



## NARCISSUS QUEEN JAMIE LEE'S PASSION FOR HAWAII'S SENIORS

**R**ecent Narcissus Queen Jamie Lee has been a wonderful part of Palolo Chinese Home's efforts to uplift our residents' spirits throughout the pandemic. When singing Christmas carols to our kupuna, she gracefully underscored the spirit of generosity that is a hallmark of the season. Jamie Lee and her court also volunteered to support our drive-through Father's Day visit last year. Lee said of the experience, "It was particularly special, because people had to be creative to safely celebrate events. Seeing families reunite together for the first time in months was incredibly touching. We took pictures of the residents with their families, and gifted Polaroid pictures with handwritten Happy Father's Day notes."

The Narcissus Queen Pageant is an integral part of The Narcissus Festival, a time-honored event founded by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii over 70 years ago. For Jamie Lee, being crowned Narcissus Queen was the culmination of a lifelong dream. Traditionally during the coronation, the Narcissus Queen is preceded by a procession of little girls, and as a child, Jamie was a lantern carrier for Narcissus Queen Libby Lum. Some twenty years later, Jamie would grow up to be a Narcissus Queen herself—and the only one to serve two terms. While many of the customary Narcissus court festivities also had to be curtailed due to the pandemic, she continued to find opportunities to give back to the community. Said Lee, "The pandemic was such a shock, but you have to learn how to make lemons into lemonade."

This April, Jamie Lee stopped by Palolo Chinese Home once again, visiting with CEO Darlene Nakayama and 2nd Vice President of the PCH Board, Elvira Lo. The visit was additionally special given Lo's distinguished role as past President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the many wonderful things that the Chamber, and Narcissus Queen Jamie Lee, do every day to honor culture and commitment to community. We were further humbled when Jamie Lee shared her personal gratitude for the Home, noting that her own grandmother had once stayed at PCH to recover from a broken leg. "I'll never forget the care that the Home showed for my Popo. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to give back to a place that gives so much to our seniors and their families."



Left to Right, Darlene Nakayama, Jamie Lee, Elvira Lo



Jamie as lantern carrier for former Queen, Libby Lum.



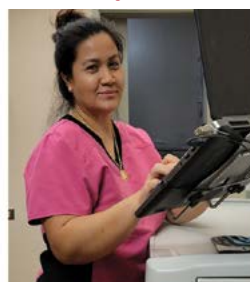
Jamie Lee with her Popo (far right)

### HOME IS FOR 'OHANA

At Palolo Chinese Home, our team is like family. We are so grateful for all that our talented and dedicated staff does everyday!



Kana Vance



Winnie Aguilar



Steven Yim



Lily Perez



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO | DARLENE NAKAYAMA

## A HEARTFELT MAHALO!



**T**he Palolo Chinese Home (PCH) would like to thank all of our staff, residents, families, friends, and the community for your support these past two years. We could not have survived without each and every one of you.

To our PCH staff, you cared for our residents as you would your own family. Many of you worked long hours to cover and care for our residents. HR Manager, Lauren Kagihara, shares that CNAs Winnie Aguilar and Lily Perez worked as much as 88 hours per week to help cover during these challenging times. There were many weekends that the activities staff worked overtime and into the evenings to assist residents with their dinners, such as Kana Vance, our long-time Activity Coordinator. With the absence of residents' family members, who were restricted from visiting the home for fear of infecting residents with COVID-19, our staff seamlessly supported our seniors and each other. Your commitment is truly a testament to our Home.

When we couldn't go shopping and couldn't find staple items like rice and flour on bare store shelves, our kitchen team helped to provide groceries for the staff. They also coordinated a weekly "Farmer's Market" at the PCH campus, offering staff fresh produce and care necessities. We thank Steven Yim, Cook, for helping to make nutritious food available to us! A big thanks also to Jill Matsumoto from the Business Office for her assistance in accounting the cost and payments to make this possible.

The families of our seniors wanted to see their loved ones, even if it meant visiting through windows or our glass door. While their visits had to be restricted to virtual visits, they were able to have "Facetime" using iPads. Through the generosity of such companies as the Wayne Parsons Law Office and nonprofit foundations like the Women's Fund of Hawaii, PCH was able to purchase 5 iPads, 10 Google Nest Hubs, and 10 Echo Show 8 devices to keep families connected. PCH also made it easier for loved ones to safely see each other by coordinating "drive-in" visits—hosting 26 of these heartwarming events throughout the pandemic. Each of these drive-ins averaged 26 family/resident participants, and in total they enabled PCH to reach over 650 family members!

"We were so grateful for the drive-through events," shares Andrew Lee, whose mother Susan Liu is a longtime resident of the home. "My brother George and I missed mom, but didn't want to jeopardize her health or that of the other residents. These creative in-person visits were the next best thing to giving her physical hugs. PCH remained vigilant and prioritized the safety of our families while understanding how essential it was for all of us to connect."

We thank you, our community, for your unwavering support. Thanks to the Premier Group and Dr. Miscovich for assisting PCH with all our testing; to PharMerica, Times Supermarket, and Walgreens for helping us get everyone vaccinated and boosted; to all of the Hawaii District 50 Lions for the face shields and celebration cards; and to the PCH Women's Auxiliary for the goodie bags, corsages, and celebration cards. Bless our residents for enduring all the COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, and our staff, nurses, and support team who cared for our residents during this difficult and challenging time.

A big MAHALO to you all!  
Darlene H. Nakayama, CEO





## PAUL TANIYAMA: PCH DYNASTY INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT HONORARY CHAIRPERSON 2022

For the first time in two years following postponements due to the pandemic, a cherished tradition in support of Hawaii's seniors will be in full swing again with the 30th Annual Palolo Chinese Home Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament on May 13. Generously supporting PCH and this vital fundraising tournament has long been par for the course for Paul Taniyama, who will also serve as this year's distinguished Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament Honorary Chair.

His relationship with PCH began more than 20 years ago thanks to Gordon and Lana Au. At the time, Paul and Gordon were co-workers at an insurance agency, and Palolo Chinese Home was one of the latter's clients. Gordon, who serves on the PCH Board of Directors, had been involved in the golf tournament since its inception. As Taniyama explains, "I got to learn a lot from Gordon and Lana's dedication to PCH and was personally impressed with the organization. Since then, I have always tried to support PCH, and Gordon, in any way I could."

Paul was hooked by the Home's commitment to community

and to enhancing the lives of a selfless generation—and his appreciation became even more personal when his Aunt Lillian Taniyama came to reside at PCH's Adult Residential Care Home, where she received heartfelt care from the staff and lived to be 101 years old. Attending various PCH events only further inspired his support. "Over the years, I learned Palolo Chinese Home's history and the humanitarian purpose it is fulfilling in caring for kupuna, who have contributed their lives and experiences to our community! You can just feel and see the look of appreciation in the eyes of the residents when you attend these events."

While a self-proclaimed avid duffer, Taniyama looks forward to participating in the tournament's triumphant return this year. "It's one of the major events that generate income for the financial well-being of PCH. Everyone who supports PCH gets to come together for some fun while seeing familiar faces and enjoying the fellowship!"



*Paul Taniyama*

## CELEBRATING OUR WOMEN'S AUXILIARY HEROES

Their generosity is the gift that keeps on giving. What the Palolo Chinese Home Women's Auxiliary has offered in time and effort has resulted in the delight of our residents tenfold. The spirit of openness and inclusivity is embedded in their very identity. As President Gladys Lee explains, "We have a wonderful group of ladies who welcome volunteers with open arms to join our mission."

Established in 1964, the Women's Auxiliary has been an essential part of PCH's extended ohana for generations. Every occasion, from Valentine's Day to Christmas, is made more magical by the creativity of the auxiliary volunteers—handmaking corsages, goodie bags, and more for the seniors. A patriotic celebration on the Fourth of July includes a harmonious chorus of Hawai'i Pono'i and the Pledge of Allegiance from auxiliary performers. The ladies also support some of PCH's most essential fundraising efforts, including the Home's annual golf tournament. And despite the pandemic altering the landscape of how volunteers can interact with kupuna, the Auxiliary has found innovative ways to keep the residents feeling supported.

The sense of gratitude felt by Palolo Chinese Home is evident in the sentiments shared by Activities Manager Jay Nishimura. "While running a long-term care facility has many moving parts, the Women's Auxiliary is

always there helping events to run smoothly and providing support," shares Nishimura. "Many of these women have been serving our community for decades. They serve as role models to the greater community. They allow us to give back and join in something greater than our individual effort."

So much of what the PCH Women's Auxiliary does are works from the heart—voluntary acts of kindness that stem from a love of giving back. "When we do things for the residents, it makes both us and them happy," adds Lee. "It is wonderful to know that what you do brings them joy. They are really excited to see the auxiliary ladies."



*Gladys Lee, PCH Women's Auxiliary President*



**PALOLO CHINESE HOME**  
*Better Care. Better Lives*

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*The blessing of "long life" is universally celebrated. At Palolo Chinese Home, the Chinese character for longevity (shou) has long been used as our symbol. By adding two brush strokes, the artist, the late Clarence Lee, incorporated the Chinese character for people or mankind (ren), and the result is an image of a roof embracing long life — our wish for you. The unbroken circle signifies our mission of continuous care and respect for our kupuna (elders).*

MAY 2022



## CHINESE NEW YEAR

**O**n February 11, Palolo Chinese Home safely celebrated Chinese New Year with a special event focused exclusively on our residents. The festivities began with a blessing from Reverend Cullen Lum of Mong Won Tan Baht Dai Sinn Temple. With great spirits, the kupuna enjoyed an exceptional meal prepared by our culinary staff featuring a Char Sui Chow Mein and Honey Walnut Shrimp for the special occasion.

As we all know, cuisine plays a central role in celebrating, so PCH was thrilled to offer some tasty recipes for Hawaiian Electric's Electric Kitchen! The program, which has provided the community with recipes for delicious homemade dishes for decades, was the perfect opportunity to showcase the talents of mother and daughter duo, Dorothy Chun Mau and Beverly K. S. Mau. Beverly's Chinese New Year Gau represents good luck, and Dorothy's Chinese Almond Cookies serve as a sign of good fortune.

Beverly's son, Chaz Mau, also designed Palolo Chinese Home's Year of the Tiger staff shirts as a passion project, with a bold and original design. The Year of the Tiger is defined by generosity and the commitment to community, which we hope our collective efforts demonstrate.

2022  
水虎



Chaz Mau

Beverly K. S. Mau  
with her Chinese  
New Year Gau



Dorothy Chun  
Mau's Chinese  
Almond Cookies

