



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

夏威夷中華總商會



LANTERN

NEWSLETTER

December, 2019

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Annual Palolo Chinese Home Christmas Visitation on Sunday, December 1, 2019.
(Photos by Lance Wong)



Narcissus Festival

Your last FREE opportunity to see the nine lovely Narcissus contestants is on **Saturday, December 21**. They will make a public appearance at the Ala Moana shopping center's Centerstage from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will likely be hordes of Christmas shoppers, so plan to get to Ala Moana early if you want to attend the public appearance and meet and greet the contestants as well as members of the 2019 Narcissus Court.

The 71st annual Narcissus souvenir book is complete and has been sent to the printers. Copies should be available for sale in time for the Narcissus Pageant on **Saturday, January 11, 2020**.

Narcissus Queen Pageant

by Michele Choy

The Narcissus Queen Pageant is on **Saturday, January 11, 2020** at the Hawaii Theatre, 1130 Bethel Street. The nine contestants are in the process of preparing themselves for the big night. Tickets can be purchased from the Hawaii Theatre by calling 833-215-6121, between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. EST, seven days a week. Orders may also be made online through www.CityTicketsOnline.org. The tickets are NOT available at the Chamber unless you previously placed an early order.

As a reminder, for the second year in a row, event sponsor Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Co. of Hong Kong will be donating ten Lucky *fook* 999.99 ("five nine") fine gold coins that will be given away at the Queen Pageant. All of the young ladies are very talented, so come out to support them and for a chance to win a Lucky coin for the Year of the Rat. (The Year of the Rat runs from January 25, 2020, through February 11, 2021).



President
Michele C. Choy

The month of November slowed down a bit. However, the Narcissus contestants had a busy calendar of classes for November, consisting of Chinese History by **Douglas Chong**, Knotting and Papercutting by **Barbara Ho**, Calligraphy by **Yen Chun**, Martial Arts by **Ken Kang** of *Gee Yung* Martial Arts, Herbal Medicine by Dr. **Shi Zhong Xiao**, Mock Interview by **Wil Yeh**, Makeup by Sephora, traditional Chinese cooking by **Linda Chang Wyrigatsch** and The Art of Tea Drinking by **Laisin Lee**. They are having an educational time of their life!

They completed their public appearances at Windward Mall, Ohana Hale Marketplace, and Kahala Mall, building up their confidence for Pageant Night. The Ala Moana Shopping Center appearance has been moved to December 21 at 3:00 p.m. Our thanks to Chair **Stephanie Chan** for setting up these appearances.

On Wednesday, November 20, the Chinatown Community Foundation Training and Visioning Center held a free workshop on the “Chinatown Rail Station Design and Kekaulike Street Market Project.” Speakers were **Ryan Tam**, Acting Deputy Director of Planning Environmental Compliance and Sustainable Mobility at HART, speaking on the Chinatown rail station, conceptual design, status, and features and **Honglong Li**, Rail Station Program Manager, Dept. of Transportation Services, City & County of Honolulu, speaking on Kekaulike Mall and Kekaulike Street Concepts, with updates and project schedule. It was a very educational and eye-opening topic with 27 attendees present, asking many questions. Many thanks to **Sarah Moy** for sponsoring the light refreshments and working with **Dennis Hwang** to get the speakers.

On Friday, November 22, long-time Chair, **Gayle John Lau** of the Chinatown Open House Queen and Court Merchants Visit Committee accompanied **Kristin Pereira**, **Sarah Replogle**, and me as we spent two and a half hours walking through Chinatown to meet and introduce the young ladies to the merchants and place Narcissus Festival posters around Chinatown. Gayle will be retiring from this position after over 40 years of service. The two young ladies will take over his position. We thank Gayle and welcome Kristin and Sarah to the Narcissus Festival team.

Our annual Christmas tradition of visiting Palolo Chinese Home brought holiday cheer to the residents with our Christmas caroling on **Sunday, December 1**, at 11:30 a.m. sharp. Leading us in song was **Walter Chang**, with Dr. **Stanley Wong** on guitar. Joining in the chorus were the 2019 Narcissus Court and 2020 Narcissus contestants.

I wish you and your family a safe and healthy Holiday Season!



Papercutting



Calligraphy and Knotting



Mock Interview



Herbal Medicine



Makeup

祝賀

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the participants of the
71st Annual Narcissus Festival

We proudly support the Chinese Chamber of Commerce
and this celebration of Chinese culture in our community.

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Yung Yee Kee Dim Sum



Above: Kekaulike Street Market Project Workshop



Left: Chinatown Rail Station Design Workshop

Coronation Ball

by Michele Choy

The 71st annual Coronation Ball will be on **Saturday, February 1**, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort's Coral Ballroom. This year, we will be having a large video screen, which will feature an endless loop of photos of sponsor logos and ads, Chamber and Narcissus Festival events, and individual photos of Emeritus Directors and Directors. Prior to dinner and the program, the outgoing 2019 Narcissus Court will also be in the Coral Lounge, signing autographs. We hope you can join us for an evening of good food, great entertainment, and camaraderie! To order your seat(s) or table, call **Lucia** at 533-3181.

Council Bill 40

As mentioned in last month's *Lantern*, the originally well-intentioned Council bill was supposed to apply to foam containers and plastic utensils, stirrers, and straws. However, at the last minute, one councilman took it upon himself to insert vague and overly broad language that would ban all "plastic" packaging. The bill would discriminate between goods equally placed, adversely affecting local products while being inapplicable to similar imported products from outside Hawaii. To this apparent unconstitutional denial of equal protection, the bill adds insult to injury on a years-long "problem" in search of a solution, with an effective date of January 1, 2020. An information sheet (measuring about 8-1/2" x 5-1/2" is freely available at 7-Eleven Hawaii counters and perhaps elsewhere, giving background on the flawed Council Bill 40, a list of companies opposed to Bill 40, and telephone and e-mail information for contacting the mayor and all nine council members. So this is your opportunity to voice your opposition to the "flawed" bill, which adversely affects all too many local businesses, BEFORE the "final vote" on **Tuesday, December 3**. Yet the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser's* November 24 editorial is

entitled "Plastics ban bill a sensible start" and says that the "revised" bill and its "phased ban" is "deserving of support."

Meanwhile, on November 13, came news from **Millie Dent** on CNN business, "This company is using mushrooms to reduce plastic waste." Ecovative, a New York-based start-up, would cut down on single-use plastics by using *mycelium*, the root-like structure of mushrooms, to replace styrofoam. The various uses of *mycelium* are discussed in more detail in Dent's article: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/13/tech/ecovative-mission-ahead/index.html>

2020 Narcissus Goodwill and Business Mission Tour

by Elvira Lo

The Narcissus Goodwill and Business Mission Tour runs from departure on Friday, June 5, and return on Friday, June 19. This is going to be the first year we introduce a business portion into the tour in Shanghai and Macau. There are many sites among the Tour's highlights. In Beijing, we will see the Forbidden City, the "Palace with 9,999 rooms," home of many Chinese emperors for 700 years. The Great Wall was one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. Then we will take the bullet train to Datong to see two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the 1,000+ year old Yungang Grottoes, with its 252 caves and 51.00 rock-cut Buddhist statues, and the 1,500+ year old Hanging Monastery. From there, we will then take a bus to Inner Mongolia and enjoy the culture of horsemanship, local folk dance, and the Inner Mongolia (Hohhot) Museum.

We will fly to Shanghai to experience the most cosmopolitan financial city in China. We have a special invitation from the United States ATO office for a briefing on e-commerce development and economic forecast in China today. We then fly to Macau, staying at the Las Vegas Sands' Parisian Macau Casino and Resort Hotel, and we will meet with Miss Macau and her court. We will also be given an exclusive VIP tour of the Macau Sands properties and a meeting with the company's executives. Their gross revenue of all their eight Macau properties comprise 50% of the total gross gambling income in the City of Macau.

With the many exciting historic and cultural sites, not to mention delicious meals and official dinners in each city, the Goodwill and Business Mission Tour should not be missed. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 533-3181.



Public Appearance at Windward Mall



THE CENTRAL
ALA MOANA



More for the Foodies

Popeyes' fried chicken sandwiches finally arrived in Hawaii with an "official" start date of Sunday, November 17 (two weeks after resuming sales on the mainland), but at four locations (Dillingham, NEX, Pearl City, and Waipahu), it was mentioned in the November 15 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* print edition that the sandwiches would be available on Saturday, November 16. Since then, the sandwiches have sold out at different locations during the day. In Hawaii, the sandwiches cost \$6.00 while they apparently sell for \$3.99 on the mainland. **Dave Reardon** and *Star-Advertiser* restaurant critic **Nadine Kam** compared the classic and spicy Popeyes to Jollibee's "crunch chicken sandwich" and KFC's "crispy colonel sandwich" with a choice of three sauces): <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2019/11/13/food/how-does-a-popeyes-chicken-sandwich-compare/> And from personal experience, The *Lantern* editor can confirm that the Popeyes sandwich is as big as shown in the photograph, and both the Classic and quite Spicy sandwiches are good to eat, even if it meant 15 minutes just to place an order and another 40 minutes to actually get the sandwiches at the NEX location.

Meanwhile, the McRib sandwich is back for a "limited time" at McDonald's, with former Chamber president **Victor Lim** having franchises at five locations on Oahu. And not to be outdone, apparently former Chamber president **Eddie Flores, Jr.**'s L & L Hawaiian Barbecue has successfully tested its new

Hawaiian MixPlate concept (with the customer choosing the mix for his or her plate lunch from a "hot bar"), introduced locally in 2017, to stores in Washington state (Shelton), California (San Marcos), and Colorado (Aurora), according to an article by Dave Reardon in the November 19 *Star Advertiser*: <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2019/11/19/hawaii-news/newswatch/ll-expands-mixplate-concept-to-mainland/> The November 24 *Star-Advertiser* "Dining Out" section has a cover article on L & L, adding information on the new locations (inside Walmart stores) on the mainland where customers will be able to select from eight to nine entrees as well as sides and starch in ordering a Hawaiian MixPlate, what L & L CEO **Elisia Flores** refers to as "deconstructed plate lunch."



Sharing our Aloha

Congratulations on the 71st Annual Narcissus Festival Celebration!

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First Hawaiian Bank is proud to support a tradition that provides personal and scholarship opportunities for Hawaii's young women of Chinese ancestry. Best wishes to all the contestants of the 71st Annual Narcissus Festival.



First Hawaiian Bank.

IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

A black and white photograph of several narcissus flowers in bloom, with some buds still closed. The flowers are the central focus of the top advertisement.

Congratulations

to the Chinese Chamber
of Commerce on your
71st Annual
Narcissus Festival
Celebration.

Mahalo

for all you do to perpetuate
Chinese culture in our
community.



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A black and white photograph of several plumeria flowers in bloom, with some buds still closed. The flowers are the central focus of the bottom advertisement.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 1 • Sun
Chamber's Annual Visitation
Palolo Chinese Home – 11:30 a.m.

Dec 2 • Mon
Executive Board Meeting
Chamber's Office – 6:30 p.m.

Dec 5 • Thu
Board of Directors Meeting
Elks Club – 5:00 p.m.

Dec 5 • Thu
Chinese Chamber Christmas Party
Elks Club – 5:30 p.m.

Dec 21 • Sat
Contestants Public Appearance
Ala Moana Shopping Center Centerstage
3:00 p.m.

Dec 25 • Wed
Christmas Day

Jan 1 • Wed
New Year's Day

Jan 11 • Sat
71st Narcissus Queen Pageant
Hawaii Theatre Center – 8:00 p.m.

Jan 17 • Fri
Chinese New Year Celebration
Chinatown Cultural Plaza
5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Jan 17 • Fri
Chinatown Open House (Choy Cheng)
Chinatown District – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Jan 18 • Sat
Chinese New Year Celebration
Chinatown Cultural Plaza
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Jan 20 • Mon
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan 25 • Sat
Chinese New Year Day

Feb 1 • Sat
70th Narcissus Coronation Ball
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom
– 5:00 p.m.

Medicare/ACA enrollment reminder

The “open enrollment” periods for Medicare and the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. “Obamacare”) has begun. This is the opportunity for Chamber members of a certain age (65 years old, to be exact) to sign up for health insurance coverage and for those who already have coverage to make changes to their insurer or coverage that will be in effect for calendar year 2020. Please note that the open enrollment periods for the two programs are NOT the same: For Medicare, it runs from Tuesday, October 15 to **Saturday, December 7** while open enrollment for the ACA runs from Friday, November 1 to **Sunday, December 15**. And for the handful of Chamber members who are veterans, the Tricare open period runs from Monday, November 11, through **Monday, December 9**.

And for those who want the government to “keep its hands off my medical care,” it may be a shock to learn that not only is Medicare (and Social Security) a government-run program and a socialist one at that. All working Americans, whether employees or self-employed, pay taxes (either Federal Insurance Contributions Act or FICA or the Self-Employment Contributions Act or SECA, respectively), which funds Medicare Part A for hospital coverage (and Social Security). (Medicare Part B covers medical while Medicare Part D covers prescription drugs). As a result of paying that tax (or “premiums” by another name), working Americans are legally entitled to coverage when they turn 65. Make no mistake, Medicare (and Social Security) are “earned benefits” for all working Americans who have paid over years of work and are definitely NOT freebies.

FREE Recession Tracker

Some Chamber members may be aware of the historical phenomenon of recessions occurring with every first-term Republican president since Theodore Roosevelt in 1909. (For the doubters, Google “first-term Republican president recessions”). And while market turbulence has subsided since this summer, Bloomberg Economics has a monthly “Recession Tracker,” giving the increasing or decreasing probability of a recession – currently at 27% – in the next 12 months. Depending on your investment strategy, you may want to add this to your analytical tool arsenal, especially if you’re a Bloomberg/*Businessweek* subscriber: https://b.bloomberglp.com/Bloombergrecessiontrackernewsletter?utm_source=nurture&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Recessiontracker_popup. Meanwhile, Business Insider Prime (available only to subscribers) has a report that according to Societe Generale “We see a springtime recession.” (Bloomberg has a November 20 article on the Societe Generale report – <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-20/societe-generale-sticks-with-forecast-for-u-s-recession-in-2020>).

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