

夏威夷中華總商會

Chamber General Membership Meeting

On Thursday, May 16, about forty Chamber members gathered at Sam Choy's Breakfast, Lunch and Crab on Nimitz. In addition to the usual bountiful buffet lunch at Sam's, there was a panel discussion on the just completed legislature session. Panelists included state Representative **Charles Djou**, **Randy Hioto**; Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii vice president for government affairs; **Johnson Choy**, president of the Hawaii-Hong Kong-China Chamber of Commerce; and **Susana Ho**, president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. New members **Warren Woon**, an account executive with Denis Wong & Associates; **George Ing**, president of Ing International, Inc.; **Tony Lau**, a project engineer at Hawaii Pacific Engineers; and **Stacey Owens**, a student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, were there and were introduced to the other members present.

CHAMBER Installation Dinner

For those who made reservations by the May 20 RSVP deadline, don't forget that the Installation Dinner will be on Thursday, May 30. No-host cocktails are at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner and program are at 6:30 p.m. The buffet dinner is at the Honolulu Country Club.



A Chinese Chamber's General Membership lunch meeting is held for legislative update and networking at Sam Choy's Restaurant on Nimitz, May 16, 2002. New members warmly welcomed at the meeting are George Ing, Tony Lau, Stacey Owens and Warren Woon.

M E S S A G E



Ban Chan

At the end of this month, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce will install a new president, so this is my last message for *The Lantern* to all of you.

The past year has been a year in my life that I will never forget. It has been a wonderful experience to serve the Chinese Chamber, such as in representing our organization to the many delegations from China, attending banquets sponsored by the local Chinese associations or going to the airport to greet Vice President **Hu Jintao** of China upon his arrival here.

Susanna and I would like to thank all of you who supported us during the past year, helping us and making our job easier. Thank you to the directors to the Chamber, who gave me their vote of support for this job. Thank you to the executive committee that worked with me on different projects. Thank you to the members who came to our general membership meetings and other events. And last but not least, thank you to our 2001 and 2002 Narcissus Queens and Courts for all of their hard work in representing the Chamber. For the 2001 Queen and Court, I wish all of you the best as you move on to new adventures and experiences. For the 2002 Queen and Court, you have a wonderful year to look ahead to.

Best wishes to all!



Due to his promotion to Washington D.C., Consul General Lan Lijun of the PRC in Los Angeles and Mrs. Lan bid farewell to the representatives of the Chinese Community in Hawaii at a breakfast held at the Rainbow Suite, Hilton Hawaiian Village April 29, 2002.

Congratulations, Thanh Quoc



*Thanh Quoc Lam,
owner and founder of
Ba-Le Sandwich*

Ba-Le Sandwich owner and founder **Thanh Quoc Lam**, who was recognized as the Small Business Administration's 2002 Hawaii Small Business Person of the Year on April 23, went to Washington, D.C. to be honored along with winners from the other forty-nine states on Monday, May 6. The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* story (with a picture of a smiling Thanh Quoc wearing a Ba-Le

baseball cap) on the front of the business section the following day said it all: "When he's hot, he's hot." At the ceremony, Thanh Quoc was surprised to be honored as the National Small Business Person of the Year as well as the state winner. According to the story, one person who wasn't surprised was his banker, **Leslie Chang**, vice president and central region manager at Hawaii national Bank, who had originally nominated Thanh Quoc. For those who missed the article, Chang described Thanh Quoc, "He's very down to earth, honest, and very creative. That's what attracted me. He's also humble and very giving." In Washington, Thanh Quoc got to meet and be pictured with President **George W. Bush**. The only other time a Hawaii small business person was recognized as the national winner was back in 1987.

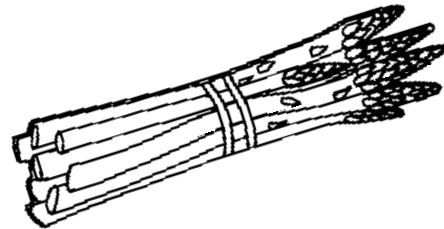
Interestingly, a May 22 update in *Midweek* for a cover story back in September 1996 contained details missing from other stories. For example, what Thanh Quoc's wife, **Xuan Chau**, said to him en route to the White House to calm him down. Ba-Le is a \$5 million business with 22 locations, 21 of them franchised to family and former employees (not a multimillion business and 21 locations). Also 70% of the business comes from supplying airlines with everything from sandwiches to desserts; 25% comes from wholesale bread sales to Ba-Le franchises and hotels, and 40 tons a month of pizza dough to Papa John's; and the balance presumably comes from retail sales or franchise fees. And reporter **Katie Young** wrote that Thanh Quoc has a "reputation as a generous boss and kind person."

FUN COOKING by Elvira Lo

Curried Asparagus Soup

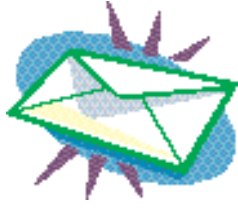
Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons vegetable oil	1 teaspoon salt to taste	1 pound of asparagus
1/4 pound onions, chopped	1/2 pound potatoes, scrubbed and coarsely chopped	1/3 pint milk
1 Tablespoon mild or hot curry powder	2 cups chicken or vegetable stock	1/3 cup heavy cream
		dash of lemon zest, finely chopped



Method:

1. Heat oil over medium heat, then add onions and saute ten minutes.
2. Stir in curry powder and salt, and cook 2 minutes, then add potatoes and stock.
3. Bring liquid to a boil, then lower heat and simmer 10 minutes.
4. Slice asparagus and add to the liquid along with milk, and simmer until asparagus and potatoes are tender.
5. Put everything into an electric blender or food processor, puree until soup is smooth, then return to pot and reheat the soup.
6. When ready to serve, add one teaspoon of heavy cream into each bowl and a little bit of lemon zest.
7. Serves four 8-ounce bowls of soup.



Several months ago, the Reapportionment Commission completed its work, not without some controversy such as ending “canoe districts” and more importantly, whether military dependents should be counted in determining “one person, one vote” representation, a move which would have inflated Oahu’s dominance in both houses of the state legislature. Some Chamber member-politicians are making changes. Early in May, Representative **Lei Ahu Isa** announced that she was switching parties and would run for an open state Senate seat. Then on May 11, state Senator **Rod Tam**

announced that he would be running for City Council District 6 (downtown-Kalihi) rather than run against fellow Chamber member **Suzanne Chun Oakland** for the same reapportioned Senate seat. Then according to a story in the May 13 *Star-Bulletin*, state Representative **Nestor Garcia** has taken out nomination papers and may run for Council District 9 (Mililani-Waipahu-Makakilo). The filing deadline is July 23, and we’ll know for sure the following day what offices our Chamber member-politicians will definitely be running for. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, Chamber board member and retired dentist **Joseph Young** has been active for months in supporting a certain gubernatorial candidate and also making a TV commercial for a mayoral candidate.

Members should be aware that in these challenging economic times, some restaurants owned by Chamber members are offering discount coupons. The “tgif” section in the May 24 *Advertiser* had L & L Drive Inns with a 99¢ refill on Twist ‘N Go cups (good until May 31) and chicken katsu plates for \$4.75 (good until June 15) and Ba-Le has a coupon

for \$1.00 off a second sandwich when you buy a sandwich at the regular price (good until July 5). In addition, Hong Kong Harbour View Seafood has a seventh anniversary special menu for 8-10 people at \$268.00 as well as a lion dance and firecrackers at 7:00 p.m. on June 8 while Eastern Garden has a half-price offering on Maine lobster at \$8.99 each as well as daily specials during the work week at three of its four locations – Kaimuki, Kaneohe, and Westridge. For more details, check ads in the Sunday “Dining Out” section or the Friday “tgif” section in the *Advertiser*.

N E W M E M B E R S

At its April 30 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the applications for **Tony Lau**, a project engineer with Hawaii Pacific Engineers (sponsored by **Wen Chung Lin**), and **Stacey Owens**, a student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa (sponsored by **Wen Chung Lin**). Welcome aboard, and the members who attended the general membership meeting earlier this month had a chance to meet Tony and Stacey.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
May 27 • Mon	Memorial Day
May 28 • Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
May 30 • Tue	Installation Banquet Honolulu Country Club - 6:00 pm
June 17 • Mon	2002 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour
June 18 • Tue	Executive Board Meeting Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
June 25 • Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon

<p>The LANTERN a monthly publication of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii 42 North King Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 (808) 533-3181</p>	<p><i>Editor:</i> Gerald Chang <i>Graphic Designer:</i> Angela Wu-Ki <i>Staff:</i> Wen Chung Lin, Grace Chan, Brian Lee</p>
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