVID protocols will be enforced and social distancing for this event will be followed. Of course, we will be mindful of Governor and Mayor COVID orders.

Sarah Moy has also been holding bi-weekly meetings with her team, including **Michele Choy, Elvira Lo**, Michelle Wong, Michael Young, and Jonathan Cook, working very diligently in coordinating and planning the Installation, Awards, and Holiday Party scheduled for Thursday, December 2. With higher levels of inflation in the islands, one of the challenges for this event is trying to keep the costs down. Restaurant expenses, both in terms of raw food costs and labor costs have gone up considerably. In addition, the restaurant could be forced to reduce the capacity of the restaurant as well. The other factor is trying to coordinate two year's worth of officer installations and issuance of awards. Nevertheless, in the very competent hands and steady guidance of Sarah, the details are well on the way being completed. We expect a very successful event.

As for other activities that have been occurring at the Chamber, we met with **Joy van der Voort**, Community Outreach Specialist of the Honolulu Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Honolulu who is interested in developing an outreach program with the local Chinese community to better understand how the FBI can assist with keeping our residents safe. **Darryl Wong, Jeff Lau**, Michele Choy, and Michael Young have been working together to create a program by introducing the FBI to the Chinese community, its public service efforts, highlighting important topics, such as cybersecurity, identity theft, the role of the Critical Incident Response Group, and the FBI Academy. They would love the opportunity to talk to our Chamber, which we hope to do soon at one of our upcoming board meetings.

In addition, **Gina Kim Nakamura** of Central Pacific Bank (CPB) and the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce coordinated a Quad Chamber executive luncheon meeting at CPB on July 23. Present were **Rika Hirata**, Chair of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, **Vanessa Kop** of the Chinese Hawaii Association, and **Rose Galanto** of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce and reporter **Jayna Omaye** of the *Star-Advertiser*. Gina had been asked to support and collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii on its application as a "hub" for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Community Navigator Grant in the state of Hawaii. If approved, this grant will help to support the "smallest of the small" businesses on all islands across the state, particularly businesses that have been historically economically disadvantaged. This collaborative effort will provide necessary resources to reach more locally owned Chinese and ethnic businesses with the technical, financial management, cultural, and community services as we recover to a more resilient business climate.

Getting back to Chinatown efforts, **Eddie Flores** has been a strong advocate for the CCCH to be more involved in Chinatown, so I believe Yu Sing's efforts have significantly moved the needle and enhanced the awareness and reputation of our Chamber with this major clean-up effort. But wait, there is more to come. Wes Fong, leader in our newly formed CCCH Chinatown Outreach Task Force, will focus on continuing efforts to sustain improvement activities in Chinatown and the businesses in the area. *Mahalo*, Wes, for volunteering for this worthwhile endeavor. We look forward to your task force's future endeavors.

Continuing with our efforts in Chinatown, Past President **Leonard Kam** and a group of community leaders formed a group called **Chinatown808** with a website, www.chinatown808.com. The website has been so successful, the group is now developing an app that will feature self-guided tours, scavenger hunts, and interactive maps of Chinatown's history and businesses. The goal is to debut the new app in time for Chinese New Year 2022, which begins on February 1. Chinatown808 also plans to work with the

Chinatown community to gather historical information and work with store owners to link their websites to the app. President-Elect Jon Cook is one of the many volunteers.

Island Focus is a bi-monthly half-hour television series produced by Olelo Community Media as a community service. Hostess **Lyla Berg** interviewed me for the Chinese Chamber's perspective on "Revitalization: Creating a thriving downtown," sharing the historical significance of Downtown Honolulu and what's being done to maintain and revitalize it for current and future generations. The feature aired on Wednesday, August 4, Sunday, August 8, and again on Sunday, August 15, on Olelo Channel 53. You will find the feature on https://youtu.be/IIIoEQ_yjuM or if you want to see the entire segment, you can see it on <https://olelo.org/islandfocus> for past episodes of the 2021 season. Lyla is interested in airing additional stories about Chinatown and the Chinese in Hawaii. If you have interesting stories you would like to share, please let me know and either you or I can present them in follow-up feature stories. They have asked me to come back on their show for a longer segment and I would be happy to introduce you to her.

Keeping with the theme of media exposure for CCCH, Eddie Flores and **Sabrina Young**, 2020 Narcissus First Princess, collaborated on radio interviews with *Island 98.5* and *93.9 The Beat* on Monday, July 26 morning radio shows. Sabrina did a great job representing the CCCH and promoting the Narcissus Festival Queen Search. She explained the entry requirements and provided information on how to enter (contestant applications should be submitted to www.chinesechamber.com by Saturday, August 15). The date of the pageant is Saturday, January 8, 2022.

MidWeek, Oahu's most read weekly publication, interviewed me for their Wednesday, August 4, "Good Neighbor" feature story. Visit: www.midweek.com if you missed it. The article discusses

the CCCH's mission, upcoming Chamber events (including the Chinatown Cleanup), and how readers can get involved with the Chamber. It's great to have Yu Shing, our media *guru* and Oahu Publications editorial staffer, on our side for the media coverage!

I will allot time for anyone to make a presentation at our board meetings, if you would like to tell us about your company and your business. Please just let me know prior to the meeting so that we can schedule the time. I will carve out some time for you at an upcoming meeting.

Also, if you are willing to provide members of CCCH a discount from your business, please let me know. It might bring you more business and provide our members a savings and at the same time, enhance the value of our membership and the reasons for joining the CCCH.

On a personal note, I took the last week of July off to go fishing in Alaska. I really hadn't taken any time off since the start of the COVID pandemic, and I realized how much a work-focused zombie I had become, working every day without a break. Every day, I went to work and worked late into the evenings. Yes, I have my own office and could to a large extent minimize my physical interaction with others for social distancing needs. I didn't realize how draining it was. Spending hours on the riverbank fishing... and catching salmon is a great way to put perspective on life. If you haven't recently taken a break from work, I strongly advise you to do so. The mental break is truly refreshing.

As a parting comment, I would like to once again thank Yu Shing for coordinating, organizing, and implementing a great Chinatown clean up. Really a spectacular effort and she brought a lot of attention to CCCH. You made us proud to be associated with our Chamber. Everyone in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii should be proud of the progress we have accomplished to date. I am excited to see what we can do next, together.

COVID-19 Update

According to the July 25 *Star-Advertiser*, the Safe Travels program, instituted on Oct. 15, 2020, requires incoming airline passengers to enroll in the screening program. Governor **David Ige** will allow the program to continue to run until at least 70% of Hawaii's population is vaccinated against COVID-19. (According to the State Department of Health, Hawaii is currently at 66.6%). Reporter **Allison Schaefer** notes that children under 12 (and those who are immunocompromised) are not vaccinated, so the actual benchmark is "82% of those eligible for immunization." (And remember that in December 2020, Dr. **Anthony Fauci** said that the level needed for herd immunity is NOT 70%, but more like 75-85%).

Under the Safe Travels program, incoming travelers are required to go through a 10-day quarantine while those who can prove that they are fully vaccinated may bypass quarantine and start their Hawaii visit. Unvaccinated travelers must have a recent negative test result from a state-approved COVID-19 test facility. Travelers from countries not in the Safe Travels program cannot bypass quarantine. (It may be, however, that it is actually returning Hawaii residents who are bringing the highly infectious Delta variant back with them).

The Delta variant of COVID-19 is highly contagious and the "viral load" is 1,000 times greater than the original SARS-CoV-2 strain. An infected person can spread the virus even more widely and reinstating a mask requirement in public transit (especially airplanes where there is "close contact" for longer, sometimes much longer, than 15 minutes); indoors where there may be poor air circulation; and outdoors in crowd situations is prudent in view of the surge in new cases since the Fourth of July holiday. The optimistic outlook for the summer back in May and June has withered in the face of the aggressive Delta variant that now accounts for around 99% of new cases in the post-Fourth of July surge.

What the tourism officials forget or overlook is that Hawaii is on most people's "bucket list" of places to visit if they have the means to do so. (So why isn't the Hawaii Tourism Authority 100% funded by the tourist industry?). Then there's the libertarian Grassroot Foundation, carping about the infringement on individual "freedom" (or the "liberty" of anti-vaxxers/anti-maskers on the mainland). In these and many other cases, the attitude seems to be "the public health be damned." Sorry about

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Chinatown Cleanup Project *by Yu Shing Ting*

Approximately 250 volunteers participated in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's Chinatown Cleanup on Saturday, Aug. 14. The event was a success due to the overwhelming support we received from the community.

The idea for this service project came up during an executive committee meeting back in March. In response to news reports on the rise in anti-Asian attacks across the country, the Chamber issued a press release condemning the recent acts, especially against our elderly. We noted our commitment to supporting and protecting Hawaii's community, including Chinatown, and thought a cleanup event would be a good way to help.

A couple of months later, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Chinatown Outreach Task Force was formed, led by **Wesley Fong**. The Task Force, along with members of the Chinese Chamber Executive Committee, teamed up to form the Chinatown Cleanup Committee. Special thanks to **Tina Ge** and **Wen Chung Lin** for their work behind the scenes, as well as **Dennis Hwang** for event photography. We are looking at making the Cleanup an annual event, with the next one planned for August 13, 2022.

In addition to picking up litter along the sidewalks and streets, volunteers also assisted the City with painting over graffiti on about 17 traffic control boxes. Honolulu Mayor **Rick**

Blangiardi attended the Cleanup, and the City provided support with supplies and equipment, including a roll-off dumpster to collect and haul all the trash away.

A group of volunteers from the Chinatown Arts District HEART Hui also took part in the event, cleaning the streets and Smith-Beretania park, and painting a wall on Pauahi Street between Nuuanu and Bethel. The Chamber also reached out to the U.S. Postal Service, Hawaiian Electric, and the Honolulu Police Department regarding graffiti on mailboxes, utility boxes, and parking meters throughout Chinatown, and they all responded that their maintenance crews would take care of it, which they did.

At the end of the Cleanup, volunteers were given a fortune cookie from Panda Express, hand sanitizer donated by HomeStreet Bank, a hot dog at Murphy's Bar & Grill, and water and/or soda, courtesy of PepsiCo.

A big *mahalo* also goes out to the City and County of Honolulu, HPD, Don Murphy, Coldwell Banker Realty, HomeStreet Bank, City Mill, American Savings Bank, Finance Factors, Panda Express, Sustainable Coastlines, the Honolulu Chinatown Lions Club and Roosevelt High School Leo Club, Beer Lab HI, **Eddie Flores** and L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, Nature Nurture, Pepsi Co., Yin Sit Sha, the Ching Clan Society, the Tsung Tsin Association, and ACUW.





(L-R): Cy Feng, Russell Lau, Brenda Cochran and Wesley Fong with vaccination poster in background.

Chinatown Vaccination Drive *by Wesley Fong*

As one of its initiatives to help Chinatown, the Chinatown Outreach Task Force posted flyers (in English and Chinese) in Chinatown on Saturday, September 4, to help promote a Chinatown vaccination drive on Sunday, September 12, and Sunday, October 3, at Aala Park. The drive is sponsored by Hawaii Pacific Health and American Savings Bank. The Chamber was asked to help. We were fortunate to have **Cy Feng**, who is very familiar with Chinatown, lead **Russell Lau**, and **Brenda Cochran** (from Finance Factors), and me through Chinatown to post the flyers. Cy also posted a flyer about the drive on social media in five different languages. The flyer also recognized the Chamber.

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that, but when some 34% of Hawaii’s population is NOT fully vaccinated and is at risk of serious illness or death, that attitude won’t fly with the vaccinated majority. Begging for the vaccine just before being intubated in the hospital is way, way too late, and no, Ivermectin livestock deworming medication is about as useless as earlier suggestions to inject bleach, insert a strong light into patients or hydroxychloroquine.

(What anti-vaxxers may not be aware of is that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11 (1905) that the state government could require smallpox vaccinations and an individual’s “liberty” is subject to the “police power” of the state to protect collective public health. It should be noted that Pastor Jacobson unsuccessfully claimed that the mandate violated his individual religious rights).

With a post-Fourth of July surge of the Delta variant in Hawaii and across the nation, the CDC advised on Jul. 26 that vaccinated or not, people should once again be using face masks for their own protection as well as the protection of others (children under 12 and people who are immunocompromised and cannot be vaccinated). Even those who are fully vaccinated may become infected and spread the virus in aerosols as they breathe, so masking applies to everyone.

The “Safe Oahu Access” program went into effect on Sept.13, requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for employees and patrons of restaurants, bars, and other public establishments. In addition, restrictions on large gatherings (10 people indoor limit or 25 people outdoors) have been extended by the mayor until Tuesday, Oct. 19.

On a happier note, good news was announced on Monday, Sept. 20, that the Pfizer vaccine is “safe and highly effective” for children from five to eleven years of age and prompts a strong immune response. At present, people twelve and older

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 24 • Tue

Executive Committee Meeting

Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.

Aug 31 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting

Google Virtual Meet – 12:00 p.m.

Sep 21 • Tue

Executive Committee Meeting

Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.

Sep 28 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting

Google Virtual Meet – 12:00 p.m.

Sep 29 • Wed

Quad Chamber Event

Free Webinar on FBI Services
MS Teams Virtual Meet – 11:30 a.m.

Oct 14 • Thu

CCF Golf Fundraiser Event

Hoakalei Country Club – 9:00 a.m.

Oct 19 • Tue

Executive Committee Meeting

Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.

Oct 26 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting

Google Virtual Meet – 12:00 p.m.

The LANTERN a monthly publication of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
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are cleared for the Pfizer vaccine. (For those keeping track, the Pfizer vaccine was not developed as part of the so-called Operation Warp Speed. In addition, Pfizer kept the mRNA dosage lower than the Moderna vaccine – 30 micrograms (mcg) versus 100 mcg – so that any side effects – sore arm, fatigue, fever, chills – would be less). With nearly 30% of new cases being children, many parents are pressing to get their younger children vaccinated, but for adults, the vaccine dosage is 30 mcg and Pfizer’s proposed dosage for children is 10 mcg. It appears that emergency use authorization (EUA) for Pfizer vaccine for children may come in late October, and Dr. Anthony Fauci says that children 5-11 years old may be receiving their first shot by Halloween. And anti-vaxxers (more like COVIDiots) overlook or ignore the fact that for decades, public and private school children in Hawaii and on the mainland are required to receive vaccinations for things like measles, hepatitis B, chickenpox, influenza, and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis/whooping cough (DTaP). And now, some private schools like Punahou and Iolani are requiring the COVID-19 vaccination for students, teachers, and staff.

According to the State Department of Health, as of Sept. 21, 66.6% of Hawaii’s population is fully vaccinated. Any side effects of vaccination are far less than the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death for the unvaccinated. However, it is possible for rare “break-through” cases among the vaccinated since the vaccines do not provide 100% protection, but usually the symptoms are mild. In the vast majority of new Delta variant cases, it’s 95% or so unvaccinated and 5% or so vaccinated, a “pandemic of the unvaccinated,” especially in certain Southern and Midwestern states. And if you’re holding out, but planning on getting vaccinated, you may want to check articles by **Joshua Bote** on pre- and post-shot preparation: April 16 [before and after actions] and April 15 [swing your arm to increase blood flow and prevent a sore arm] in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (www.sfgate.com).

Member News

Photographer **Lance Wong** had two of his photos chosen to be featured in Contemporary Photography in Hawaii 2021. Pacific New Media Foundation is the sponsor for Contemporary Photography in Hawaii 2021, the thirteenth annual “survey expedition.” Lance’s two black and white photos were apparently taken in Guizhou, China, in 2019. One shows a farmer, apparently hard at work inserting rice seedlings in a flooded rice paddy, and the other is of a basket maker. Lance is called upon from time to time to take candid photos at Chamber events, like the Narcissus Festival. While “September 1” is given as the opening date, no information is given for when the online exhibition ends. The link to individual photos as well as portfolios is: <https://pnmlab.com/2021/09/01/contemporary-photography-in-hawaii-2021-2/>



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