

LANTERN

February, 2005



夏威夷中華總商會



Narcissus Fashion Show

On Sunday, March 20, the gala Narcissus fashion show, "A Day of Beauty," will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. Boutique sales and a silent auction will begin at 9:00 a.m. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and luncheon will be served, starting at 12:00 noon. On the menu are Chinese chicken salad in taro baskets, fresh grilled island fish with rice pilaff and mixed vegetables, and a sinfully delicious ice cream cake. The fashion show, spotlighting the creations of local designers **Linda Iki** and **Montsuki**, will begin at 1:00 p.m. The day concludes at 3:00 p.m. For the men, Black Tie Affaire will have the latest in men's evening wear. And there will also be elegant women's apparel from Calista, leading into bridal fashions presented by Casablanca. The cost of lunch and the fashion show is \$45.00 per person or \$450 for a table of ten. However, for a limited time (from receipt of this issue of *The Lantern* to the close of business on Tuesday, March 8), Chamber members will be charged only \$35.00 per person or \$350 for a table of ten! Parking will be validated for \$3.00. For reservations (remember that the special promotional price is valid only for a limited time, and after that, it's back to \$45.00/\$450.00), call the Chamber at 533-3181.



Hong Kong Business Association Dinner

The tenth annual Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii (HKBAH) installation banquet will be held on Friday, March 11, at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Chamber members **Laisin Lee** will be installed as chair, **Delvyn Wong** as first vice president, and **Donna Tso** as second vice president by Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice **Ronald Moon**. The keynote speaker will be Governor **Linda Lingle** and Mayor **Mufi Hannemann** will also be there. The evening's festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. and continue until 9:30 p.m. Dinner will be sit-down rather than a buffet. The dinner will also kick off a workshop series jointly sponsored by the HKBAH and the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) on "Doing Business with China and Hong Kong." (Some may recall that a few years ago, Mayor Hannemann was head of DBEDT). The cost is \$55.00 for HKBAH members and \$65.00 for non-members. If you want to attend, call Laisin at 342-8660 not later than Saturday, March 5, so that the Mandarin can be given a headcount.

2005 OUTSTANDING BUSINESSPERSON

Nominations are now being accepted for the Chamber's Outstanding Businessperson of the Year. In order to have broad eligibility for the award, the criteria are that the person have been in business for at least three years and have made significant contributions to promoting business with the Chinese community, whether here or abroad. Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office and completed nomination forms should be submitted not later than mid-April.

CHAMBER DIRECTORS ELECTION

The annual election of directors will be held on Friday, March 4. All Chamber members are invited and encouraged to stop by the Chamber between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to vote. While you're at it, you can do a little shopping or eat lunch in Chinatown, something that Chamber member businesses would appreciate. There are sixteen nominees, who will serve three-year terms from June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2008.

FOR SALE!

2004 MALIBU LS, V6 VERY LOW MILEAGE, LOADED! THIS CAR WAS DRIVEN BY OUR 2004 NARCISSUS QUEEN AND WILL BE YOUR CHANCE TO OWN A CAR DRIVEN BY A QUEEN
CALL WINFRED
AT 551-1948
WITH YOUR
BEST OFFER.





President
Winfred Pong

While attending the Narcissus Festival Coronation Ball and greeting guests with Dr. **Ming Chen** and the 56th Narcissus Queen and Court, I was approached by **Leonard Kam**, the Chinatown Open House chairman, who asked whether the Chinese Chamber would be willing to sponsor the Chinatown Parade on Saturday, February 5. We initially responded that the yearly parade, traveling from the State Capitol and going Ewa on Hotel Street to River Street, has been conducted in recent years by the Chinatown Merchants Association and that the Chinese Chamber's resources were already committed to the Chinatown Open House event on the day of the parade.

Leonard advised us that the Parade had been rained out on January 29 and that the Chinatown Merchants Association had decided to cancel the

parade, even though many of the participants remained committed to marching in the parade the following week. Realizing that the parade was once one of the many events sponsored by the Chinese Chamber as part of the Narcissus Festival, I was ready to recommend approval of Leonard's request to sponsor the parade this year.

However, I was not committed to my recommendation until we obtained Leonard's assurance that his Chinatown Open House committee had the resources to "reorganize," promote, and conduct the parade. I reminded Leonard that he would be taking precious time away from his young family and his job to assume the additional responsibilities of organizing and conducting a parade. His immediate response was that he wanted to "do it for the community."

A similar response was provided by various members of his committee, who were observed sweeping and cleaning Maunakea Street after midnight Saturday when the last food booth and stage platforms had been disassembled after the Chinatown Open House event. The dedicated efforts and civic responsibility demonstrated by Leonard and his committee members are not unique and are shared by many other volunteers. One such example is **Ernie Loo**, who took it upon himself to prepare, collect, and process each fireworks permit application from more than thir-

ty Chinatown merchants with the Fire Department for the lion dance celebration in Chinatown.

As the Narcissus Festival events in Honolulu come to an end with the Fashion Show on Sunday, March 20, we need to be mindful again of all the unsung efforts of our members and friends who have dedicated their time and "elbow grease" to not only support the goals and objectives of the Chinese Chamber, but to also support the community. Many of our volunteers are lawyers, doctors, teachers, bankers, businesspeople, and white-collar professionals, who have no hesitation about picking up a broom, painting props or to accept any call for help, no matter how menial.

Even before my term as the General Chairman of the Narcissus Festival last year and now as the Chamber's president, I am continually impressed with the dedication and humility of our officers, directors, and volunteers. Since one of the objectives in the Chinese Chamber's mission statement is to promote civic responsibility, we know that our current membership will continue the legacy of the Chamber's mission into the future.

On behalf of myself and Narcissus Festival General Chairman Ming Chen, we extend our congratulations and mahalo to all of our unsung volunteer members for a job well done!

C H A M B E R N E W S & A C T I V I T I E S



C H A M B E R M E M B E R S H I P D I R E C T O R Y

Plans are being made to prepare a new membership directory this year and to make it available to members, old and new. The last membership directory was printed and distributed in 2000. Since then, there have been quite a few changes to the membership, and while an up-to-date directory is available at the Chamber's Web site (www.ccch.org), not all members have access to the Internet at home or at work.

F E B R U A R Y G E N E R A L M E M B E R S H I P M E E T I N G

Forty-one Chamber members gathered at lunchtime on Wednesday, February 16, at the Legend Seafood Restaurant in the Waikiki Trade Center for the first general membership meeting of the year. The WTC is the newest location for Legend. The speaker was lawyer Richard Philpott, who spoke on the "Ten Most Common Mistakes in Business Employment."

C H A M B E R ' S V I S I T O R S

February 25-27, 2005

- Zhou Qin, Consul
The Consulate General of the PRC in L.A.
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2005 Narcissus Festival Coronation Ball

by Ed Pei



On the evening of Saturday, January 29, **Darah Annette Kwai Mei Dung** was crowned the 56th Narcissus Queen before 880 Chamber members, family, and friends at the 2005 Narcissus Festival Coronation Ball. The Coral Ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village was transformed into a grand palace for this special occasion. Guests feasted on an elegant Chinese dinner and were entertained by world martial arts champion **Leonie Leong** from Malaysia and by local songstress extra-ordinaire **Sherry Chock Wong**, accompanied by the renowned **Kit Samson**. Governor **Linda Lingle** presided over the coronation and Mayor **Mufi Hannemann** honored Queen Dara with her first dance as Narcissus Queen. Post-dinner music provided

by the band, Clear Sky, allowed guests to show off their ballroom dancing skills, a fitting conclusion to a festive and fun evening.

Many volunteers worked very hard to make this a memorable evening for Queen Dara and her court. Special accolades should go to **Susanna Cheung** and the Helemano Plantation for the remarkable stage and hall decorations. **Frances Goo** and **Leilani Tan Ching** coordinated the evening's regal coronation and program. **Daniel Chun** created the first ever audio-video presentation documenting the wonderful journey of twelve beautiful young ladies that culminated in the coronation of Queen Dara and her court. **Libby Lew** designed and printed the evening's program and **Dennis Hwang** and his volunteers greeted all of our guests. Generous sponsors made the evening even more special, including **Wendy Loh** of Kona Paradise Candies, **Callman** and **Frances Au**, who provided the narcissus blossoms for the centerpieces, **Patrick Fujieki**, **Danny Young**, and JN Chevrolet. And thanks to the many other volunteers who helped to make this Coronation Ball an evening to remember.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Midweek's **Jo McGarry** apparently thinks very highly of **Li May Tang's** Shanghai Bistro at the Discovery Bay Center on Ala Moana Boulevard. Her February 2 "Table Talk" column raved about Shanghai Bistro as "not your average Chinese restaurant" and "The food is exceptional and I have no hesitation in recommending it to anyone who wants to broaden their dining horizons." She recommended a number of dishes, including shrimp ball stuffed with broth, *Kung Pao* chicken ("the best I've tasted"), special dried beef, hot and spicy tenderloin steak, Peking [sic] duck burgers, tiny stuffed quail, whole crispy sea bass, teapot soup, braised whole abalone, and live Maine lobster. McGarry concludes with "A visit to taste the food of this remarkably talented chef [**Chih-**

Chieh Chang] is well worth the effort." Perhaps a *pau hana* general membership meeting at Shanghai Bistro may be in order sometime this year? (Chamber officers and directors had a chance to sample chef Chang's handiwork at February 12 Chinese New Year's party at Fendi Ala Moana).

Stanford Yuen was pictured on Maunakea Street and interviewed in the February 5 article in the *Honolulu Advertiser*. A sidebar to the article was one of the few to correctly note that there would be festivities and booths on Maunakea Street that evening. Virtually every other newspaper, whether daily or weekly, was apparently under the impression that Saturday evening's activities were only at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza.

According to an article in the February 7 *Honolulu Advertiser*, real estate woman **Laisin Lee** was mentioned as having served as a Cantonese interpreter for a Honolulu Police Department weekend forum for some 200 Chinatown residents at the New Empress Restaurant on January 23. The meeting was to let residents know why it is important to call police at the first sign of trouble, giving them tips on protecting themselves, and answering questions. Also interviewed for the article was Chinese Community Action Coalition board and Chamber member **Wing Tek Lum**.

Erika Engle's "The Buzz" column in the February 8 *Star-Bulletin* said that **George Dang Lau** is selling the lease on the 27-year old New Empress

Restaurant. The property is apparently listed with CB Richard Ellis Hawaii Inc. with an asking price of \$650,000 for the lease through 2011, with options, as well as all the furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Monthly lease rent, common area maintenance fees, and real property taxes are roughly \$22,000. George also owns the Wo Fat building at Maunakea and Hotel Streets.

Advertiser food editor **Wanda Adams'** February 9 "Food for Thought" column was entitled "A plea for mac salad simplicity" and noted that "L & L Drive Inn" was having a "The Mac [salad] is Back" promotion at its mainland stores. (If memory serves, the mainland L & L operations are "L & L Hawaiian Barbecue"). The promotion on the mainland is due to the waning of the low-carbohydrate Atkins Diet,

which seems to have been just another in a long line of fad diets. So a macaroni salad contest was held with the chance to win one of four trips to Hawaii. Meanwhile, here in Hawaii, apparently L & L founders **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and **Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam** are sticking with the double protein, hold the mac "Hawaiian Atkins diet" for some of the plate lunches.

Larry and Linda Chan were pictured on the cover of the February 13 *Honolulu Advertiser* "Dining Out" section. The full page article inside was headlined "Eastern Garden to close Sun., Feb. 27." After many years of running as many as four widely separated Eastern Garden locations, the Chans decided that they needed a change of pace, partly in order to spend more time with their quickly growing children. Linda hinted that their next venture would involve the old Yong Sing restaurant location on Alakea Street, but that it wouldn't be another Chinese restaurant. Stay tuned to find out what that venture could be.

The February 16 "Business Roundtable" column in *Midweek* featured an article "Hard Work Creates Opportunity" by President **Winfred Pong** on the

Chinese Chamber. His article spotlighted the Narcissus Festival and also last year's Taste of China event. Winfred was also pictured with **Ted Li, Ming Chen, Alvin Wong, and Leonard Kam.** (Narcissus Queen **Darah Dung** was pictured on the cover of that issue of *Midweek* and profiled in a two-page cover story by **Susan Sunderland**).

On Saturday, February 26, Chamber Second Vice President **Ted Li** did the honors, swearing in **Ian Ho Chang**, who succeeded **Gerald Chang** as president of the Chang Wing Yong Tong. Narcissus Queen **Darah Dung** and her princesses, **Christine Doo, Janelle Leong, Caroline Lau, and Cecilia Fong**, were honored guests at the Golden Palace Seafood Restaurant dinner.

NEW MEMBERS

At its January 25 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the membership application for **Lisa Wong**, human resources manager at the Hawaii Convention Center (sponsored by **Winfred Pong**). There were no new membership applications at the February 21 board meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 4 • Fri **The Chinese Chamber General Election**
Chamber's Office - 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Mar 15 • Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon
- Mar 18 • Fri **Election of Officers & Board of Directors Meeting**
New Empress Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- Mar 20 • Sun **56th Narcissus Fashion Show**
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom
11:00 a.m.

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