

# LANTERN

May, 2003

## Chamber Assists City in Chinatown Initiative

by Wesley Fong

The City & County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services is partnering with the Chamber and other key Chinese organizations as part of the City's revitalization campaign to keep Chinatown clean and safe. The Chamber has helped coordinate the formation of a task force to accomplish this project. Representatives from key Chinese organizations include Chamber past president **Wesley Fong**, United Chinese Society president **Keith Lim**, Chamber director Dr. **Joseph Young**, Association of Chinese from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (ACVCL) president **Thomas Sum**, and Chamber director and past ACVCL president **Ted Li**.

The purpose of the task force is to help the City educate Chinese restaurants and meat shops regarding the hazards of improper disposal of cooking oil and grease. Accordingly, on Thursday, June 12, representatives of the City and the task force will walk through Chinatown and personally distribute fliers to over 180 restaurant and food merchants, inviting them to workshops at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, June 18 and 22, at the United Chinese Society hall. (News releases have already been published in the three local Chinese newspapers and the one Vietnamese newspaper).

The workshops will focus on the proper handling and disposal of cooking oils and grease. At present, too much of such environmentally-damaging substances are being disposed of using City garbage collection and dumped into City sewer and drainage systems. Once the garbage bags are loaded into the garbage trucks, the compactors compress the filled trash bags, spraying the oil and grease around the truck's interior. At Chamber request, before levying heavy fines, ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000, the City and the task force want to educate Chinatown restaurant and food shop owners. Chamber members who may be affected should attend in order to learn how to properly dispose of used cooking oil and grease.

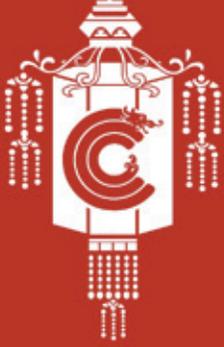
This program is another step by the Chamber to help make Chinatown safe and clean through the partnership of the City and the Chinese community.

## WOMEN'S GOLF DINNER HONORING Lily Yao

The sold-out gala dinner on Friday, June 13, will be held at the Hawaii Prince Hotel as the Hawaii State Women's Golf Foundation honors co-founder and former Chamber president **Lily Yao** on her retirement as Vice Chairman of First Hawaiian Bank and on her 60th birthday. (The Chinese Chamber is among the organizations which have purchased a table). Proceeds from the benefit dinner will be used to establish the Lily K. Yao Scholarship Fund which will provide scholarships for underprivileged women and juniors based on merit, golf aspirations, and need. You can make a donation to the scholarship fund by sending your contribution to KSWGFL/KY Scholarship Fund, 770 Kapiolani Boulevard, #701, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

### *Narcissus Goodwill Tour*

At this time, it appears that the 54th annual Narcissus Goodwill Tour will be combined with the 55th annual Tour next summer. The reason of course is the ever changing SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) situation in Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China. The postponement has been out of concern for the health and safety of the Narcissus Queen and Court as well as other tour members.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE  
CHINESE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
OF HAWAII



Reuben S. F. Wong

It has often been said that the 21st century will be the Asian Century. Just as the world once viewed America as the frontier of the New World, now Asia, with its massive population and abundant resources is no doubt the “New” New World. To be sure, there will be challenges along the way as the SARS problem so profoundly demonstrates.

Yet, within challenge lies opportunity. Hawaii is well equipped to be a gateway between America and Asia. A gateway that is open to the exchange of ideas, commerce, and property while protecting the lifestyle and values that made our island home unique.

It is in this endeavor that we Chinese in Hawaii face a great responsibility and therein, an equally great opportunity. We Chinese are uniquely defined by a dual set of identities—our citizenship is American, but our cultural values are Chinese. Recognizing this, our predecessors here at the Chinese Chamber diligently, and with great success, cultivated a relationship with our counterparts in both China and Taiwan for over twenty years.

But looking forward, if we hope to build on our past success, we must continue to receive the commitment and the energy of each of us. For this endeavor is larger than any one organization. Going back to a theme I spoke of last year—we cannot remain villages unto ourselves. And so, when I began my term a year ago, I asked the leaders of over twenty Chinese societies in Hawaii to join together in building that bridge—to

rebuild the cohesive community of generations past in anticipation of the challenges and opportunities that await us in this Asian century. The response has been tremendous. Thus began the Chamber’s Council of Presidents Committee. And I am so grateful to the countless friends and volunteers, both within and outside the Chamber, who have dedicated so much of themselves toward our common cause.

Together, the Council of Presidents sponsored a Dr. **Sun Yat-Sen** ceremony to commemorate the famous revolutionary who is revered by Chinese all over the world as the father of modern China. Hawaii played a special role in the history of Dr. Sun’s revolution, and it is incumbent upon us to recall his legacy, for in honoring him, we honor ourselves.

More recently, when rumors of SARS emptied the streets, restaurants, and shops in Chinatown, the Council of Presidents stepped forward with a “Taste of Chinatown” to assure the public that Chinatown was free from SARS. We conceived the idea on a Thursday, and were pounding the pavement on Maunakea Street that very Sunday. It was heartening to receive the support of so many at such short notice. And I will always remember—with great admiration—the words of one participant who responded to the Chamber’s call for help by saying: “I’ll be there. It’s our job to be there.”

Indeed, working together as a community, we have achieved remarkable results. Last year, the Chamber supported a book drive initiated by our friends in the Hong Kong Business Association. The initial goal was to deliver a few hundred books to the Zhongshan Library in Guangdong, China. To my surprise, the volume of books ultimately delivered numbered several thousands.

The Council of Presidents joined the Hawaii Dragon Boat Association on the Hilton Hawaiian Village beach on May 31, participating in the annual

dragon boat blessing ceremony, “Awakening of the Dragon.” I hope to see all of you at the Dragon boat races in early August because whether you are a paddler or like myself, just a cheerleader, celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival is part of what makes us Chinese. And don’t take just my word for it—ask Wong Kong Har Tong, Lum Sai Ho Tong, See Dai Doo, Lung Kong Society, Jeng Moo, and the Kam Society to name just a few of the Chinese groups that have participated year after year in this wonderful community event.

Later this year, the Chamber will be sponsoring two other events of interest, namely a golf tournament at an exclusive country club golf course, and “A Taste of China” where members and friends will enjoy Chinese food, moon cakes, and tea in celebration of the Autumn Moon Festival.

None of these events would have been possible without the support, dedication, and leadership of the Chamber’s directors and officers, who gave me this opportunity to serve; the Chamber’s committee chairpersons, who demonstrated exemplary initiative and innovation; and our friends outside the Chamber, who joined us in making a difference in the community. I am particularly grateful to Mr. **Wen Chung Lin**, our Executive Vice President, who, together with our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. **Grace Chan**, truly went the extra mile to provide support for our programs and initiatives. Hopefully, history will be kind enough to record that our collective efforts strengthened the bonds that join us as members and friends of the Chinese community, both here in Hawaii and across the Pacific.

But looking ahead, new challenges await—new bridges to be built. And as I pass the gavel to our new President, Mr. **Terrill Chock**, I ask all of you to continue your support of the Chamber.

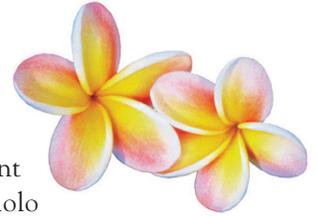
In closing, allow me to extend to you continued good health and happiness in the Year of the Ram.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the varied interests of Chamber members, plans are being made for new or different activities that may appeal to interests beyond the Narcissus Festival events. So chair **Elvira Lo** is working on a "Taste of China" event, presently scheduled for mid-September. This would be somewhat like the annual "Taste of Honolulu," but would include entertainment and booths for members to publicize their goods or services as well as offering food from a variety of Chinese restaurants. In addition, plans are being made for a golf tournament to be held at the New Ewa Beach Golf Club on Thursday, October 2, with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Planning and organization are in the capable and experienced hands of **Bernard** and **Michele Choy**. It is hoped that at least 144 Chamber members and friends will participate. This is an opportunity to network and get to know fellow members and golf *afficionados*.

## HONOLULU'S OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN VOLUNTEER

Longtime Chamber member **George T. Y. Lum**, president of the Palolo



Chinese Home, was honored on April 14 as the City and County of Honolulu's Outstanding Senior Citizen Volunteer. Some 1,400 people gathered at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to recognize 87 nominees for the honor. As PCH president, George has been instrumental in rebuilding its campus and outreach programs. In addition, he has educated thousands of senior citizens over the years about their access to federal and state benefits, and has served his church, the Community Church of Honolulu, as one of its members since its founding sixty-eight years ago. Congratulations, George.

## EXPANDING HAWAII'S POOL OF TALENTED WORKERS

*by David Starbuck and Diane Hino*

The more than 230,000 of the 54 million Americans with disabilities live in Hawaii make up approximately 19 percent of the state's population, yet less than one-third of them are employed. The National Technical Assistance Center for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities (NTAC-AAPI) is a federally funded project, based at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Center on Disability Studies, designed to increase employment opportunities for Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) with disabilities.

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing minority groups in the U.S. and Hawaii's resident population contains the highest percentage of AAPIs in the country (81 percent). The U.S. Census Bureau projects this group to grow from approximately 9.5 million in 1997 to more than 35 million (9 percent of the U.S. population), by the year 2050—proportionately more than any other minority group in the country.

As the population of the U.S. shifts toward greater numbers of culturally and linguistically diverse people, Congress has expressed concern over the higher prevalence of minority people with disabilities and documented patterns of inequitable treatment of such people within the vocational rehabilitation system. Addressing this need, we are working in collaboration with the Vocational Rehabilitation Systems, Centers for Independent Living, and consumer organizations to develop and implement best practices while providing employment-related services for persons with disabilities from AAPI cultures.

We encourage employers to work with us to improve the current employment opportunities for AAPIs with disabilities living here in Hawaii. Studies have shown that having diversity in the work force increases business success, and employers are often unaware of the many benefits of hiring qualified AAPIs with disabilities, including an expanded pool of talented, dependable workers, tax credits, and business deductions. We would be happy to discuss the benefits of hiring AAPIs with disabilities with all interested employers. In addition, we will provide training and technical assistance to AAPIs with disabilities who are interested in entering the work force or further developing their careers.

For further information, call **Diane Hino**, NTAC National Network Coordinator at 956-3648 or e-mail her at [dhino@hawaii.edu](mailto:dhino@hawaii.edu). In addition, NTAC's Website ([www.ntac.hawaii.edu](http://www.ntac.hawaii.edu)) provides solutions to barriers often experienced by AAPIs with disabilities and extensive information on disability resources.

## Dragon Boat Festival

The 8th annual AT&T Dragon Boat Festival will be held on the weekend of August 8 and 9. Division race day is on Saturday while open race day is on Sunday, and the first race starts at 8:00 a.m. each day. Early registration (not later than June 30) is \$200.00 per team, and \$425.00 thereafter. The festival begins with the "Awakening of the Dragon" ceremony at the Hilton Hawaiian Village beach on Saturday, May 31. The festival in August has included vendors of food and other items, and individuals and businesses interested in being a vendor should call 951-0350. Thanks to Festival chair **Gifford Chang**, race entry and vendor forms as well as historical information about the origin of the dragon boat races in China, race and vendor rules and regulations, and an overall calendar of events are available on-line at [www.idealhawaii.com](http://www.idealhawaii.com).



In the weekly "Leaders" column, appearing in the May 5 *Honolulu Advertiser*, Chamber president **Reuben Wong** was profiled and interviewed. Among the interview subjects, Reuben discussed the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) scare.

**Puongpun Sananikone** was recently honored at a gala May dinner by the University of Hawaii Alumni Association as one of its 2003 Distinguished Alumni. He was also pictured in the May 7 *Midweek* as one of those attending the SBA Small Business Person of the Year Awards 2003 luncheon at the Sheraton Waikiki.

**Jennifer Chan's** Little Village Noodle House was featured in the April

16 *Honolulu Weekly's* "Restaurant Review." Reviewer Don Brown was complimentary, praising the food and preparation as well as indications on the extensive menu of "spicy dish," where appropriate. The reviewer also seemed to be impressed by the fact that prices were the same at lunch and dinner.

China Airlines Hawaii general manager and Chamber director **Agnes Yu** was pictured in a May 11 *Honolulu Advertiser* article on **Flora Lu's** successful campaign to send books to Taiwan to replace books destroyed in a 1999 earthquake. Thanks to Ms. Lu, some 10,000 books were collected and boxed, and thanks to Agnes, China Airlines shipped the load for free.

**NEW MEMBERS**

At its April 29 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the applications for John Hancock Insurance agent **Ping Dravland** (sponsored by **Bill Leung**); Aloha Footwear owner **Sheng-chi Hsieh** (sponsored by **Ming Chen**); and attorney **Lynnae Lee** (sponsored by **Richard Lee**).

**MEMBER INFORMATION**

All Chamber members are requested to update their e-mail address if there has been a change in the last few months. From time to time, the Chamber sends out e-mail to the membership, and some of the e-mail gets "bounced" due to out-of-date, no longer valid e-mail addresses. Kindly contact Wen Chung or Grace at 533-3181. Your *kokua* is greatly appreciated.

In addition, **Sue-Ping Kuo** will soon be contacting new or recent members for biographical information to be included on the Chamber Website. Currently, biographical information on a small rotating group of members is featured on the Website. Ultimately, a short biography and photo of all members will be available on the Website, and a different member will be featured each time you access the Website.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

June 17 • Tue **Executive Board Meeting**  
Chinese Chamber's Office- 12:00 noon

June 24 • Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**  
New Empress Restaurant - 12:00 noon

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