



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN

NEWSLETTER

May, 2019

OFFICERS 2018-2019

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The CCCH and Hawaii Mainland Overseas Chinese Association's 7th annual golf tournament was held at the Hawaii Prince golf course on Thursday, May 2.

FREE Evening Workshop

The 2019 hurricane season begins on June 1 and lasts through November 30, and other natural disasters – flooding, tsunami, earthquakes, and even landslides – can occur at any time during the year. So it's appropriate that former Chamber president and co-author of the *Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Disasters* **Dennis Hwang** conducted an evening workshop on "Preparing for Natural Disasters." The workshop was on **Wednesday, May 8**, and held in the second-floor multipurpose room of the **Flores** Chamber building, 8 South King Street from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Coincidentally, It may be worthwhile for those who prepare in advance to take a look at an online Earth Day article by **Randy Ching** at *Civil Beat*: "Think About The Reality Of Post-Disaster Hawaii, Then Prepare For It," <https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/04/think-about-the-reality-of-post-disaster-hawaii-then-prepare-for-it/>. As Mr. Ching points out: "Our systems for survival — like delivering water, removing waste, providing shelter and medical care — do not seem at all ready. We are about as prepared for the next major natural disaster as Puerto Rico was when Hurricane Maria hit." Bear in mind that several of the hurricanes – Lane and Olivia – that came close to hitting Oahu last year reached Category 5 (wind speeds of 157 miles per hour or 137 knots) just before making left turns and heading west, much to our relief.

Chamber Installation Dinner

The annual dinner and installation of Chinese Chamber officers will be held at the Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant on **Thursday, May 23**. The Chamber officers for 2019-2020 and directors elected to 2019-22 terms will be held as part of the dinner, and 2019 Narcissus Queen **Tiana Wong** and Princesses **Jennifer Wong**, **Melody Lai**, **Deanna Choy**, and **Caroline (Chan) Kodama** will be present. Those attending should be prepared for a nine-course dinner, including dessert, and pace their eating accordingly. Cocktails will start at 5:30 p.m., then the dinner and program will start at 6:00 p.m.



President
Joseph K.M. Hu

The presidents of the Quad Chambers (Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, and Korean) held their quarterly leadership lunch meeting on Friday, May 3, at the Waikiki Resort Hotel and were hosted by Korean Chamber President, **Gina Kim Nakamura**. In attendance were Japanese Chamber President **Melanie Okazaki**, Filipino Chamber President **Vanessa Kop**, and me. Three guests from each organization were invited along to encourage networking and idea sharing between the Quad Chamber leaders. Joining me at the lunch were President-Elect **Michele Choy**, First Vice President **Elvira Lo**, and Past President **Mona Choy-Beddow**.

We discussed various ideas on promoting events together and ways of keeping each other informed of new developments. We were also treated to a very special Korean lunch, prepared by the hotel's new executive chef, **Wook Jin "James" Lee**. The next quarterly lunch will be hosted by the Chinese Chamber under the leadership of our incoming president, Michele Choy.

And speaking of our incoming president, if you haven't purchased a ticket for the upcoming installation dinner on Thursday, May 23, at the Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant, I am sorry to inform you that we have filled all seats for this event. We want to thank all the organizations, societies, and individuals for the strong support shown to Michele and the Chinese Chamber.

The CCCH and Hawaii Mainland Overseas Chinese Association's 7th annual golf tournament was held at the Hawaii Prince golf course on Thursday, May 2, and it was another successful

event. More than 140 golfers showed up to support the tournament and everyone had a good time. Committee chair **Michael Yee** and committee members **John Zhang**, Michele Choy, **Bradford Chun**, **Tina Au**, and **Robert Yu** worked tirelessly up to the day of the tournament to ensure that we had enough sponsors, donors, and golfers for a successful and enjoyable event.

Michael also came up with the idea of letting the Narcissus Court tee off at one of the holes for the golfers in exchange for a donation to defray their Narcissus Goodwill Tour expenses. Third Princess **Deanna Choy** was the golf talent in the group and was so good that she raised \$800 for the Court. I found out later that Deanna has been golfing since she was 5 and can hit the ball up to 180 yards. The rest of the Court chipped in by giving Deanna mini-massages and supplying her with drinks throughout the day to lend support. This activity became so popular with the golfers that the Court was invited to do it again for the Taiwanese Chamber golf tournament on Thursday, May 30. Great job, ladies!

As this will be my last President's message before handing the reins over to Michele, I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the many people who have made this year so special for me. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, I will not be able to mention everyone as there were just too many of you.

This year has been a journey for me and, like all journeys, completing one requires people helping you out along the way. First and foremost, I want to thank the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their advice, guidance, and support throughout the year. They were hard working groups that took their responsibilities seriously. They challenged the status quo and pushed to get things done. We had lively debates and discussions in many of our meetings and that's the way a good working Executive Committee and BOD should operate, not just rubber-stamping agendas being pushed through. Thank you for your participation and diligence in fulfilling your duties.

A special thank you goes out to EVP **Wen Chung Lin** and Office Manager **Lucia Liang** for their guidance, support, and all the long hours they put in to ensure the daily functions of the Chamber are operating smoothly. Thanks also go out to **Gerald Chang** and **Angela Wu-Ki** for their dedication in publishing the monthly *Lantern*, a challenging job to say the least. They work behind the scenes most of the time and never seem to get the recognition they deserve. Thank you both.

Thank you to all the committee chairs, who worked tirelessly throughout the year to bring seminars, functions, and networking opportunities to our members. And a heartfelt thank you to Michele Choy, who spearheaded all the special 70th Anniversary Narcissus events and created a memorable year for the Chamber and our members. To Narcissus Queen **Jami Zhong**, First Princess **Kristina Pollock**, Second Princess **Tyler Ordenstein**, Third Princess **Tiffany Chen**, and Fourth Princess **Katherine Kaw**, each of you ladies represented the Chinese Chamber and community wonderfully this past year and made us all proud of you.

For me, on a personal level, this past year represented an opportunity to serve and get reconnected with the Chinese community. To that end, I would like to thank all the Chinese societies and organizations that have allowed me to be a part of their functions and celebrations. It gave me a glimpse into the wonderful history and heritage of our Chinese community and an opportunity to meet all the amazing people who are continuing to carry this legacy into the future.

And because of all the work put in by the aforementioned people, I am happy to report that the Chamber is financially in a stronger position, we have a good mix of established and young leaders in place to lead our organization, we have a growing membership base, particularly the Young Professionals, we have updated our by-laws to address needed changes, we secured a State grant to refurbish our building, and we continued to uphold our leadership responsibility in the Chinese community by taking an important role in helping with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor celebration for Hawaii's Chinese WWII veterans. We have also started working on a long-term strategic plan to provide a roadmap for the Chamber as we move forward.

Finally, a very special thank you to my wife, **Donna**, for putting up with my schedule this past year, to **Robert Yu** who inspired me to get involved 4 years ago, and to **Eddie Flores, Jr.** and **Victor Lim** for showing me the way the past 4 years. Thank you all.

Narcissus Queen Search

The annual search for Narcissus Queen contestants has begun. Contestants should meet the following criteria: A minimum of 25% Chinese ethnicity; single (never been married or given birth to a child); between 19 and 26 years of age on the Pageant date (January 11, 2020); and a resident of Hawaii for at least twelve months prior to the Pageant. Young women meeting those criteria and who are interested in competing in the 71st annual Narcissus Pageant should go to the Chamber Web site where the contestant application, the two-page contestant agreement with one-page addendum, and contestant rules are available online for downloading. The deadline for entries is **Wednesday, July 31**.

Narcissus Fashion Show

by Michele Choy

The 70th anniversary of the Narcissus Festival ended on Sunday, March 24, with a dazzling fashion show. The beautiful garments showcased were created by the **Xiu Niang** design team in Suzhou, China. Three hundred attendees enjoyed the variety of pre-show boutique vendors and many silent auction items. A great lunch was served and then the fashion show began with **Pamela Young** as mistress of ceremonies. Many former Narcissus queens and princesses showcased the garments as models. Quad chamber presidents **Vanessa Kop**, **Melanie Okazaki**, and **Gina Nakamura** participated as guest models.

An incredible front and backstage team smoothly ran the fashion show. Many of those attending commented on how beautiful all the garments were and couldn't wait to purchase them after the show. Chief Brand Officer **Ting Xu** mentioned this fashion show was Xiu Niang's debut in the United States and that some garments were made only for the Honolulu runway show and not for sale in stores.

Many thanks to all those who attended and lent their support. Special thanks to all the silent auction donors and Diamond Sponsors **Arthur Tolentino**, Dr. **Angela Pratt**, **Elvira Lo**, Helemano Plantation, HomeStreet Bank, and **Leilani Keough**.

One-Ring Robocalls Alert

As you may recall, last month's Lantern had a lengthy article on robocalls and steps that are being taken in Congress and by major telecom companies to deal with the increasing problem of robocalls, unwanted and unsolicited telephone calls to your telephone. Since then, on May 3, the Federal Trade Commission issued a nationwide alert, warning people of one-ring (*wangiri* in Japanese) phone calls: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-357304A1.pdf>; https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/05/07/do-not-call-them-back-fcc-warns-late-night-scam-calls/?utm_term=.b170955c858f The numbers may even be from the same area code as yours and you may think that it's a call from a friend, relative or business contact, so you may call them back. WRONG! That's

exactly what the scammers want you to do and you may find out later that your "return call" was redirected to a premium 900-number where you incur phone charges for calling back as well as for each minute on the line. For more information, here's May 9 Heavy.com article, "One Ring Robocall Scam: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know," <https://heavy.com/news/2019/05/one-ring-robocall-scam/>

Checking on Your Social Security Benefits

Up to 2000, anyone over 25 automatically received a hard copy Social Security account statement. However, in recent years, the federal government has been cutting down on all kind of paperwork, and this is just one more item to add to the list. As a result, today, only those over 60 years of age and aren't yet receiving Social Security benefits and don't have online accounts get paper statements. So perhaps you should consider setting up an online Social Security account so that you can monitor your earnings. **James Herron's** May 2 *USA Today* article "Checked your Social Security statement? If not, you could miss a shortfall in benefits" may be helpful: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/05/02/social-security-make-sure-you-get-full-benefits-you-deserve/3650482002/>

Early Days for Southwest's HI Flights

On April 23, **Allison Schaefer** reported in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, "Hawaii hotels report lackluster first quarter." This has obvious implications for Hawaii's number one industry and visitor spending. What too many people overlook is that focus on "free-spending Japanese" by tourism "leaders" is misplaced; long gone are the days since the Plaza Accord in which the G-5 (U.S., Japan, U.K., France, and Germany) finance ministers agreed to a weaker U.S. dollar. In the ensuing rush to invest in U.S. real estate, especially "trophy properties," by the Japanese, dire warnings and Japan-bashing resulted. In the years since then, the big spenders in Hawaii have been the Chinese: According to Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism figures, the Japanese tourists stay longer, but spend less per day while the Chinese stays are shorter, but their per day spending is greater. So overall, it's the Chinese visitors who are today's big spenders in Hawaii.

So as a fortuitous counterpoint, *USA Today's Dawn Gilbertson* wrote "Flying Southwest to Hawaii: Coconut rum, snack packs and 'Forgetting Sarah Marshall,'" flying Southwest from Chicago to Honolulu via St. Louis and Oakland and returning on Hawaiian Airlines non-stop to Phoenix. Readers may have noticed that Southwest began inter-island service between Honolulu (HNL) and Kahului (OGG) on April 28 and then to Kona (KOA) on May 12. Eventually, Southwest will extend its no-frills, low cost inter-island flights to Lihue (LIH) and Hilo (ITO). Meanwhile, service between Honolulu and San Jose (SJC) began on May 5.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2 • Thu

2019 Chinese Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

Hawaii Prince Golf Course – 12:00 p.m.

May 8 • Wed

**CCCH Business Connections
Natural Disaster Preparedness**Chinatown Training & Visioning Center
5:30 p.m.May 12 • Sun • **Mother's Day**

May 21 • Tue

Executive Board Meeting

Chamber's Office – 6:00 p.m.

May 23 • Thu

**Chinese Chamber 108th
Installation Banquet**

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

May 27 • Mon • **Memorial Day**

May 28 • Tue

Board of Directors Meeting

Maple Garden Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

Jun 5 • Wed

**2019 Narcissus Queen
Goodwill Tour Departure**

Jun 19 • Wed

**2019 Narcissus Queen
Goodwill Tour Return**Jun 16 • Sun • **Father's Day**

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L & L Hawaiian Barbecue CEO and former Chamber president **Eddie Flores, Jr.** was photographed at the 12th anniversary dinner for Golden Cabinets and Stone. The March 31 dinner was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort.

Another former Chamber president has decided that a job change was in order. **Robert Yu** has left his position as HART's chief financial officer for the State of Hawaii. He is now the "acting Director" for the Department of Budget and Finance.

According to the "Dining Out" insert in the April 28 Sunday *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, Ba-Le Sandwich and Bakery founder/La Tour Bakehouse CEO and long-time Chamber board member **Thanh Quoc Lam** is once again expanding his business. La Tour Bakehouse will revamp 7-Eleven Hawaii's "triangle sandwich" program, part of the meals and snacks available throughout the day at 7-Eleven's many convenience stores. (For those who have never visited, they also have a variety of pork hash (*siu mai*) as well as *manapua* (*bao*), which may slightly reduce trips to Char Hung Sut, Mee Sum, Tai Pan or Legend in Chinatown). The bread is baked daily and the wheat bread has 125% more wheat for those wanting more fiber in their diets, the chicken salad texture is improved with diced rather than ground chicken, and the egg salad has larger pieces of egg. The chicken, tuna, and egg salad sandwiches use Best Foods mayonnaise, which is recommended by *Cook's Illustrated* magazine. So when in a rush or in need of a quick snack, remember the La Tour Bakehouse triangle sandwiches at a nearby 7-Eleven!

Former Chamber and ACUW (1996) president **Frances Goo** was one of the models appearing in **Yu Shing Ting's** "Style" section of the May 1 *Midweek*. The two-page spread publicized the Sunday, May 11, ACUW fashion show at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort's Coral Ballroom. Also pictured were 2013 Miss Hawaii Chinese **Erica Lee** and 2014 Miss Chinatown Hawaii **Jessica Cheng**.

New Members

At its April 30 meeting, the Chamber board approved the applications for regular membership for **Feng Chen**, a sales executive with **Howard Hughes Corp.** Ward Village (recommended by **Michael Yee**) and **Yuan Bin Zhou**, product manager for Ocean Go, Inc. (recommended by **Jon Cook**) and Young Professional applications for **Jay Geng**, vice president for Wasabi Tours (recommended by **Jon Cook**), **Jack Ho**, a pharmacist with CVS (recommended by **Kenneth Lee** and **Jon Cook**), **Xaxier Imperial**, an actor with **Kathy Muller Agency** (recommended by **Leonard Kam**), **Brittany Nagasawa**, a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley (recommended by **Jill Fukumoto** and **Mona Choy-Beddow**), and **Jonathan Wong**, a financial services provider with New York Life (recommended by **Jon Cook**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.



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