



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN
NEWSLETTER

Jul/Aug/Sept, 2022

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Community Events

This year, unlike previous years, the Dragon Boat Festival took place on land instead of the waters of Ala Moana Beach Park. The reason is that due to use in successive Dragon Boat races over the years, the dragon boats are in need of repairs. So this year, the venue was Aala Park, adjacent to Nuuanu Stream. The landlocked event was held on Saturday, July 30. Those who attended had the opportunity to build their team's cardboard dragon boat and compete in heats (without having to worry about getting wet). More information was available at <https://chinatown808.org>.

The next Chinatown cleanup was held on Saturday, August 27. The cleanup began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 12:00 noon. Check-in and pickup of supplies was at the Chinese Chamber office, 8 South King Street. Volunteers dressed casually and bring gloves as well as face masks were optional. Once again, this periodic community event was chaired by **Yu Shing Ting**.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is also called the Moon Festival or the Mooncake Festival. It traditionally falls on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which is in September or early October on the Gregorian calendar. This year, the Mid-Autumn Festival fell on Saturday, September 10. In China, people have a three-day public holiday from September 10 to 12.





President
Jonathan Cook

This been a hectic couple of months as we work to put the Chamber back onto the traditional schedule. It's a tribute to our leadership in recent years that we've been able to keep moving forward, even when it was hard to see that from the outside.

As I can tell you, a lot of hard work was put in and we should thank our Presidents, Executive Officers, and Board Members as well as our staff, **Tina Ge, Sonny Zhang,** and **Wen Chung Lin**, for not only keeping things going, but bringing us out of the COVID era in a position of strength.

I want to especially thank Immediate Past President **Russell Lau** for making this past year one that exceeded expectations and for the advice and insight he gave us. We're able to now move forward and the proof of this can be seen in what we've done already since June 1 and [what] we've got ahead for the Chamber, too.

Dragon Boat Races

This year's Dragon Boat Races were on land, turning it into a foot race between 5-Person teams. We want to give the biggest *mahalo* to our Executive VP Sonny Zhang for building the Chamber boat out of cardboard boxes, including a Dragon Head!

Our Chamber Racers included Sonny Zhang, **Michelle Wong, Tiffany Chen, Joycelyn Ng, Cy Feng** and Tina Ge. Although we didn't win, it was a great time for all.

Korean Festival

Our Quad Chamber friends at the Korean Chamber put on their first Festival in three years to great success. They generously gave us a booth to promote ourselves and we saw a lot of interest in our Chamber's upcoming events and membership.

We even signed one new member

up on the spot! The booth was manned by our faithful volunteers who braved a hot day to represent us proudly. **Michelle Wong, Cy Feng, Terrill Chock, Tina Au, Belle Rivera, Yen Chun,** and **Michele Choy** all put in shift time over the course of the day.

Chinatown Cleanup

On Saturday, August 27, the Chinatown Task Force did a fantastic job organizing this effort, led by **Yu Shing Ting** and **Wes Fong**. The City partnered with us, providing a roll-off dumpster for trash, equipment, police support, and many City workers who gave their time to help out. All told, we had 300 volunteers who gave back to Chinatown and made a difference. It showed what we can do when we have a good cause and dedicated leaders to serve it.

Mooncake Tasting

September 10 was Mooncake Festival, otherwise known as the Moon Festival or Mid-Autumn Festival. Vice President **Angie Shiroma**, the rest of the Chinatown Task Force team, and our other volunteers put together a great event, creating our first Moon Festival celebration since 2019. We had a full house, completely sold out, and a wonderful time together! Angie worked with Bread House Bakery on some unique and tasty mooncake flavors, plus two varieties were donated by our friends at the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Organization. (*Mahalo* to TECO). **Terry Lo** guided us through the varieties of tea that paired with the different mooncake flavors to lift the taste experience. Those who missed out on this year's sold out event should keep an eye open next year for the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which is in September or early October on the Gregorian calendar. Our thanks to Wes Fong, **Mike Young, Patrick Graham, Elvira Lo** and the rest of the team who planned and executed this great cultural event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Membership Meeting

Our first in-person general membership meeting since 2020! VP Michelle Wong is heading it up, with Central Pacific Bank CFO **David Morimoto** as our featured speaker. It's happening on Wednesday, October 5, at the Waiea condominium, 1118 Ala Moana Boulevard, with a limited space for just 30 people, so call the Chamber and reserve your place now!

Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament will tee off once more at the exclusive Hoakalei Country Club on Friday, November 4, benefiting our Chinatown Community Foundation. Whether you're interested in playing or sponsoring, you can find all the information at <http://ccfgolfhawaii.org>. It was a huge success last year and we expect it will be again this year.

Installation Banquet and Holiday Party

We'll gather together on Wednesday, November 30, at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant to celebrate President Russell Lau's year and publicly induct our 2022-2023 Executive Board. In addition, we will honor **Frances Goo** with a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award for her many contributions to the Chinese Chamber and the community. More details to come soon, so watch for the announcement and flier from VP **Sarah Moy**, who is chairing the event.

Narcissus Festival

Our Narcissus Festival is back on track for the traditional schedule once again, with the Pageant scheduled for Friday, January 6, at New Hope Oahu, and the Coronation Ball returns to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort on Saturday, January 28.

Mark your calendars also for the Chinese New Year: *Choy Cheng* (Chinatown Open House) on Friday, January 13, and the Chinese New Year Celebration happening over both that Friday evening, and then most of Saturday, January 14, as well. These two days will herald the arrival of the Year of the Rabbit.

So much to be proud of and so much yet to come! It's going to be a good year, maybe even a great one, with your help.

Mahalo!
Jonathan Cook



We proudly support the
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
and its annual Narcissus Festival.

Best wishes to all the participants and
continued success to the Chamber for
its contributions to the community.



Russell J. Lau,
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Immediate Past President,
and Connie Lau, Jen Lau, Rob Nelson, Greg Lau, Eric Lau,
grandson Blake Lau Nelson and granddaughter Sloane Lau Nelson

Congratulations

to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce
of Hawai'i and to all those participating
in this year's Narcissus Festival.

熱烈祝賀夏威夷中華總商會
本屆水仙花節慶會及所有參與者



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祝賀


CONGRATULATIONS

to all the participants of the
73rd Annual Narcissus Festival



We are proud to support the Chinese Chamber of Commerce
and this celebration of Chinese culture in our community.

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Narcissus Queen Contestants Update

The nine lovely young contestants are in the process of preparing for the Narcissus Pageant, which will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023 at New Hope Oahu. The ladies who bravely stepped forward to compete meet the following criteria: At least 25% Chinese ethnicity; single (never been married or given birth to a child); at least 19 years old and not over 27 years of age on Pageant night; and a resident of Hawaii for at least twelve (12) months prior to the Pageant. Their preparations include charm and make-up sessions as well as a variety of classes on different aspects of Chinese culture. They also are practicing for the talent phase of the Pageant. Following the Pageant, there will be a coronation event for the new Narcissus Queen and her court, a number of spring banquets with local Chinese societies and associations, and then a Narcissus Goodwill Tour next summer. (Unfortunately, with a “zero COVID” policy in effect, the 2023 Goodwill Tour will probably not go to China).

Medicare Open Enrollment

Like clockwork, each fall, “open enrollment” for Medicare arrives. This year, open enrollment for Medicare is from Saturday, October 15, through Wednesday, December 7, for coverage that begins on January 1, 2023. During the open period, eligible individuals can enroll in Medicare while those already covered can change health care coverage for 2023 or just stay in their current plan. Medicare can be obtained through Original Medicare (Part A and Part B) or a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C). (Medicare Part A covers hospital care while Medicare Part B covers routine doctor’s visits and other outpatient medical care). There is also prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D as well as Medigap or Medicare supplemental insurance for out-of-pocket costs not otherwise covered.

Government-assisted Medicare is provided by doctors who accept Medicare payment and are accepting new patients while Medicare Advantage, offered by private insurance companies, has a “network” of providers and if a doctor you may want use is not in the network, you’ll have to pay out-of-pocket. So it pays to do your research on the coverage, services, and benefits from different plans.

The good news is that this year, there will be a 3% reduction in the monthly Medicare Part B premium. (In addition, due to last year’s “transitory” inflation, there will be a 8.7% cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increase in your monthly Social Security check, starting in January, 2023). Also in the future, under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed by President **Joe Biden** on August 16, the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to negotiate prices on a small number of prescription drugs and the reductions will become effective in 2026. (In contrast, the federal government has had authority for years to negotiate prescription drug prices for Medicaid and Veterans Administration patients). In addition, the IRA places a \$35 per month cap on insulin copays for Medicare Part D beneficiaries, starting in 2023, and a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket copays on Part D prescription drugs, starting in 2025.

COVID-19 Update

The big news is that on August 1, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of ‘bivalent’ vaccine booster shots produced by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. The bivalent booster shot consists of half of the original COVID-19 vaccine formulation developed to provide protection against the original strain, and half of a new formulation developed specifically to combat Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5; the latter is now dominant in the U.S.

Then in mid-October, the FDA authorized the bivalent booster shots for use as a booster with younger patients: 5 through 11 years old with Pfizer/BioNTech and 6 through 11 years old with Moderna. (Previously, the boosters were approved for use with patients 12 or more years old). Either vaccine may be administered as a single-dose at least two months after completion of primary or monovalent booster vaccination.

The most recent news is that the Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent booster offers the strongest protection in people older than 55. One month after receiving a booster, those in this age group had four times more neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants than others who received the original vaccine as a booster. Nevertheless, booster vaccination rates remain low, due to people who haven’t heard about the new boosters (and their efficacy) or would rather take their chances with a severe case of the coronavirus or even death. Dr. **Leana Wen** wrote in the October 17 *Washington Post* that booster uptake could be increased by targeting those who need it the most. This means that it’s especially appropriate for those 65 years or older who are at greater risk of being hospitalized or dying.



On September 24, the 2022 Narcissus Court was invited to participate in the Aloha Week Parade. Much thanks to Chuck Tsui of Aloha Chinese Concepts Assn. for inviting Narcissus Queen, Jenalyn Ng to ride on a rickshaw and the Court on their float that their Assn. worked hard to put together, “Aloha ‘Āina, Love of the Land”, this year’s Aloha Week theme.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 4 • Fri

CCF Golf Fundraiser Event
Hoakalei Country Club – 9:30 a.m.

Nov 22 • Tue

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

Nov 29 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting
Simply Sichuan– 12:00 p.m.

Nov 30 • Wed

111th Installation/Award/Holiday Banquet
Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.

Dec 13 • Tue

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

Dec 20 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting
Simply Sichuan– 12:00 p.m.

Jan 6 • Fri

73rd Narcissus Queen Pageant
New Hope Oahu– 7:00 p.m.

Jan 13 • Fri

Chinese New Year Celebration
Chinatown Cultural Plaza
5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Jan 13 • Fri

Chinatown Open House (Choy Cheng)
Chinatown District – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Jan 14 • Sat

Chinese New Year Celebration
Chinatown Cultural Plaza
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Jan 22 • Sun

Chinese New Year Day

Jan 28 • Sat

73rd Narcissus Coronation Ball
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom
5:00 p.m.

Aukake Classic

by Jenalyn Ng

On August 20 and 21, the 72nd Narcissus Queen and four Princesses had the honor of helping Special Olympics Hawaii at their *Aukake Classic*. The *Aukake Classic* is typically an annual event that is held in the summer where teams come together to play soccer and/or *bocce* ball. The teams can be made up of special Olympic athletes or be a combination of special Olympic athletes and another person, usually a family member. 72nd Narcissus Queen **Jenalyn Ng** and Narcissus Princesses **Laura Lyn Tan**, **Mae Tonge**, and **Juliana Chang** helped award the medals and ribbons.

The goal of the Special Olympics is to provide year-round competition and sports training for children and adults with intellectual special needs. The games are a way for them to continue to work on their physical fitness, demonstrate courage and perseverance, and experience joy through a sense of community and friendship. Past Narcissus Courts have been involved with this event for several years, thanks to **Michael Young**'s involvement with this worthwhile organization.

Member News

2008 Narcissus First Princess **Leilani Soon** is running as a Republican for the Hawaii State Senate 10th District. The district includes Kaimuki, Kapahulu, Palolo, St. Louis Heights, Maunalani Heights, Moiliili, and Ala Wai. Her challenge is a tough one since the Democratic incumbent has represented the area since 1995 and with quite a few high-rise buildings, it's difficult to go door-to-door campaigning. Nevertheless, Lani is a very determined young woman and we wish her the best of luck.

L & L Hawaiian Barbecue has moved its offices from University Avenue to 2138 Algoroba Street, just a few blocks away in Moiliili. Keep that in mind if you're going to pick up an L & L Year of the Rabbit t-shirt in a few months. (For a number of years, L & L has featured a t-shirt for the new Chinese year, with online sales and pickup at the L & L office or your nearby L & L store). In addition, L & L co-founder and former Chinese Chamber president **Eddie Flores, Jr.** has been keeping busy in Chinatown with 'A Better Chinatown Foundation,' this time replacing old, faded, and weather-beaten banners at Kekaulike Mall, between Hotel and King Streets. For many years, the banners have honored eighteen Hawaii 'Chinese Heroes of Chinatown,' who made contributions to Chinatown and the local Chinese community. Eventually, the group will be memorialized more permanently on a Chinese arch to Chinatown. A Better Chinatown Foundation has been working for a number of years to improve the Chinatown area for residents and visitors alike.

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