

# LANTERN

December, 2000

## Narcissus Reminder

Chinese New Year's will come early this year, so the Narcissus Pageant will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2001, at the Neal Blaisdell Center Concert Hall while the Coronation Ball will be held on Saturday, January 20, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the seventeen lovely contestants, all of the \$25.00 tickets have been sold. However, according to Pageant Chair **Michele Choy**, there are still \$20.00 tickets available. Michele also advises those who will be attending the pageant to get there early. There will be an **Elton John** concert at the Blaisdell arena at 8:00 p.m. the same evening, and it is believed that many of the concert-goers will be arriving as early as 5:30 p.m. So a word to the wise, if you want to park in the Blaisdell parking structure and don't want to have to hunt for a parking space in the neighborhood, get there early for the pageant! Also, don't forget, the pageant will start promptly at 6:15 p.m., turn off your pagers and cellular phones, and put your cameras away until after the pageant.

Also, at around 10:30p.m. or as soon as the pageant ends, there will be a post-pageant reception at Hee Hing Restaurant in Kapahulu. This is an opportunity to meet and greet all of the contestants, congratulating each of them on doing a good job in the pageant and for their courage in appearing on-stage before hundreds of people. Stop and think about it – would you have the fortitude to go up there and perform as well as they did? There will be heavy *pupu*, and the cost is only \$8.50. There will also be a no-host bar for those who are thirsty.

As for the Coronation Ball, it will again be a gala evening at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The evening's festivities will begin with no-host cocktails at 5:00 p.m, followed by the traditional royal procession featuring the 52nd Narcissus Queen and her court at 6:00 p.m. The actual coronation at 7:00 p.m. will be followed by the usual Golden Dragon gourmet dinner. The menu includes Golden Dragon seafood soup, Sapphire Shrimp with *lychee* and asparagus, Silver Oyster Mushrooms with chicken and baby *bak choy*, Lobster Curry with *haupia* diamonds, Jade *Onaga* with ginger and garlic, Siquan Beef with ruby tomatoes, and Gingered Sesame *Mochi* Pearls. All of this for \$49.00 per person or \$490.00 per table

of ten. (Please note that last year, the cost per person was \$55.00). In addition, master sommelier **Alan Young** has personally selected three wines to be served with appropriate dishes for \$590.00 per table. (The wine dinner is available only on a per-table basis). The first dance for the Queen and court will be around 9:00 p.m. to the music of Starpointe, and dancing will continue until midnight or until everyone goes home, whichever comes first.

And of course there's the Fashion Show on Sunday, February 11. More details will be provided in the January Lantern. However, it's not too early to call **Grace Chan** at the Chamber (533-3181) if you're interested in attending or in having a vendor table at the pre-show boutique on Sunday morning.



夏威夷中華商會

THE  
CHINESE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
OF HAWAII

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Victor Lim

Happy holidays, everyone! This really is a season to celebrate and enjoy the many blessings that we all enjoy. We shared our blessings with our annual visitation to the Palolo Chinese Home on Sunday, December 3. Our Narcissus Queen, **Libby Lum**, and Princess **Dana Dung** led the way for the seventeen Narcissus Queen contestants. We all shared the delicious *won ton min* with the residents of the Home, followed by the singing of Christmas carols led by none other than **Walter "Bing Crosby" Chang** with

guitar accompaniment by Dr. Wong. We even had many of the residents singing along with all of us.

The Queen and court again led the way for all seventeen of the Narcissus contestants to a packed audience at the Ala Moana center stage that Sunday afternoon. Most of the shoppers took a break from their Christmas shopping to check out the beautiful and talented young ladies vying to be the next goodwill ambassadors for our Hawaii Chinese community.

Celebrate is what we did with our annual Christmas get together at the Planet Hollywood in Waikiki. **Lee-Ann Choy** outdid herself by again choosing a venue that many of our Chamber members had never set foot in before. The biggest moment that night was to recognize **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and **Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam** as recipients of the Chamber's Outstanding Business-person of the Year award. What they have done with L & L Drive-Inn from its origins

over twenty years ago to what it is today is truly nothing short of outstanding. Not only are they true entrepreneurs in every sense of the word, but they have also provided many opportunities for the many people who run their restaurants to become entrepreneurs themselves. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to **Danny Young** and his executive team of **Keith W. F. Lim** and **Lawrence W. J. Siu** on their election as the new officers of the United Chinese Society for the year 2001.

Coming soon are our Narcissus Queen Pageant scheduled for January 13, 2001, at the Neal Blaisdell Center Concert Hall, and the Coronation Ball scheduled for January 20 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Please make your reservations early because you will not want to miss out on these fabulous functions.

Best wishes to you and your family from ours for a great 2001.



**Annual Palolo Home Visitation:** There are fifty people including Chamber's president Victor Lim, officers, past presidents, directors, members, 51st Narcissus Queen Libby Lum, 3rd Princess Dana-Li Dung, 52nd Narcissus contestants and Journalist students from China visited Palolo Home on December 3, 2000. This annual visitation brings the elderly residents at Palolo Home warm season's greetings and enjoyment of performance on Hula dance and Christmas songs conducted by past president Walter Chang.

## THE LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's Affiliated Chambers and Business Organizations Council will present "The Legislative Reception" on Tuesday, January 23, in the Card Room of the Pacific Club, 1451 Queen Emma Street, from 7:00-9:00 a.m. The Reception is an opportunity for regional and ethnic Chamber members to take part in meeting and networking with legislators according to **Bennette Evangelista**, the Council chair. She adds that "I strongly urge the participation of all Chambers. The greater the number of members involved, the greater our influence will be this year." The cost of \$10.00 per person includes a continental breakfast. Reservation deadline is Tuesday, January 16. To reserve a seat, call **Kim Mills** at 545-4329



### CHAMBER'S VISITORS

(December 10-11, 2000)  
 - Mr. Duan Xushen, Vice Chairman  
 Jiangsu CPPCC and delegation of 8

## Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party was held on Thursday, December 7. This year, the venue was the Planet Hollywood location in Waikiki. Around 52 people attended, enjoying the heavy *pupu* and getting a good look at the premises on a weekday evening. There was even a "scavenger hunt" of sorts, involving finding the answers to a series of questions, the answers being found at various exhibits around downstairs and upstairs. The winner was **Kevin Freeman**, the son of **Ceci Chang Freeman** and husband **Myron**. All in all, another good job by event chair **Lee-Ann Choy**.



**Annual Chamber Membership Christmas Party:** An interesting and enjoyable Membership Christmas Party, arranged at Planet Hollywood Honolulu in Waikiki on December 7, 2000 by chairperson Lee-Ann Choy, delights all the members at present.

# Chamber Outstanding Businesspersons of the Year

For the first time, the Chamber recognized two Outstanding Businesspersons of the Year: **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and **Kwock Yum “Johnson” Kam**. Eddie and Johnson, the president and chairman of L & L Drive-Inn, were recognized at the Chamber Christmas party as the winners for the year 2000. L & L is known for its large portions of food at reasonable prices, and for its many locations in Hawaii. The restaurant chain has consistently won recognition with “Best Plate Lunch,” “Best Fast Food Take-Out,” “Best Chicken Katsu,” “Best Local Food,” and “Best Barbecue” awards in Hawaii. The two started the first L & L on Liliha Street over twenty years ago, and have grown into a chain of 50 locations throughout the state. More recently, Eddie and Johnson took the concept to Los Angeles and have opened two locations of “L & L Hawaiian Barbecue” to

educate southern Californians about “two scoops rice” plate lunches and to distinguish their operations from American (and Korean) barbecue. The two entrepreneurs have previously been honored as the Small Business Administration’s “Entrepreneurs of the Year” and Ernst and Young’s “Entrepreneurs of the Year.” According to a 2001 Chinese zodiac calendar given out by Eddie and Johnson at the Christmas party, L & L has 37 locations on Oahu, three on Hawaii, three on Maui, one on Kauai, two in Southern California, and one opening in Oregon. In addition, there are two L & L Steak and Pizza operations, and one Tanuki Ramen location. (With McDonald’s now offering three plate lunches, perhaps Eddie and Johnson should offer a “healthy plate lunch” menu offering low or no-fat mayonnaise in the macaroni



**Outstanding Businessperson of the Year 2000 Award:** Chamber’s president Victor Lim (center) presents “Outstanding Businessperson of the Year 2000 Award” to honor recipients Eddie Flores (left) and Kwock Yum Kam (right) at Chamber Membership Christmas Party.

salad, sliced fruit as a mac salad alternative, brown rice, and other improvements. So while it may be an oxymoron now, perhaps they can be recognized with an award in the future for “healthiest plate lunch.” How about it, guys?).

## Chinese Citizen of the Year

The United Chinese Society has named **Yun Soong Chock Jim** as its Chinese Citizen of the Year 2000. She is the wife of Dr. **Vernon Jim** and is the mother of four now-grown daughters. Yun Soong was a distinguished public school teacher and also gave freely of her time and knowledge to community organizations like the Lyon Arboretum exotica program, Civitan, and the American Association of Retired Persons. In the Chinese community, she has contributed to the Chinese Chamber/Narcissus Festival, helped found the Chinese Youths of Hawaii, Palolo Chinese Home, Lin Yee Chung Association, U.S.-China People’s Friendship Association, and United Chinese Society. Yun Soong has also served as president of the associated Chinese University Women, the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association, and the Organization of Chinese American Women. Congratulations on the well-deserved award.



# 2001 Narcissus Contestants

by Michele Choy

In the last issue, eight of the young women competing for the title of 52nd Narcissus Queen shared their thoughts about participating in the pageant. In this issue, the other nine contestants share their thoughts:

**Brandi Jim On:** “It’s a good experience, very unique and if someone has the opportunity, I’d encourage them to take it. I gained a lot more than I expected out of it. I learned more about myself and gained confidence in speaking in front of people. The cultural classes is not something you could get anywhere else.”

**Jessica Lee:** “I really think it’s a very wonderful experience. Besides learning more about [Chinese] culture, I got to know sixteen other great girls and I’m very happy and proud to know that there are people who are passionate about teaching the Chinese culture.”

**Trudy Mow:** I like and enjoy the classes and learned a lot. I’m even more proud to be Chinese. It’s a good experience that I’m going to remember for the rest of my life.”

**Carol Ng:** I thought it was a really good experience to learn a lot. My parents are pretty traditional, but I learned much more through the classes. I met a lot of really nice people. They’re nice to talk with, and I think they’ll be lasting friendships.”

**Doris Lum:** “To me, I think the pageant is an opportunity to reach beyond the potential you think you have. The classes that we’ve been taking are really learning beyond what we thought we would learn. I think this pageant is an opportunity for any contestant, but it’s also an opportunity in life that will never be paralleled.”

**Melodee Young:** “Generally, overall, I probably learned not only about our culture and history, but it’s given me a stepping stone to learn more about my lineage and my roots. I’d recommend this pageant definitely for other girls. I gained self-esteem, confidence, and networking. It was also good publicity for my job, Action Rehab.”

**Sylvia Zhuang:** “I’ve learned that women are really powerful. Everyone brings their own uniqueness which is why we have such a dynamic group, and that’s why we have fun together. Having a group as big as this is really rare.”

**Jeanette Fu:** “After so many years of being ‘out of touch’ with my new culture, this has opened my eyes to my Chinese heritage, and I’ve found a new interest in pursuing my Chinese culture.”

**Jennifer Lau:** “It’s a good experience and I learned a lot about my culture that I never knew about. The classes were very interesting.”

For myself, I’ve had the pleasure of working with such an incredible group of young ladies this year. Their attendance record at the many Chinese culture and Pageant training classes was impeccable. This group of seventeen young ladies got along well and established a bond with one another. It has been my privilege and a joy to work with these girls. It made me so happy when they attended the classes, and I could see their interest sparked in wanting to learn more about their culture. They all have enjoyed each and every one of the classes. We should all be very proud of the contestants, but better yet, come out to the Pageant on Saturday, January 13, at the Blaisdell Concert Hall and see which of these contestants will represent the Chinese Chamber in the new millennium.





Realtor-Associate **Laisin Lee**, CRS, GRI, of East Oahu Realty, Inc., was one of five real estate agents recognized by the Honolulu Board of Realtors®, First Hawaiian Bank, and the Hawaii

Newspaper Agency with the Realtors® Choice Award. (Under the Aloha Aina Realtor® awards program, there are awards for Outstanding Newcomer, Hawaii’s Homes People’s choice, and Realtors Choice). Laisin and the other four agents were “chosen by their peers based on service to industry and clients, professional and ethical conduct, their cooperative business approaches, and extraordinary service to all in transactions.” She has been active in real estate since 1991, has professional designations as a Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Residential Institute, and is a past president of the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii. Congratulations, Laisin.

Kudos to First Lady **Vicky Cayetano** for her efforts in getting a one-year extension of the Queen’s Hospital forty-year old dental clinic. The program has about 4,000 patient visits annually and was losing about \$350,000 a year, mostly by providing free care to the poor.

New member **Trevor Benn** was pictured with his wife in the Hono-

lulu *Advertiser’s* December 17 “Travel Section.” Seems the Benns and two other couples chose to go to Europe for their sixteen-day honeymoons. Congratulations, Trevor, and best wishes, **Rae**

According to the December 18 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Chamber past President **Warren Luke** was responsible for Hawaii National Bank placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all its locations. Bank employees are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as part of normal Red Cross first-aid training. Warren is chairman and chief operating officer of Hawaii National Bank as well as a former national director of the American Red Cross and a long-time Hawaii State chapter director.

**NEW MEMBERS**

At its November 28 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the application of **Randolph Leong**, an attorney and real estate broker (sponsored by **C. L. Chia**). Welcome aboard, Randy.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Jan 1 • Mon	New Year Day
Jan 7-11	Zhongshan Medical Group Seminar
Jan 13 • Sat	52nd Narcissus Queen Pageant NBC Concert Hall, 6:15 p.m.
Jan 15 • Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 20 • Sat	52nd Narcissus Coronation Ball HHV Coral Ballroom, 5:00 p.m.
Jan 23 • Tue	Executive Board Meeting Yong Sing Restaurant, 12:00 noon
Jan 24 • Wed	Chinese New Year Day
Jan 26 • Fri	Chinatown Open House Chinatown, 6:30 to 11:00 p.m.
Jan 26 • Fri	Chinatown New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza, 5:00 to 11:00 p.m.
Jan 27 • Sat	Chinatown New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza, 12:00 to 11:00 p.m.
Jan 30 • Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Sea Fortune Restaurant, 12:00 noon

The LANTERN a monthly publication  
of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
42 North King Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
(808) 533-3181

*Editor:* Gerald Chang  
*Graphic Designer:* Angela Wu-Ki  
*Staff:* Wen Chung Lin, Grace Chan, Brian Lee