

NARCISSUS GOODWILL TOUR

Last call for the 2002 Narcissus Goodwill Tour, which leaves Honolulu on Monday, June 17, and returns on Friday, July 5. The tour will transit Taipei, spend one night in Hong Kong, then cross into Guangdong province where there will be two nights in Guangzhou with a day trip to Zhaoqing, Xiamen (1 night), Shanghai (3 nights), Beijing (4 nights), Xi'an (2 nights), Guilin (1 night), Shenzhen (2 nights), and back to Hong Kong (2 nights), then departure on Friday, July 5. There is also an optional two days in Taipei before returning to Honolulu. A more detailed itinerary with the names of the five-star hotels and sights to be seen (and sites to be visited) is available at the Chamber.

The cost, subject to change, based on double occupancy is \$3,998.00 per person and \$2,666.00 for children under twelve years of age. The cost includes daily breakfast in Hong Kong and all meals, ground transfers, tours and sightseeing, transportation between cities, evening cultural programs, and English-speaking guides. The optional stopover in Taipei costs \$320.00 per person based on double occupancy. Final payment is due not later than Friday, May 17. (Remember that you need a valid passport and a PRC visa, so allow extra time if you don't already have both). For more information, for a copy of the itinerary or to sign up, contact the Chamber at 533-3181 or Skyway Travel at 526-1347.

Those who have gone on previous Goodwill Tours will tell you that the entire tour group is royally treated. There are official welcome banquets in Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, and Hong Kong. Tour members should make sure that they have extra room in their baggage since at most of the dinners, everyone receives a small gift or memento. (Don't forget to declare the items on your customs declaration form when you return to Honolulu). It is also quite hot in China during June and July, and with the crowded schedule, it's easy to get tired, so get your rest when you can. Having traveled so far, you don't want to get sick and miss anything.



L & L Drive-Inn-Chinese Chamber Scholarship

Two \$1,000.00 scholarships are being offered to assist incoming freshmen students to attend any University of Hawaii campus. Students must have been accepted as a first-year classified full-time undergraduate student, be pursuing an associate or baccalaureate degree at a UH campus; have a high school GPA of 3.5 or better; have some degree of financial need; and show evidence of community involvement/service. Students of Chinese ancestry are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants may download application forms via the Internet at www.hawaii.edu/diversity or they may contact Dr. Lee

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夏威夷中華商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



Ban Chan

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the Nomination Committee for their selection of **Reuben Wong** to be our next President and **Ming Chen** to be our Second Vice President. Both Reuben and Ming are well-known in the community, and they are highly respected in their professions. We know they both will contribute valued ideas as well as their time and energies to the continued successes of the Chamber. Reuben and Ming, welcome aboard!

By the time you receive this issue of *The Lantern*, I will have only about one more month to serve as your President. I want to take this opportunity now to thank our office staff, **Wen Chung Lin** and **Grace Chan**, for their hard work and dedication during the past months of my term in office. I think that most of you do not realize the amount of time that both Wen and Grace put into their jobs. I have seen both of them go out of their way to get the job done, no matter how time-consuming or how difficult the task may be. They always keep a positive attitude, and they are especially accommodating when it comes to our relationships with our many friends from China. And when the day is over, no matter how tired they may be, they always have a smile on their faces! So from the bottom of my heart, thank you,

Wen and Grace!

If you want to visit China on one of the best tours in the whole country, consider signing up for the Narcissus Goodwill Tour, scheduled to leave on Monday, June 17. **Reuben Wong** will be leading this tour, and his itinerary has something to please everyone. There is still time to call the Chamber and put in your reservation.

This is the Chinese spring banquet season, so there are a lot of parties and eating. I am sure that many of you often attend these annual dinners. Enjoy the food and the company, but remember, watch your health! Without health, we have nothing else. See you at the Chamber Installation Dinner at the Honolulu Country Club on Thursday, May 30.

L & L Drive-Inn-Chinese Chamber Scholarship

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Putnam of the UH's SEED program at 956-9317. Applicants should file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form with the Financial Aid Services Office of the campus where enrolled. Applicants should also arrange for at least one and not more than four letters of recommendation to be sent to Dr. Putnam at SEED, 2600 Campus Road, Honolulu 96822. Four copies of completed application forms (one-page scholarship application cover form; essay discussing special accomplishments, community activities, educational plans, and aspirations for the future; and high school transcript) are to be submitted to Dr. Putnam, who will forward them to the Chamber's scholarship committee for the final selection.

Right now, the exact status of the scholarship for the 2002-2003 academic year is still being finalized. (It should be noted that normally, scholarship announcements are made in the fall of the year preceding admission). Questions should be directed to **Wen Chung Lin** at the Chamber office as to what the deadline is for applications, whether the final agreement with the UH has been signed, and whether any of the requirements have been changed or modified for this year.

CHAMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There will be a general membership meeting on Thursday, May 16. The lunchtime meeting will be at 12:00 noon at Sam Choy's Breakfast, Lunch & Crab on Nimitz. At the present time, it appears that the meeting will be for networking as well as to meet new members since no speaker is presently scheduled. Parking is either at the restaurant or across Nimitz at the Gentry Design Center. The cost is \$12.00 for the buffet lunch. Please RSVP by Monday, May 13.

Dragon Boat Races

The 7th annual AT&T Hawaii Dragon Boat races will again be held in August. The runup to the races starts with a blessing at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, on the beach of the Hilton Hawaiian Village. There will be a Kickoff party on Thursday, August 1, at a location to be announced later. Then the cup races will be held starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 3, and open race day will start at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 4. Practice in rowing a dragon boat presumably will be scheduled between June 8 and August 3. If registered by June 30, the entry fee is \$200.00 per team; after that date, the fee is \$425.00. At this time, it is unknown whether **Winfred Pong** will again be in charge of rounding up a Chamber team. You'll know either by reading it here in the next few months or if you get a call, perhaps from Winfred.

There is a Dragon Boat Webpage where an entry form and rules should be available. However, it is apparently provided free by Pacific Information Exchange (Pixi) and is about a year out of date since most of the references to dates are in 2001 except for the 2001 race results. In addition, it seems you have to go to the Pixi Webpage to access "chinatownhi.com." (Ed. note: A ten-page MS Word file was provided to the by **Gifford Chang**, including a copy of the calendar of events, race rules and regulations, and entry form).



Mr. Yang Jiechi (1st row L-3), Ambassador of the PRC to the USA and Mr. Lan Lijun (2nd row L-4), Consul General the PRC in Los Angeles invite the representative of the Chinese Chamber, United Chinese Society, US-China People's Friendship Association and Chinese Student and Scholar's Association to a breakfast at the Rainbow Suite, Hilton Hawaii Village April 26, 2002.



Chamber Installation Dinner

This year, there is a change of venue and a change of menu for the annual installation dinner. This year, the dinner and installation will be held at the Honolulu Country Club, 1690 Ala Puumalu Street (the golf club formerly known as the Honolulu International Country Club near Salt Lake), on Thursday, May 30. No-host cocktails start at 6:00 p.m., and the dinner and program start at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be a buffet rather than the usual Chinese sit-down dinner, and dress is aloha attire. The cost is \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by Monday, May 20.

Chamber Responds to Plight of Crew

by T. Y. Chung

UH HONORS EXTRAORDINARY ALUMNI

On Tuesday, May 14, the University of Hawaii and the UH Alumni Association will honor seven of its alumni at a dinner at the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki. One of the honorees is retired U.S. Senator **Hiram L. Fong**, who received a bachelor's degree from the UH in 1930. Cocktails are at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Premium tables for ten are \$3,500.00 (Platinum), \$2,500.00 (Gold) or \$1,500.00 (Silver) while general reservations are \$65.00 per person or \$650.00 per table. Reservation deadline is Tuesday, April 30, and reservations can be made by calling **Laura** at the UH alumni office at 956-2586. Despite the April 30 deadline, you may still be able to attend, but call not later than Thursday, May 2, since the UH alumni office must still take care of seating charts and provide a headcount to the Sheraton as well as including platinum, gold, and silver donors in the program.

Nobody is certain what prompted the ship's cook to take the lives of his captain and first mate aboard the Taiwanese fishing vessel, *Full Means II*. But for the remaining crew members, who had just endured thirteen straight months at sea, life had clearly taken a turn for the worse. Upon their arrival in Hawaii, the crew was placed into custody at the federal detention center. Although not charged with any crimes, the crew members were prodded into federal court sporting handcuffs and shackles. They wondered how and when they would return home and whether they would receive pay for their year-long labors at sea. But nobody could provide answers to these questions and other concerns over the disposition of their personal belongings still stowed aboard the ship. Their plight was widely reported internationally, and garnered the attention of PRC Consul **Liang Zhengquan** of the Chinese consulate in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, frustrated crew members threatened to initiate a hunger strike in protest.

The Chamber responded to the crisis quickly and decisively. Incoming President **Reuben Wong** spoke with Consul Liang to offer the Chamber's support. The Consul requested a list of the names of the crew in English and Chinese. Wong conducted a one-man telethon with various federal agencies, seeking the desired information. After numerous calls, he won approval from federal authorities to fax the information to Consul Liang in Los Angeles.

But Wong wasn't through. He next obtained approval to board the *Full Means II* to verify the safety of the crew members' personal belongings. Wong then convinced federal officers to allow him to make a personal visit with the detained crew at the detention facility. There, he reassured the crew that their personal effects had been safely removed from the ship. The relieved crew

was also happy to hear that the *Full Means II* would not be allowed to leave Hawaii until payment of their wages was secured. Asked about his efforts, Wong replied, "The well-being of the crew is obviously an issue of common concern to all Chinese here in Hawaii and abroad, and so of course, the Chamber had a responsibility to act. Hopefully, something good came of it."



FREE INVESTOR CLASSES

According to a schedule provided by **Teresa Lau**, Charles Schwab & Co. will be holding a variety of workshops during the second quarter. The Women Investing Now (WIN) conversation series discusses retirement on May 14, investing strategies on May 15, and putting your portfolio on track on May 16; each of them is held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. For both men and women, On May 1, Investing Strategies in Retirement is for retirees; Planning Your Financial Future will be held on May 22; on June 5, Are You Ready to Retire? (for people 1-10 years from retirement); on June 6, Smart Fixed Income Investing; Webshop to learn the basics of using and navigating the Schwab.com Website on June 18; and Navigating Today's Market on June 19. All of these are held from 2:00-3:30 p.m. The WIN conversations and the workshops are held at the Honolulu Schwab branch, 700 Bishop Street, Suite 100. For reservations, call 1-800-790-7714 or 1-800-790-5825

Covering its ethnic bases, Schwab also has investing workshops in Cantonese: Schwab.com Webshop on Tuesday, May 7, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.; Advanced Trading Tools on Wednesday, May 15, or Wednesday, June 12, from 9:00- 10:30 a.m. For reservations, call 1-800-682-0668.



April 27-28, H. E. Mr. Hu Jintao, Vice President of the PRC visited Hawaii as the first stop on his first visit to the United States at the invitation of Vice President Cheney. On April 27 evening, Vice President Hu (1st row L-7) cordially received the representatives of the Chinese community and Chinese students and scholars at the Tropics Showroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village.



According to reports in the local dailies, including the April 18 issue of the *Star-Bulletin*, **Warren Luke** and his family are among a group of local investors who have taken up a minority stake in Midweek Printing Inc. and Oahu Publications Inc., parent of the *Star-Bulletin*.

As mentioned in last month's issue of *The Lantern*, **Thanh Quoc Lam** has been selected as the SBA's 2002 Small Businessperson of the Year for the state of Hawaii. The 15th annual SBA Awards luncheon to recognize Thanh and the

other SBA awards was held on Tuesday, April 23, at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort. After receiving his award from KITV-4 news anchor Dan Cooke, who served as master of ceremonies, Thanh's acceptance speech consisted entirely of thank yous. For those of us who were there to share the moment, it was truly inspirational – putting the focus on others rather than himself. Thanh even received a short mention in **Erika Engle's** April 24 "TheBuzz" column in the *Star-Bulletin*: "Ba-Le Sandwich and Bakery founder Thanh Quoc Lam, Small Business Person of the Year, engendered audience affection as he humbly bowed and waved upon taking the stage to accept his award. He was among many Small Business Administration honorees to share the limelight." Considering all of his business success, Thanh exemplifies humility, dedication, and commitment to his employees, a number of them having become Ba-Le franchisees over the years. (Starting in 1984, Ba-Le has

grown from a single outlet to a commercial bakery and twenty-one retail locations, twenty of them franchisee-owned). Congratulations again, Thanh, and may your dreams of expanding beyond Hawaii be realized in the near future.

State senator **Suzanne Chun Oakland** was one of the volunteers participating in the Hawaii Foodbank's 13th annual Food Drive Day on Saturday, April 27. She was shown on KGMB-9's 6:00 o'clock news, assisting at the Restaurant Row collection point. *Mahalo* also to **Alex Marn** and the Marn family-owned McCully Square where volunteers were collecting food and monetary donations.

N E W M E M B E R S

At its March 26 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the application for **Delwyn Wong**, and attorney with the Law Offices of **Reuben Wong** (sponsored by **Tai Yau Chung**).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr 30 • Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- May 21 • Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- May 27 • Mon **Memorial Day**
- May 28 • Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon

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