

LANTERN

December 2006

Narcissus Souvenir Books

At long last, the souvenir books for the 58th annual Narcissus Festival have arrived. The books have been substantially slimmed down to the essentials and are priced at \$10.00 each. Members may pick up a complimentary copy of the 80-page book at the Chamber's new office, located at Suite 202, 76 North King Street. For those who have not yet visited, it's across Smith Street, just a few steps from the Smith and King intersection.



LEGISLATIVE-BUSINESS FORUM

The fifth annual Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii/Affiliated Chambers and Business Organizations "Legislative-Business Forum" will be held on Thursday, January 18, at the Pacific Club, 1451 Queen Emma Street. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m., and the program is scheduled from 5:30 -8:30 p.m. Some thirty legislators have already signed up to attend, including Chamber members Sen. **Suzanne Chun Oakland**, Rep. **Corinne Ching**, and Rep. **Jerry Chang**. While there is a fee, there are also heavy *pupu* and no-host cocktails. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii at 545-4300, extension 340, or register online at http://www.cochawaii.org/_cmx/cmx_event/eventTicketPurchase.asp?EventID=16. Please note that there is apparently no walk-in registration at the event.

Queen Pageant

This exciting event will be held on Saturday, January 20, at a new venue, the Hawaii Theatre, 1130 Bethel Street, in beautiful downtown Chinatown. Lots of parking is available nearby as well as pre-pageant dining at a variety of restaurants in Chinatown, on Nuuanu Avenue, and somewhat further afield at The Mandalay on Alakea Street and Hong Kong Harbor View Seafood Restaurant at Aloha Tower Marketplace. The opening number of this exciting evening will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Tickets (at \$33.00 and \$28.00) are going fast, so if you are planning to attend, call the Hawaii Theatre box office at 528-0506 (Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) right away. Following the excitement of the pageant, you can meet and greet the ten lovely contestants (and congratulate the 58th Narcissus Queen and her court) at the post-pageant reception at Hee Hing restaurant on Kapahulu Avenue, starting at 10:00 p.m. Tickets for this event, with heavy *pupu*, are \$9.50 per person.

NARCISSUS CORONATION BALL

As usual, the gala Coronation Ball, themed "A Tribute to the Future," will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Coral Ballroom on Saturday, February 3. The evening begins with no-host cocktails at 5:00 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the coronation of the 58th Narcissus Queen and the renowned Chinese cuisine of award-winning Golden Dragon Restaurant chef **Steven Chiang**, there will be a martial arts demonstration by Gee Yung International Martial Arts Dragon and Lion Dance Association and piano performances by **Ernest Chang** Piano Studio students twelve-year old **Stephanie Lum** and eleven-year old **Elvina Zhang**. The festivities will be emceed by KHNL/KFVE anchors **Stephanie Lum** and **Walter Makaula**. And there will be dancing until 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$65.00 per person or ten-person tables are value priced at \$600.00. Dress is coat and tie for men and evening dress for women. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by Monday, January 22, by calling the Chamber office at 533-3181.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Alvin C. P. Wong

With a population base of 1.4 billion people, how can anyone ignore the Chinese market? For many years, doing business with the Chinese has stirred the imagination of many American entrepreneurs. While there has been a proliferation of products sold in the U.S. with the "Made in China" label, very few Hawaii businesses have been able to establish an economic foothold in the Chinese market. After all, Hawaii is not a major manufacturing state. Yes, we have beautiful weather and world-class resorts, but we are not able to produce massive amounts of consumer goods that can be cheaply exported to the world's largest market.

Interestingly, the Chamber is in position to carve out a unique Chinese market niche. It is a matter of taking advantage of our expertise. As you know, we have been cultivating solid relationships in China for many years, both in the Chinese public and private sectors. In addition, some of our members and directors currently do business in China, albeit on a small scale. Yet our efforts to exploit our Chamber resources have been minimal in recent years.

To address this void, I now would like to revive and revitalize the Chamber's management training program that was successfully established years ago by former president and emeritus director **George Chu**. When the management training program was

active, scores of Chinese businessmen and women eagerly enrolled in the program to gain practical knowledge of western business practices. The Chamber was able to attract these participants because we have an understanding of Chinese culture and of their need for western business knowledge.

While the recent SARS outbreak and the threat of a bird flu epidemic put a hold on the program, it is now time to re-start this successful venture. I recently met with Chamber member **Charles Steilen**, the newly appointed Dean of Hawaii Pacific University's College of Business Administration, to discuss the possibility of a joint effort with the Chamber. In 2007, I would like to see our Executive Committee rekindle our management training program. Dean Steilen, who lived and worked in Hong Kong for many years prior to locating in Hawaii and is fluent in Chinese, indicated that the program could flourish given the opportunity to augment our contacts in China with his. I am looking forward to the New Year and the new beginning of our management training program.

In other Chamber news, it appears that the United Chinese Society has honored us by calling on three Chamber directors and members to serve as UCS officers. On December 3, at Waikiki Lau Yee Chai restaurant, Dr. **Ming Chen**, our immediate past president, emeritus director, and a close friend, accepted the call to serve as president of the UCS. With Chief Justice **Ronald Moon** presiding, the UCS installed Dr. Chen, Director **James Young**, and member **Thomas Sum** as UCS President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President, respectively. To ensure that the installation was a "smashing" success, Dr. Chen boldly displayed a hammer in lieu of a gavel. In addition, Dr. **Lawrence K.W. Tseu**, a long-time Chamber

financial supporter, was honored as the 2007 UCS Chinese Citizen of the Year.

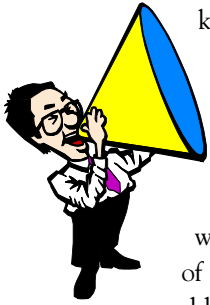
On December 22, our City Council voted 7-2 on a decision that will affect us for more than thirty years. While everyone agrees that relief from traffic congestion is critical, no one has offered a relatively cheap and practical solution. To gain some insight as to the various alternatives on the table, the Chamber sponsored a two-hour roundtable discussion on December 11 for the benefit of Chamber members and directors. Hosted by former president and emeritus director **Warren Luke** in the Hawaii National Bank boardroom, the open forum featured prominent government leaders, including U.S. Congressman **Neil Abercrombie**, a representative of Mayor **Mufi Hannemann**, and Councilman **Charles Djou**.

We celebrate the New Year with the burning of firecrackers, but it does not appear that 2007 needs any more controversy. The fixed rail transit system debates should provide enough "fireworks" for the entire year and for many years to come. For the Chamber, 2007 promises to be exciting, too. In the New Year, the Chamber plans to unveil a long string of activities, which include relocating to a new office, crowning a new Narcissus Queen and court, issuing a membership card that will entitle members to many benefits and discounts, and bolstering our economic base by restarting the Chamber management training program. Pardon the pun, but 2007 is far from being the "Year of the Bored."

Congratulations to **Sonja Pui Ling Tam**, 56th annual Narcissus Second Princess, who was recently crowned 2007 Miss Chinatown Hawaii and will be competing for 2007 Miss Chinatown USA in San Francisco in February.

In closing, my family and I would like to wish everyone the very best in 2007.

CHAMBER OFFICE RELOCATION



As some of you may know, the Chinese Chamber has new office space. Most of the moving, particularly of the office furniture and equipment, was done over a number of days in December. In addition, a couple of dozen large contractor-grade trash bags were discarded. The new office is located in Suite 202, 76 North King Street, which is just across the Smith/King Street intersection and a few steps closer to Chinatown. However, the telephone (533-3181) and fax (533-3184) numbers remain the same. And those who have spent the morning or afternoon shopping in Chinatown will appreciate that this location does have an elevator.

NEW MEMBERS

At its December 19 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the applications for **Blaine Hedani**, manager for AIG Hawaii (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); attorney **James Weisman** (sponsored by **Jan Leu**); and **Ellie Zeng**, owner of Ellie's Hair Studio (sponsored by **Nanson "Nelson" Wang**). Welcome to the Chamber.

TRANSIT ROUNDTABLE

On Monday, December 11, some fifteen or so Chamber members met at 9:00 a.m. in the fourth floor boardroom at Hawaii National Bank at King and Smith Streets. (The facilities were made available by former Chamber president and emeritus director **Warren Luke**). The occasion was a roundtable discussion on rail transit. In attendance were Councilman **Charles Djou** (who originally suggested such an event), Congressman **Neil Abercrombie**, and a representative of the Mayor's office. (Also present were transit expert **Cliff Slater** and University of Hawaii transportation engineering professor **Panos Prevodouros**). Each of the three principals was given ten minutes to make an opening statement and then the floor was open to questions. President **Alvin Wong** moderated, making sure that the time limits were adhered to.

There was some spirited give and take, with some eye-opening information. While Congressman Abercrombie is a rail transit supporter, he is apparently not wedded to it. Instead, it's a matter for the people and his role is to stand in the federal money line. If, at a later time, the people decide not to proceed, so be it. However, if the decision stands, then he's in a position to secure federal funds. And Councilman Djou made it clear that the impending December 22 Council vote on Bill 79 was not the final decision that the local print and a television outlets make it out to be. There is time and room to reverse the decision; it's definitely not "locked in concrete."

Gerald Chang raised the matter of what transit proponents refer to as "public-private partnerships." He pointed out that in Hong Kong, the first cross-harbor tunnel (there are now three), linking Kowloon and Hong Kong, was built under what the Hong Kongers (and the British) refer to as a "build-operate-transfer scheme" or BOT scheme. (In the U.S., we'd use "plan" instead of "scheme"). He said that this meant that private interests would build a particular public improvement; operate it for a term of years until they had recouped their costs, plus a reasonable profit; and then turn it over to the government. He went on to state that if done here with rail transit, it would mean no cost to the taxpayers, and the City would merely formulate a request for proposals (RFPs) from one or more consortiums. If no proposals were submitted, that would definitively show that rail transit is not the fiscally responsible choice that proponents make it seem like. **Johnson Choi** added that because of its government structure (and capitalist heritage), Hong Kong's public works (even before reversion to China in 1997), like its MTR, are all privately financed. And **Edward Pei** raised the matter of ridership, pointing out that while many people in Leeward and Central Oahu support the concept of rail transit, they do so in expectation that their neighbors will use it, thereby freeing up road space for the erstwhile supporters to continue to drive to work.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On December 3, Dr. **Ming Chen**, **James Young**, and **Thomas Sum** were installed as United Chinese Society President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President. The installation was held at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai restaurant. Congratulations to each and every one of you. (And Dr. Chen should also be recognized for a job well done as honorary co-chair of the December 15 ORI/Helemano Plantation fund-raiser).

On Saturday, January 12, there will be a welcome reception and dinner in Beijing for a group of students and others with ties to Iolani School. Alumni and friends are invited to the reception and



dinner hosted by Iolani School. The Beijing point-of-contact (POC) is Chamber member **Russell Leu**, Iolani '75.

"Honolulu's Best Restaurants" are announced in the January 2007 issue of **Honolulu** magazine. Among the recipients of the 2007 Hale Aina awards were **Jennifer Chan's** Little Village Noodle House (Gold for both "Little Restaurant You Love" and "Best Chinese Restaurant") and **Thomas Ky's** Assaggio's (Gold for "Best Italian Restaurant"). (The Golden Dragon Restaurant and Hee Hing Restaurant, sites for the Narcissus Coronation Ball and Narcissus post-pageant reception, respectively, received the Silver and Bronze awards for "Best Chinese Restaurant"). In addition, Jennifer and husband **Kenneth** were pictured in the kitchen and their recipes for steamed fish with ginger onion sauce, homemade soy sauce, and beef with choy sum were selected by local food writer **Joan Namkoong** for inclusion in the Hale 'Aina Cookbook.

Alan Ho, owner of Seafood Village in the Waikiki Hyatt Regency and Royal Steak and Seafood House in the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, is opening another Waikiki restaurant, Atlantis Seafood and Steak, on the second floor of 2284 Kalakaua Avenue, on Sunday, January 7, 2007. For those not familiar with the address, it's the site of the old Waikiki Theater. Validated parking may be available at the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center parking lot, but not at the old Waikiki Parking Lot. For more information or to make reservations, call 922-6868.

Time flies when you're having fun. **Larry and Linda Chan** are celebrating the first anniversary of their Mandalay Restaurant on Alakea Street. During the month of January, there are anniversary specials for parties of four (\$59.95), six (\$89.95), and ten (\$168.00, \$198.00, \$288.00, and \$328.00). For more information on the dishes in the specials or for reservations, call Linda at 525-8585.

And at **Li May Tang's** Shanghai Bistro, executive chef **Chih Chieh Chang's** monthly cooking class will be held starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 27. With the approach of Chinese New Year on February 18, the curriculum will be how to make *jai* and *gau*, dishes traditionally associated with the lunar new year. The cost is \$35.00 per person, but that includes the class, samples to taste, and the Saturday

buffet brunch (a \$15.95 value). The classes are quite popular, and a few of the students have taken every class! To make reservations, call 955-8668.

Finally, checking through various December issues of *Midweek*, ORI/Helemano Plantation founder **Susanna Cheung** was pictured in the December 6 "Old Friends" updating her appearance in December, 1997; **Adelia and Stephen Dung** were pictured several times in the December 20 issue at the fund-raiser for the **Alana Dung** Research Foundation; and **Douglas Yee** was pictured in the December 27 issue at the American Lung Association of Hawaii's Christmas Seals gala at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1	Mon	2007 New Year Day
Jan 15	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 16	Tue	Execitive Board Meeting Chamber's Office -12:00 noon
Jan 20	Sat	58th Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center - 6:30 p.m.
Jan 30	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The Arts At Marks Garage - 12:00 noon

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