

LANTERN

November, 2002

PALOLO CHINESE HOME VISITATION



Chamber members are cordially invited to join Chamber officers, directors, the 2002 Narcissus Queen and court, and the fifteen Narcissus contestants for the annual visitation to the *kapuna* at Palolo Chinese Home. The visitation will take place on Sunday, December 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A *dim sum* plate lunch will be served to the residents, who will also be entertained with Christmas songs and *hula* performed by the court and contestants. In addition to spreading the joyous spirit of the Christmas season, this event is free for Chamber participants. By now you should have received a flyer informing you of the event, and you should have RSVP'ed to the Chamber so that a headcount could be completed.

HELEMANO PLANTATION FUND-RAISER

The non-profit arm of Helemano Plantation, ORI or Opportunities for the Retarded, Inc, which assists people with developmental disadvantages, has scheduled "An Enchanted Fantasy World" on Friday, December 13, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. If last year's ORI fund-raiser is anything to judge by, this will be an evening not to be missed.

The evening's events begin at 5:00 p.m, including a silent auction from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Among the many items included in the silent auction are three nights at the Four Seasons Maui, two nights at the penthouse of the Miramar at Waikiki, two nights at the Kona Village Resort, Hawaiian Island Coffee gift baskets, a Super Bowl leather jacket, a dinner cruise for two, a hand-carved jade dragon boat, and a pearl-diamond ring. The four-course sit-down dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. And following dinner, there will be dancing to the music of Island Images, *hula* by Halau Hula Na Leo Nahenahe O Na Kupuna, and a lion dance by the special people of ORI.

Fund-raising chairs for the event are Dr. **Francis Pang** and former Narcissus contestant and Chamber member **Yu Shing Ting**. Gold tickets are \$65.00 each or \$650.00 per table while Platinum tickets are \$100.00 each or \$1,000.00 per table. To make your reservations, call Chamber member and special events coordinator **Paulette Lee** at 622-3929.

Membership Meeting and Christmas Party

Reminder to Chamber members: The next general membership meeting and annual Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, December 10, at the Waialae Country Club. This will be the last general membership meeting for the year, and will feature a combination buffet and trade fair from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Special guests will be 2002 Narcissus Queen **Kuuleialoha Chun** and her court as well as the fifteen lovely 54th annual Narcissus Queen contestants. The cost of the buffet dinner is \$20.00 per Chamber member, \$25.00 for non-members, and \$12.00 for children from 3-12 years old. Those who signed up before November 15 were given a 10% discount. The buffet dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a silent auction with many, many prizes, so don't miss out!

The trade fair is an opportunity for Chamber members to showcase their goods or services to other members and to network. Major sponsors will be located in front of the stage and include First Hawaiian Bank, Mercedes-Benz, and Honolulu artist David Lee. So remember to bring a good supply of goods for sale, brochures and pamphlets, and business cards.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



Reuben S. F. Wong

It seems like only yesterday that the year 2002 began, but already we are in the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

The past month was another busy one with China visitors and our own

fabulous and well-attended Narcissus Festival Kickoff Reception and public appearances for the fifteen lovely contestants.

One of the things we are trying to do this year is to have more activities that allow our members to interact with each other. Accordingly, under the chairmanship of Dr. **Ming Chen** and **Elvira Lo**, the Chamber will sponsor a special gathering for members to network among one another, and to display their products and services in a trade fair setting. The December 10 gathering at Waialae Country Club will also be a Christmas party, with hun-

dreds of prizes for those attending. With your participation, we hope to make this an annual event.

On the communication side of the Chamber and through the talented efforts of **Justin Goo**, chairman of the Technology Committee, we are officially launching the Chamber's new Website at the Christmas party. The Website will contain information about the Chamber, will highlight members' profiles, and will place the Chamber in step with the technology of this new century.

Best wishes to all for the holidays.

2002 China Tour

by Wesley Fong

On October 14, led by past presidents **Vernon Ching** and **Wesley Fong**, twenty members from the Chinese Chamber and the U.S.-China Friendship Association embarked on a 15-day adventure. They climbed the Great Wall and shopped at the Silk Alley. They cruised up the Yangtze and saw the great dam (ten times the size of Hoover Dam) and the three beautiful gorges. They took a cable car to see the majestic mountains of Zhang Jia Jie, walked the scenic six-kilometer river walk, and climbed the 1,000 steps in the Yellow Dragon Cave. They finally enjoyed the cultural shows in Shenzhen and ended the trip with more shopping in Hong Kong. Chamber members and family included past presidents **Walter Chang** and **Frances Goo**, **Michael** and **Sylvia Louie**, **Ho Ming Cheung**, **Yvonne DeLuna**, **Hubert** and **Sydney Chang**, **Robert Ching**, and **Linda** and **Pamela Fong**.



Above: The captain of the Cruiser Sheena warmly greets all delegation members of 2002 Tour of China co-sponsored by the CCCH & the USCPFA on the fascinating Yangtze River Cruise.



Left: Chamber Past Presidents **Walter Chang**, **Vernon Ching**, **Wesley Fong** and **Frances Goo** on the majestic Emperor Mountain of Zhangjiajie.



The 54th Narcissus Queen Pageant Contestants at Kick-off Reception, November 6, 2002

Front Row (L-R): Laura Iai Kin Lee, Kathleen Mei Lan Wong, Chrissy Yu Feng Li, Charis Mee Yook Hee, Vanessa Heong Hoon Teo, Jaclyn Ki Lan Lee, Shayla Mei Lan Chun.
 Back Row (L-R): Trisha Kwai Lin Say, Sylvia Yung-Wen Lee, Sue-Ping Kuo, Allison Yuk Ling Tai, Jamie Chui Wah Lum, Katie Jie Dong, Sheri Sui Gee Chun, Leah Hoon On Chun.



Narcissus Festival Update

by Terrill Chock

Sylvia Louie and Randall Kondo outdid themselves again! They co-chaired a very successful Narcissus Festival Kick-off Reception on Wednesday, November 6, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The 550 people who attended the event were treated to a wide assortment of heavy *pupu*; a *hula* done by Narcissus Queen **Kuulei Chun** and her court; a stunning preview of the upcoming Narcissus Festival Fashion Show; and were introduced to the fifteen lovely young ladies who are our Narcissus Queen contestants. The reception was well received – only compliments, no criticism.

Rena and **Dennis Hwang** arranged to have our Narcissus Queen contestants presented to the general public with appearances at the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, the McCully Shopping Center, and the Windward Mall. These public appearances have gotten the young ladies better prepared for the Queen Pageant, which will be held at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on Saturday, January 11, 2003.

During the month of December, the contestants will be visiting the Palolo Chinese Home on December 1; be featured in the Kaimuki Christmas Parade on December 5; be part of the Chinese Chamber's Christmas Trade Show on December 10; and be presented on center stage at the Ala Moana Shopping Center on December 15. Busy, busy, busy.

ZHONGSHAN LIBRARY BUSINESS BOOK DRIVE

by Winfred Pong

Back in June, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism asked for assistance in collecting business books to be donated to the Zhongshan Library. The Chinese Chamber, along with the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii, the Hawaii Society of CPAs, and the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants responded to the call. A number of Chamber members donated books and Chamber board member **Gordon Au** contacted the University of Hawaii and Chaminade University book stores. The two book stores were particularly generous, donating almost forty boxes (10-15 books per box) of business and miscellaneous textbooks, so their contribution was some 400 books. The books collected were shipped to Guangdong province by **Brian Suzuki** of Hawaii Air Cargo. The goal of the book drive was 1,000 books, so if you have business books, regardless of age, contact Winfred at 973-2260.

CHAMBER'S VISITORS

November 4, 2002

- Ya'an City delegation of 14 from Sichuen, China

November 14-28, 2002

- Shanghai Basketball Team of 19

Is Online!

by Justin Goo, Ph.D., C.I.S.

At its heart, the primary function of a chamber of commerce is to promote business networking between its members. Therefore, the most important tool the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii can provide is a communications hub where members can find information on other members and the Chamber's many activities. The Chamber Technical Committee is proud to be delivering such a tool in the form of the Chamber's highly awaited and anticipated new Website: www.chinesechamber.com (<http://www.chinesechamber.com>).

Surf on over and discover the beautiful new interface designed by graphics artist and former Narcissus contestant, **Audra Chun**. As you enter, you'll find a listing of all the latest announcements, the latest issue of *The Lantern*, this week's calendar, and even a profile of one of our members right on the front page! Not only will announcements and events be updated daily, but every time, you'll meet a different featured member. This is a great way to get to know about other members, so check back often!

As you peruse the contents of the Website, you'll find important information for current members, prospective members, and even contacts in China and about town, with more information being continuously added. Missed that one article in *The Lantern* a few months ago that you really wanted to read? We've got every back issue, starting with the year 2000. Want to find out if the Chamber has something planned before you plan that cruise or other out-of-town trip? Check out our full calendar of events. Need someone to work on a certain project that you're considering? We've got a searchable Chamber directory where you can find just the right member for the job. Want to impress that business contact in China by showing you're a member of the Chinese Chamber? Give him or her your very own Chinese Chamber e-mail address (yourname@chinesechamber.com [<mailto:yourname@chinesechamber.com>]), which you can check right at our Website.

But you have to be a Chamber member to gain access to some of these fantastic features, and you have to call **Grace Chan** at the Chamber office (533-3181) to get your password. And as the Web is an ever-changing and growing place, new content is still under development, including a chic and sexy multimedia experience about the Narcissus Festival, and a mirror of the site completely in Chinese!

This Website has so many cool and exciting new features, you just have to check it out for yourself! While the Website went "live" at the beginning of November, more features and content are continually being added, so keep checking back to see what's new. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like a guided tour of the Website, we will even be putting together a demo booth to preview the site at this year's member Christmas Party/Trade Show, so we look forward to seeing you then! It is the Technical Committee's greatest hope that this Website evolves into a living, vibrant legacy of the Chamber, a continuous source of information and communication, and one of your favorite Websites to visit.



THE BRT BOONDOGGLE

by Gerald Chang

For all too many years (and all too many real property tax dollars), the City and County of Honolulu has been pushing for approval and construction of the Bus Rapid Transit or BRT. In a dog-and-pony show at the Hawaii Convention Center earlier this year, some staggering financial figures were provided from the City's supplemental environmental impact study (EIS). (The final EIS has yet to be produced). The cost of BRT construction alone would be around \$1 billion, with the cost split equally (50:50) between the City and federal governments; the State Department of Transportation wisely declined to share the costs.

Over and above the City's \$500 million share of the cost of construction, however, are future costs of \$71 million for operation and maintenance (O&M) and \$83 million for debt service, an annual outlay of some \$154 million *ad infinitum*. (Politicians all too often fail to consider O&M funds or, in the case of the newly built but still non-functional Kapolei Library, don't bother to provide them). Those costs will come 100% from City revenues, largely in the form of our real property taxes. Even without BRT, there is already a ticking City "debt bomb" and Councilman **John Henry Felix** has reportedly said that the City would face a \$574 million deficit in eight years. And right after the November general election, Councilman **Gary Okino** said

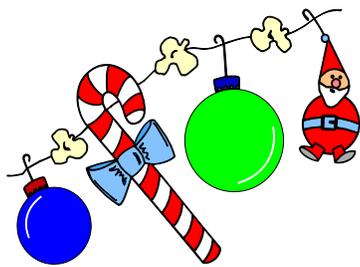
that property taxes would probably have to be raised next year, and this was presumably based on current City services and projects, not including the BRT.

Ostensibly, the BRT is "the key to unlocking urban traffic gridlock." Instead, it seems like a fantasy or bad dream concocted by anti-car "planners" at the City with some help from other planners at the University of Hawaii). All one needs to do is go out to Kalihi and drive along Dillingham Boulevard from one end to the other as I did on Veteran's Day. I had thought that Dillingham had six traffic lanes, three inbound and three outbound. I was surprised to find on my road trip that between Laumaka Street and Dillingham (just townside of Ba-Le Sandwich) and Kaaahi Place and Dillingham (one block before the intersection with North King Street), there are actually only five lanes: two traffic lanes in each direction and the fifth lane for alternating *mauka* and *makai* left turns. According to City plans, two lanes on Dillingham would be dedicated to BRT and the remaining space would be shared by buses, cars, and trucks. (In comparison, on Market Street in San Francisco, the K-L-M and N streetcar lines are shared with motor vehicles). The effect will be to unofficially dedicate Dillingham to "rapid" transit since most motorists won't want to be caught behind buses making frequent stops. East-west traffic will consequently shift

to Nimitz and King Street, and let's not forget the effect of Dillingham on north-south street intersections. This BRT plan will "unlock" gridlock?

The incoming members of the City Council should take a good, hard look at the state of the City's finances for the next few years, especially the rapidly growing amount needed for debt service in the "out years." The new Council should decide not just whether BRT makes economic sense in order to incrementally increase (1-3% more than the current bus system) the number of people using public transportation (remember the concept of cost-benefit analysis?), but take a look at what are core government functions which must be funded versus nice-to-have, but nonessential functions. Remember that every government program has supporters (as shown at the May 2002 City budget hearing), but not every one is a core function. After twelve years of a post-Japanese bubble, stagnant local economy, we can no longer afford *Dom Perignon* projects with diet soda fiscal resources. Painful choices will have to be made between core and non-core functions.

(NOTE: The foregoing commentary reflects solely the views of the author, and does not in any way purport to be the views of the officers, directors, and members of the Chinese Chamber of Hawaii. Informed, well-reasoned rebuttals or input are welcomed).



Kaimuki Christmas Parade

Please come and support the 2002 Narcissus Court and 2003 Narcissus Queen Pageant contestants in the Kaimuki Christmas Parade from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 5, 2002. The parade starts at Chaminade / St. Louis School & ends at 13th Avenue. The contestants will be riding the Waikiki Trolley and the Narcissus court will be riding in open convertibles.

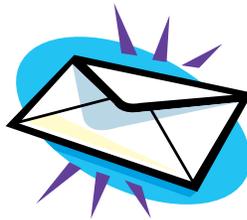
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 1 • Sun **Palolo Chinese Home Visitation**
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Dec 10 • Tue **Christmas Party & Trade Fair**
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Waialae Country Club
- Dec 17 • Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- Dec 24 • Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- Dec 25 • Wed **Christmas Day**
- Jan 1 • Wed **2003 New Year Day**



Merry Christmas

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



First Hawaiian Bank Vice Chairwoman and former past president of the Chinese Chamber and Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **Lily Yao** was one of four Women of Distinction recently honored by the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii. Oddly enough, Lily and her three fellow honorees are all connected with local financial institutions.

NEW MEMBERS

At its October 29 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the applications for **Mary Hsu**, President of Oriental Furniture Outlet and the Formosa Dance Group (sponsored by Dr. **Ming Chen**); **Terry Lo**, co-owner of Hibiscus Aloha Corporation (sponsored by **Elvira Lo**); **Jessica Su**, Tax Manager with Horwath Kam & Company AAC (sponsored by Dr. **Ming Chen**); and **Denis Wong**, President of Denis Wong and Associates, investment advisors (sponsored by **Douglas Ho**).

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

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