

LANTERN

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Thursday, July 20, PACAF commander General Paul **Hester** will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "Pacific Air Forces: Preparing for an uncertain future in the Pacific." The meeting will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the Hong Kong Harbor View restaurant. The cost is only \$15.00 per person. Call the Chamber at 533-3181 to make your reservation.

Mayor's Chinatown Summit

On Thursday, June 22, Mayor **Mufi Hannemann** convened a Chinatown Summit at the Hawaii Theatre. The mayor, in his initial presentation, stated that he was not the fountain of all ideas and was seeking community input. The implication was that there would be future Chinatown meetings. The mayor also mentioned his recent trip to Beijing and Shanghai with **Warren Luke**, **Dr. Ming Chen**, and **Vernon Ching** as well as an upcoming trip to Taipei.

Among the Chamber members attending all or part of the morning presentations and afternoon workshops were **Ted Li**, **Wes Fong**, **Gerald Chang**, **Joe Young**, **Pearl Yuen**, and **Kelfred Chang**. In addition, **Anthony Chang** was a speaker in the morning on the experience of Chinatown entrepreneurs who started their businesses there and have maintained those roots, and **Wing Tek Lum**, Lum Yip Kee executive vice president, offered his suggestions on how to revitalize Chinatown. Following a no-host lunch break, there were afternoon sessions on "funding opportunities," "what do customers want?" and "Community concerns – public safety, homelessness, and landowner concerns."

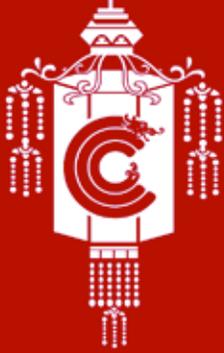
Among the concerns of both visitors and Honolulu residents was the matter of crime, particularly drugs and prostitution. Presumably with an increased police presence in recent years, the numbers have gone down. A graphic accompanying **Mary Vorsino's** June 22 *Honolulu Advertiser* story, "Designs on Chinatown," showed that other types of crime – robbery, burglary, and auto theft – had declined from 2003 to 2004, according to Honolulu Police Department statistics. (**Gifford Chang** was quoted in the story, excited by the prospect of a revitalized Chinatown).

Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Meeting

Thursday, July 20, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii will be holding its 156th annual membership luncheon. The luncheon will be from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The cost is \$45.00 per person. To make reservations, call 545-4300.

HAWAII Conservation Conference

According to the June 11 *Honolulu Advertiser*, **Lee-Ann Choy** is conference coordinator for the annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. With a theme of "Sustainability: Mauka to Makai," the conference will be held from Wednesday through Friday, July 26 to 28, at the Hawaii Convention Center. There will be a public session at 7:30 p.m. on July 27 with **Thomas Goreau**, president of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, speaking on global warming and the future of coral reefs. For more information on registration for the conference, contact Lee-Ann at 864-9812 or prc@hawaiiibiz.rr.com.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Alvin C. P. Wong

On May 31, 2006, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii celebrated a conclusion to an exciting year and a beginning to a new year at the 95th annual Installation Banquet, held at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai restaurant. With Chief Justice **Ronald Moon** conducting the ceremony, this new President and slate of officers stood with tremendous pride and deep emotion as we accepted the call to serve this great organization.

This year, an unprecedented number of community leaders and more than 400 guests attended the event. Many dignitaries, including Governor **Linda Lingle**, U.S. Senator **Daniel Akaka**, Mayor **Mufi Hannemann**, Speaker of the House **Calvin Say**, State Representative **Corinne Ching**, and Councilmember **Rod Tam**, were present for the installation of our new officers. In addition, the Honorable **Chen Jujie**, Minister of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, PRC, made a special trip from Beijing to participate in the sold-out event. Earlier in the day, Madame Chen attended an invitation-only tea reception in her honor.

In recognition of their achievements, the Chamber also honored **Daniel Lau** as 2006 Outstanding Chinese Chamber of Commerce Business Person; long-time *Lantern* editor **Gerald Chang** as 2006 Outstanding Chinese Chamber of Commerce Volunteer; and **Tim Law**, 2006 SBA Exporter of the Year.

Ceremonies commenced at 6:30 p.m. with the traditional lion dance by Gee Yung International Martial Arts Lion and Dance Association. As our guests savored the second course of *joong*, **Ginny Young** revealed the mystery behind the historic dragon boat festival. The date this year happened to coincide with the date of the banquet.

It was an honor for me to present a gift to our outgoing president, Dr. **Ming Chen**, for all of his accomplishments, for his dedication and leadership, for giving of his time and talent, and for his commitment to preserve and promote our rich Chinese heritage. Through the decades, many presidents have helped the Chamber come to its current position as the leading Chinese organization in Hawaii. Civic leaders, such as Dr. Ming Chen, have played a major role in improving our community and enriching our lives. As I received the gavel from Dr. Chen, I could not help but reflect on the close friendship that we developed during the last three years. I can only hope to follow the footsteps of this tireless leader.

In my inaugural address, I briefly talked about the philosophy that I would like to practice during the next year, the Year of the Dog. The philosophy can best be described as "Crisis Management." However, it is from the Chinese perspective and not in the Western sense. The Chinese do not have a word for crisis. Instead, the Chinese word for crisis is actually made up of two characters. The first character has the meaning of danger, and the second character means opportunity. Put together, these characters create the Chinese word for crisis. Interestingly, while the Chinese view a crisis more in terms of risk and reward, Westerners tend to define a crisis as an emergency or difficulty.

I prefer that we accept the Chinese perspective. Accordingly, I would like to see our newly installed officers explore new and fresh ideas in consid-

eration of obtaining greater rewards. Although there might be a higher risk in implementing a new course of action, there is the potential of receiving a higher return. This is a basic business concept that the late Dr. **Lewis Freitas** taught me as an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. It is a concept that I have embraced throughout my business career. It goes to the old expression, "nothing ventured, nothing gained."

It has also been said that if you have no expectations, then you have no disappointments. I must admit that we may experience some disappointments, but it is only because we are trying to reach for the "higher fruit." Financially, the Chamber is facing some tough economic times. As you may know, our overhead expenses, which are mostly fixed and growing, far exceed collection of our membership dues. Without the revenues generated from the Narcissus Festival, the Chamber could not pay all of its expenses.

The success of this year's Installation Banquet could not have happened without the help of many volunteers. At this time, I would like to thank **Michele Choy**, chair of the 2006 Installation Banquet, for planning and organizing this year's event. A word of thanks should also be conveyed to **Walter Chang**, tea reception committee; **Dennis and Rena Hwang**, protocol and logistics committee; **Michael and Sylvia Louie**, reception table; **Vernon Ching** and **Darah Dung**, master and mistress of ceremonies; **Stan Okada**, photography; and Dr. **Ming Chen**, site selection committee. Furthermore, we need to thank Mrs. **Nancy Tsaour** and **June Tong** for the *joong* samples.

At this time, I would like to echo my closing remarks by saying that the secret to being a successful president is having an understanding and supportive wife. To my wife, **Donna**, and all the wives of our past presidents, you have my sincere thanks from a grateful Chinese Chamber.

Chinese IN WESTERN HISTORY

On Sunday and Monday, June 25 and 26, the AMC movie channel premiered its made for TV movie, "Broken Trail." Starring and produced by **Robert Duvall**, the movie involved a herd of horses being driven from eastern Oregon to Wyoming. The trailers promoting the movie included a segment where five young Chinese women were being coached in their lines in Mandarin, which was rather curious. Watching the movie open, the action starts in "San Francisco, 1898" where the young women are sold to a white slaver, their ultimate destination being a frontier bar offering female diversions for the male customers. (Shades of the saloon in "Lonesome Dove," starring Duvall and **Tommy Lee Jones**). An on-screen explanation said that selling women was a "local [Chinese] preference." While the script referred to the Chinese as "Celestials" (or coming from the Celestial Kingdom) as was common in the late nineteenth century, the writer made two errors. First, until recent years, by far and away, the majority of Chinese immigrants in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were from Kwantung (now Guangdong) province and would have spoken Cantonese (or perhaps *see yup*, as did the *Lantern* editor's maternal grandfather). In addition, the preference for boys is and has been a national preference for centuries. The reason is that in a largely agrarian society, boys are needed on the farm and to take care of their parents in their old age. In addition, in China, women "married out" or became members of their husband's household and family upon marriage. So much for the *gweilo* screenwriter's knowledge of China.



Far Left: Outgoing President Ming Chen warmly greets Madam Chen Yujie, Minister, the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the PRC at the Installation Banquet.

Left: Minister Chen Yujie cordially meets with the leaders of the Chinese Community at a VIP interview before the Installation Banquet.



Mayor Mufi Hannemann happily takes picture with Chamber's Officers and Narcissus Queen.



Outgoing President Ming Chen and Incoming President Alvin Wong sincerely congratulate Mr. Daniel Lau, the recipient of Outstanding Business Person of the Year Award.



Left: Immediate Past President Ming Chen passes gavel to new President Alvin Wong.



Right: Governor Linda Lingle warmly congratulates Alvin Wong, new President of the Chinese Chamber.



Chief Justice Ronald Moon, Inaugural Officer has a picture taking with new officers of the Chinese Chamber after Installation.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gifford Chang wrote a letter on behalf of the Chinatown Merchants Association, which appeared on June 10 in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. Written after the recent designation of Chinatown as a Preserve America Neighborhood Community, Gifford urged others to "join in the effort to preserve and enrich" Chinatown. Gifford (and also Lum Yip Kee executive vice president **Wing Tek Lum**) was quoted in **Dan Martin's** article, "Chinatown at a crossroads," which appeared in the June 18 *Star-Bulletin*.

The *Advertiser* covered the three-day long "Taste of Honolulu" in its June 24 issue. Shanghai Bistro and Hong Kong Harbor View Seafood restaurant owner **Li May Tang** said that prepping food items in the restaurants' kitchens began at 3:00 a.m. And executive chef **Chih-Chieh Chang** was pictured busily frying a batch of spring rolls.

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Erika Engle's June 13 TheBuzz column in the *Star-Bulletin* was an update on Eddie Flores, Jr. and Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam and the continuing expansion of L & L Drive Inn (now 50 locations in Hawaii) and L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (92 locations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Utah, and Washington). The dynamic duo plan to have 200 stores by the end of 2007, with a new franchise opening every ten days. With 17 opened so far this year and another 25 opening by the end of this year, Eddie and Johnson are already rapidly closing in on 200. (Engle came up with a total by the end of the year of 167, but she forgot to add the 17 already opened in 2006).

Speaking of L & L Drive Inn, the 2006 "Hawaii's Best" were distributed with the June 25 *Star-Bulletin*. According to the votes of *Star-Bulletin* and *Midweek* readers, L & L was voted "best plate lunch," Thomas Ky's four Assaggio's Ristorante Italiano was voted "best Italian," and McDonald's (of the 52 locations on Oahu, Victor Lim has locations on Fort Street Mall, the former City Bank building on Queen Street, in Dole Cannery's food court, in Ala Moana Center, Kailua, Enchanted Lake, and Waimanalo) was "best fast food." Kwock Nam Lau's Royal Kitchen was #3 in "best manapua," and Thanh Quoc Lam's Ba-Le Sandwich with 14 Oahu locations was a "threefer" or trifecta: #2 in "best sandwich" and "best Vietnamese" and tied for #3 in "best vegetarian." These selections and recognition by *Honolulu* Magazine's "Hale Aina" awards and the *Advertiser's* "Ilima" awards show that Chamber members have some of the most popular restaurants in town.

The headline read "Mainland reservists help nonprofit project" and was accompanied by a picture of a smiling Susanna Cheung, CEO of ORI Anuenue Hale Inc. According to the story in the June 22 *Advertiser* by Brittany Yap, six homes and a recreation hall are being built to house, temporarily or permanently, needy clients. The project, located adjacent to Helemano Plantation outside Wahiawa, may grow to 11 homes on the 10-acre site. Each of the homes will have five bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, kitchen with laundry room, and wheelchair-height windows. Three of the homes and the recreation hall are being built by members of the Air Force Reserve. The construction is part of an ambitious larger project, Aloha Gardens, covering 40 acres. Participation by the reservists is through ORI's selection as an Innovative Readiness Training project for three mainland-based civil engineer squadrons. The reservists get to exercise their construction skills while performing their two week annual training in Hawaii.

The annual "Taste of Honolulu" was held on Friday through Sunday, June 23 to 25. Larry and Linda Chan's The Mandalay offered sauteed prawns with honey walnuts, Mandalay's special seasoned chicken wings, and vegetarian *chow mein* while Li May Tang's Shanghai Bistro and Hong Kong Harbor View Seafood Restaurant featured spring rolls, *char siu bao*, sugarcane shrimp, and beef *chow fun*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| July 4 • Tue | Independence Day |
| July 18 • Tue | Executive Board Meeting
Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon |
| July 20 • Thur | General Membership Meeting
Hong Kong Harbor View
Restaurant - 11:30 a.m. |
| July 25 • Tue | Board of Directors Meeting
New Empress Restaurant
- 12:00 noon |

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