



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN

NEWSLETTER

April, 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

As you may know, **April 1** is the stated date for all residents of the U.S. to respond to the 2020 census as required by federal law. However, April 1 is the “reference date,” NOT the deadline for submitting your census form. What that means is that on that date, who was staying at your residence – just you, a spouse or significant other, roommates, and so on? This type of information has been collected ever since the U.S. Constitution was ratified on June 21, 1788. The decennial census is provided for in Article I, Section 2, and has been conducted every ten years since the first census in 1790.

Until this year, residents were sent a printed questionnaire, which was followed up by a census-taker, if necessary. For the 2020 census, however, an alternative method is answering a number of questions (just like using TurboTax to prepare your tax returns) online. It’s a simple process of going to my2020census.gov and logging in with your unique 12-letter/number Census ID, and answering each question. While the census FAQs said that it takes an average of ten minutes to answer online, *The Lantern* editor managed to do so in five minutes. The process is quite fast, painless, and anonymous..

For those worried about the confidentiality of their answers, those are protected by federal law, and the Census Bureau will only use the information you provide to put together statistics on people living in the U.S. and its five territories on the April 1 reference date. (There was NO question asked about my citizenship). In addition, under 13 U.S. Code §§ 9 and 214, census information is confidential and wrongful disclosure is a felony, punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$5,000 or both. And if you check the census “invitation” and reminder that were mailed to you in March and look at the envelopes, they were addressed to “Resident” with your address.

The census statistics will be used for two purposes. First, to determine allocation of members of the U.S. House of Representatives based



on population. (Each state, regardless of population, has two Senators). An accurate 2020 Hawaii census count may mean Hawaii is entitled to a third Representative in Congress. Second, the statistics are used to allocate more than \$675 billion to 132 federal programs that benefit residents of the states and communities. So do everyone in Hawaii a favor and answer the census questions if you haven’t done so already. (And considering fears of COVID-19, answering online is probably the safest way).

April 13 update: Due to the pandemic, the Census Bureau reportedly will ask for a 120-day extension for data collection, planning to reopen field offices nationwide on June 1. So if you would prefer not to have a census-taker personally visit your residence, you should answer the questions anonymously online.



President
Michele C. Choy

Greetings Members!

By now, if you're a non-essential worker, you should be in self-quarantine at home and keeping a safe six-foot social distance when outside.

Before the coronavirus lockdown, there were some banquets that I attended. All other society banquets and events were either cancelled or postponed until further notice.

The Chang Wing Yong Tong held their annual spring banquet on March 1 at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant. Yours truly was honored to be invited to be their installing officer. It was the first under my presidency. **Anita Chang Wong** is the 2020 President and Chamber Emeritus Director **Walter T.C. Chang** is the Treasurer.

On March 7, the Ching Clan Benevolent Society held their 71st anniversary banquet at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant. **Kin Ming Ching** was installed as 2020 President, once again by yours truly. It was an honor to be the installing officer of an organization that I belong to. In fact, four women officers had ties to previous Narcissus Pageants: **Claudette Ching Nishigaya**, **Jodie Ching Yim**, **Cherie Ching**, and **Charlene Ching Chang**. UCS President **Teddy Chong** and I gave the guest remarks.

The See Dai Doo Society held their banquet over two days, due to the size of their organization. March 14 was the first banquet, which for the first time recognized their twelve SDDS members initiated by President Dr. **Lucy Wong** with a special recognition award. These members had already received a prior award through

affiliations with other organizations. They received a certificate, but later on, their names will be listed on a special plaque that will be placed in the SDDS Hall. They were also kind enough to recognize our 2020 Narcissus Queen and Court and presented each of them with a *li see*. Then on March 15, UCS President **Teddy Chong** and I gave guest remarks and aside from recognizing the officers, trustees and past presidents, they recognized the SDDS 90+ and Super Seniors in attendance.

The coronavirus crisis put an end to further 2020 Chinese banquets. Normally, many of us would get tired of the Chinese banquets by the time the banquets end in late March, but I guess many of us are craving the delicious Chinese food now like I am!

In light of the coronavirus restrictions on large gatherings, I feel for the 2020 Narcissus Queen **Jamie Lee** and her Court as they are the ones who are missing all the opportunities to fully experience their year as a Court. Not only have they missed the wonderful society banquets, but the VIP Narcissus Queen Goodwill and Business Mission Tour that President-Elect **Elvira Lo** worked so hard to put together is on hold indefinitely. Let's all hope the coronavirus crisis gets over fast.

As many of you know, the Chinese Chamber is working closely with the local Congressional Gold Medal Committee, in particular with Major General **Robert Lee**, to find Chinese and Hawaiian-Chinese World War II veterans, who served in any U.S. armed service during the period from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. Veterans who register and qualify will receive a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to receive the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, DC or in Hawaii at a local ceremony for those who are not able to make the long trip to Washington. The veterans are eligible whether they served overseas or in the U.S. during the above-mentioned period.

If anyone needs help in registering, contact Major General **Stephen Tom** at stephentom2000@aol.com. Please help to spread the word to your family and relatives as we don't want to miss anyone who so deserves being recognized for their service to our country. In these times with racial tensions aimed at Asians, it's important that the Chinese be recognized for what they have contributed to and accomplished in American society.

These days, face masks have become a commodity just as toilet paper. There are many face masks out there being sold or donated, whether to the public or first responders. It's important to choose the right type of mask for your needs. At this point in time, although everyone would like to have the best mask being the N95, it is best to save them for our first responders. After all, if they don't have the proper protection



Ching Clan Benevolent Society 71st anniversary banquet at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant.

THE 8

GRAN COUPE



BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE

Ambition is an 8-letter word.

The BMW 8 Gran Coupe is inspired by the unparalleled ambition of those behind the wheel. With its meticulously crafted interior and the unmistakable silhouette of its exterior, every element signals the arrival of a driver who cares far more about where they're going than where they've been.

Visit BMW of Honolulu to learn more about the incomparable BMW 8 Gran Coupe.

BMW of Honolulu
777 Kapiolani Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-597-1225
bmwhawaii.com

Exclusively distributed by BMW of North America, LLC
©2019 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.



National carrier. World-class rating.

Our hearts beam with pride as Philippine Airlines is awarded as **the Philippines' first and only 4-Star airline** by Skytrax, the global air transport rating authority. From our world-class fleet and product innovations, to our signature *Buong-Pusong Alaga* (wholehearted service), every journey celebrates the Heart of the Filipino.



philippineairlines.com

and they fall ill, they won't be able to help the people of Hawaii. I am not an expert on masks so you'll have to do some research, but to help you is a Mask Protection Efficiency chart someone sent.

I'd like to thank our Chamber staff, **Wen Chung Lin** and **Tina Ge** for transitioning so quickly and easily to work from home. They have been kept busy working on Chamber projects.

With all the depressing news we hear nowadays, here's something to start your day happy:

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- Still haven't decided where to go for Easter – The Living Room or The Bedroom
- PSA: every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Home schooling is going well. two students suspended for fighting and one teacher fired for drinking on the job.
- I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone

- This morning, I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog – we laughed a lot.
- So, after this quarantine, will the producers of "My 600 Pound Life" just find me or do I find them?
- Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called The Kitchen. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
- Day 5 of Home schooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- I'm so excited – it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.
- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year." I'm offended.
- Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.

I wish everyone good health as we ride out this coronavirus crisis. Please stay safe and practice social distancing and self-quarantine!

Qing Ming 2020

Saturday, April 4, was the date for Qing Ming or "Tomb-Sweeping Day," which marked the start of the two-week period. For traditional Chinese the world over, this is the day for them to visit the cemeteries where their forbears are buried (or inurned) to clean the tombstones and cut the grass, burn paper money, place flowers and symbolic fruits, and perform ceremonies to honor their ancestors. However, this year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, most such gatherings were limited by their local governments in order to prevent "community spread" of the virus.

According to an article in the *South China Morning Post*, while 24.0 and 8 million people respectively performed *Qing Ming* ceremonies in Shanghai and Nanjing, it's now possible, perhaps increasingly so, this year to make use of virtual tomb-sweeping services. While such services have existed previously, largely serving overseas Chinese so that they could honor their ancestors from hundreds, even thousands, of miles away, now even people still living in the same city or town are making use of the virtual services or apps. The article notes that there online shrines have been created for those who have passed due to the coronavirus, including Dr. **Li Wenliang**, who first warned of the outbreak and died from the virus. Very clever (and commercial), those Chinese.

COVID-19 Update

Since the March issue of the Lantern, there have been many developments regarding COVID-19, many of them affecting businesses in Hawaii and throughout the U.S. as well as Chamber members.

Business Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak

For businesses large and small, the pandemic is literally and figuratively a crisis, an existential matter. Should the business stay open or temporarily close? Should employees be furloughed until better times or laid off with pink slips? Already, in the first week of April, there are 16.5 million Americans who have been laid off in the last three weeks. (Unemployment figures come out on Thursdays, so keep an eye open for the few next reports). The question for small businesses was covered by **Amy Heimel** in an April 11 *New York Times* article.

In the short term, Congress and the White House are making efforts to support businesses and individuals, unlike the aftermath of the October 1929 stock market crash and inaction of the Hoover administration, thereby bringing on the eleven-year Great Depression. So far, there have been three pieces of relief legislation, the latest being the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, which was signed



PROUD DIAMOND SPONSOR OF THE 71ST NARCISSUS FESTIVAL

Add the familiar flavors of L & L to your celebrations all year long! From family gatherings, events for work, or any other occasion, L & L has all of Hawaii's favorite tastes for you. To find the location nearest you or to place an order, visit LLHawaii.com.

L&L HAWAII'[®]

SINCE 1952



hawaiianbarbecue.com



Over 200 Locations Worldwide • Franchise Opportunities Available

into law on March 27. There is already talk of a fourth relief act since the problematic \$349 billion PPP needs at least \$250 billion more.

However, the rollout of the PPP has been about as problematic as the 2013 rollout of Healthcare.gov, perhaps showing government's inability to handle anything other than "business as usual." It was unrealistic to promise that checks would start going out three days after the March 27 signing of the law, whether for the PPP or the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Right off the bat, due to heavy traffic, the SBA's computer crashed and data entry was exceedingly slow. In addition, while the program opened on Friday, April 3, the Treasury Department didn't promulgate rules until the day before and banks were claiming that they weren't clear. And on Friday, some banks decided they weren't ready for applications while others were dealing only with established customers, despite the fact that any loans would be guaranteed by the Treasury. In addition to the \$349 billion not being enough to lend in the face of widespread national demand, the loans are intended to cover costs for only eight weeks (presumably to June 29) and according to the rules, 75% of any loan must go to paychecks and only 25% to other costs like rent or utilities.

Another problem is with the Small Business Administration, which usually handles up to \$30 billion of small business loans in a boom year, is facing requests from banks for that much in a day. The SBA is also hobbled by aging computer technology. The SBA computer crashed on Monday, April 6, and contact by telephone for help may take hours. In addition to loans under the PPP, the SBA also has a previously existing program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loans, which may also be available. The program involves direct lending from the government and borrowers need not find a private lender. However, while the program is supposed to lend up to \$2 million per borrower, recent approvals have reportedly been capped at \$15,000.

Ultimately, for small businesses, which employ nearly half of private-sector employees, there's the daunting prospect of going into debt and never getting out again.

As for the stimulus checks (\$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 for couples) or "Economic Impact Payments," according to *USA Today*, the Treasury Department began sending out checks on Friday, April 10, and the process will continue until September. By Wednesday, April 15, 50-70 million Americans may have received their checks through direct deposit.

Protect Yourself ... and Others

"Flatten the curve" refers to taking various measures to hold down the projected infection curve. In order to do so, some 42 states have stay-home or shelter-in-place orders, some more restrictive than others. (In Hawaii, Governor **David Ige**'s order became effective at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25 and will last until **Thursday, April 30**). In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines call for physical or "social distancing" of at least six feet between people in checkout (and in-person voting) lines and suggest that everyone use face masks. (The masks vary in effectiveness in protection; even the N95 only protects against particles down



to 3 microns in diameter while the COVID-19 virus is apparently 2 microns). The face masks are more to prevent people who are infected from spreading the virus when they sneeze or cough while for non-infected people, it's a reminder not to touch your face, eyes or mouth. (Despite showing no symptoms (asymptomatic) people are infectious for two to fourteen days after exposure to an infected person). For just about everything you need to know about face masks, see **Tara Parker-Pope**'s comprehensive article, "A User's Guide to Face Masks," <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/well/live/coronavirus-face-masks-guides-protection-personal-protective-equipment.html>

Also, health care professionals recommend "hand hygiene," with frequent washing of your hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water. (The soap dissolves the virus coating, killing the virus)

When those items are not immediately available, you should be using a hand sanitizer (good luck in finding any for purchase). If you're fortunate to have some, check the label and make sure it's at least 60% alcohol. (Tio's Vodka, apparently a popular brand, warned people NOT to use its product since at 80% proof, it's only 40% alcohol). And Dr. **Anthony Fauci** hopes that in the future, people will habitually practice good hand hygiene and abolish the outmoded practice of hand shakes.

To recapitulate current safety tips: Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, if available, or with 60% alcohol hand sanitizer; stay home as much as possible while shelter-in-place orders are in force; if you have to go out, consider a face mask; if you're not using a face mask, cover your mouth if you're going to cough or sneeze; be aware that the virus can live for varying amounts of time on different surfaces so you should wash your hands often. The bottom line: Be careful, be safe.

Are We In a Recession Yet?

A recession is commonly defined in the media as "two successive quarters of a shrinking gross domestic product." However, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defines a recession as "a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial pro-

duction, and wholesale-retail sales” or in simpler terms, “a period between a peak and a trough.” (Determination of a recession or expansion is done by the NBER’s business cycle dating committee. That determination may occur a year or more after the start of a recession). According to the NBER, the last peak was in June, 2009 and was not announced until September 20, 2010. So it may be a while before an “official” determination of a recession will be announced.

However, on April 10, according to CNN, a survey of 45 economists by the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) concluded that the U.S. is in a recession that will be “short and sharp” for the first half of 2020, with a 26.5% decline in second quarter economic activity and a loss of 4.58 million jobs in that quarter. (As noted elsewhere in this issue of *The Lantern*, by the first week in April, there were 16.5 million jobs, 13% of the labor force, lost).

Needless to say, those job losses will be a drag on spending, and consumer spending accounts for about 70% of U.S. GDP. With the many stay-at-home orders as well as the increasing number of unemployed, according to the *New York Times*, debit and credit card spending is down for groceries, but even more so for health and beauty, entertainment and restaurants, transportation, shopping, and travel. According to *USA Today*, a nationwide poll showed that 65% of Americans believe that the economy is getting worse, a jump from 25% four weeks ago. Along with that, the Conference Board’s index of consumer confidence dropped from 132.6 in February to 120 in March, its lowest level since June 2017. With numbers like that, one may doubt that we’re in for a short recession.

Consider also that two of Wall Street’s biggest banks, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, were forecasting in late March that GDP would see a 30% decline. According to Bloomberg, in his annual letter to stockholders in early April, JPMorgan Chase CEO **Jamie Dimon** saw a “bad recession” with echoes of 2008 due to the coronavirus. (Dimon also criticized COVID-19 planning and said that if governments made tests more widely available to determine who has recovered from the pandemic, they could return to work more quickly). So those forecasting a sharp V-shaped rebound are likely engaging in wishful thinking when the numbers indicate that there may be a U-shaped or even L-shaped “recovery,” lasting into 2021.

Meanwhile, there are members of Congress and the business community who are pressing to end stay-home measures, arguing that thirty days is long enough. In contrast, Dr. **Deborah Birx**, Dr. **Anthony Fauci** and Surgeon General **Jerome Adams** agree that most places in the U.S. would not be able to open up by May 1; Dr. Birx points out that nationally, “we have not reached the [pandemic’s] peak. They and other health professionals pose the choice as either (1) massive testing, isolating and quarantining infected people, and using contact tracing to locate others who may have been infected (as was successfully done in South Korea) or (2) prematurely sending people back to work, thereby running the risk of a “second wave” of infections overwhelming the hospitals and even more deaths. (When it comes to massive testing, as of Friday, April 10, a total of million tests had been in a population of some 338 million or 0.00295, not even 1% of Americans).



Your responses are safe with us.

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. These statistics are used to determine each state’s representation in Congress and to inform the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding annually. Local leaders may use these statistics to make decisions about programs and services for their community.

No matter how you respond—online, by phone, or by mail—your responses are important and confidential. **Your responses cannot be used against you in any way.**

2020CENSUS.GOV

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States*
Census 2020

D-LE-GP-EN-453



**Serving communities.
Changing lives.
What matters to
you matters to us.**

At EY, we're proud to support the 71st Narcissus Festival & the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. It's one of the ways we're helping to make our community a better place to work and live. A better and brighter future starts with all of us.

Visit ey.com/en_gl/corporate-responsibility

EY

Building a better
working world

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Postponed or Cancelled)

Apr 21 • Tue

Executive Board Meeting

– Postponed, TBA

Chamber's Office – 6:00 p.m.

Apr 23 • Thu

2020 Chinese Chamber of Commerce

Golf Tournament — Cancelled

Pearl Country Club – 12:00 p.m.

Apr 28 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting

– Postponed, TBA

Maple Garden Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

May 21 • Thu

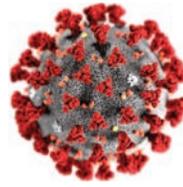
109th Chinese Chamber Installation

Banquet – Postponed, TBA

Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant – 5:30 p.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

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



The COVID-19 virus, Wikipedia

Through a Glass Darkly, Into the Future

At this point, when you're up to your neck in alligators, it's hard to remember that your original purpose was to drain the swamp. However, philanthropist **Melinda Gates** (Bill's wife) says that this is not a one-in-a-hundred years occurrence. Instead, she predicts that there will be occasional outbreaks like this in the future. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been involved in aiding in epidemics around the world for years, including Ebola in Africa, and drawing on that experience, she added that it is likely that developing, testing, scaling up production, and equitably distributing a COVID-19 vaccine worldwide would probably take eighteen months, the same process and time involved in developing an Ebola vaccine.

In addition, in recent years, humans around the world, but particularly in Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia, have been pushing into formerly remote, undeveloped areas, cutting down the trees, and coming into closer contact with wild animals. According to a Stanford University study published this month, forest destruction increases the likelihood that zoonotic viruses (pathogens that can be transmitted from animals to humans) will make that jump.

On a more hopeful note, the medical director of clinical laboratories and transfusion services for the Mount Sinai Health System, Dr. **Jeffrey Jhang**, is conducting research into "convalescent plasma therapy." Dr. Jhang is selecting from volunteers who have recovered from COVID-19, testing them to make sure that they are now negative for the virus and what their level of antibodies are (according to a recent *New York Times* article, the antibody level varies among patients, with higher levels in older patients, so let's hear it for the seniors), draws four measures of blood, and separates the plasma from the platelets. Ultimately, if the research proves out, the plasma may be used to help patient recovery, and perhaps in the long-term, it may be used as a preventive for front line medical personnel so that they don't get infected while tending their desperately ill patients. (According to their Web site, the plasma collection is being done by the National COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Project, a consortium of 57 of the nation's top health institutions across 46 states).



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

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