

LANTERN

August 2006

Exciting Changes for 58th Narcissus Festival

by Ed Pei

The 58th Narcissus Festival will begin shortly and will feature many exciting changes. Major events will include the following:

- Splendor of China, October 7-8, at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. This event, chaired by **Ted Li**, kicks off our Narcissus Festival and will once again feature interesting vendors and exhibitors, non-stop entertainment, special activities for everyone, and the first public appearance of our Queen Pageant contestants. Admission is only \$3.00 per person, and children under 10 years of age are free.
- Queen Pageant, January 20, 2007, at the Hawaii Theatre. **Michele Choy** returns to chair this event, which is moving to the beautifully renovated Hawaii Theatre this year. The new venue will provide many exciting surprises.
- Coronation Ball, February 3, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. **Yu Shing Ting** is the chair of this event and once again promises an enchanting evening.
- Chinatown New Year Celebration, February 16-17, in Chinatown. Chaired by **Kevin Lam**, the Chamber is partnering with the Chinatown Merchants Association (CMA) to put on another memorable weekend of activities, including the Friday Open House (chaired by **Gayle Lau** and **Harlan Lee**), Cultural Plaza Festival (chaired by **Leonard Kam**), Chinatown Parade (CMA), and Night in Chinatown (CMA).
- Narcissus Classic: An Elegant Evening of Music, March 10, at the Hawaii Theatre. This brand new concert event, chaired by **Linda Louie**, will feature three internationally renowned performers, **Yen Deng**, **Cinderella Liao**, and **Kewei Wang**, plus some of the best young local Chinese talent. This will truly be an elegant and special evening of music.

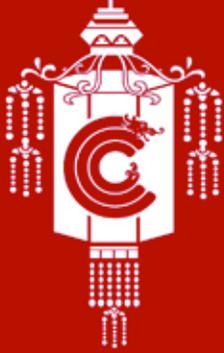
The Narcissus Festival would not be possible annually without the generous support of our corporate sponsors and our Chamber members. If your company would like to be a corporate sponsor of the Narcissus Festival, please call the Chamber office at 533-3181 for further information. Chamber members will also be able to support the Narcissus Festival by contributing cash, as a patron, or by purchasing a package of event tickets. Information regarding member support will be distributed shortly. All donations will be fully acknowledged in the Narcissus souvenir book, along with our heartfelt thanks.

CONTESTANT ORIENTATION

An orientation was held for the contestants in the 58th Narcissus Pageant on Thursday, August 17. The get-together was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village South Pacific Room. Some seventy people nearly filled the room. **Michele Choy** extends her thanks to emcee **Kristi Sue-Ako**, **Daniel Chun** for video, and **Ying Ying Lee**, **Kathleen Wong**, and **Tricia Fay** who handled the check-in table.

Chinatown Coverage

The August issue of *Honolulu* magazine cover article "Chinatown Now" has a picture of Hawaii National Bank's original building and mentions the late entrepreneur and philanthropist **K. J. Luke** and his son and former Chamber president **Warren**. (Oddly, a description of Sun Chong Co. mentions "salted duck leg," which is presumably an erroneous reference to salted duck eggs). The issue also has the annual All-Island Restaurant Guide and "The Flavors of Chinatown" mentions **Jennifer Chan's** Little Village Noodle House, suggesting "some pan-fried beef, honey walnut shrimp and orange chicken."



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THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Alvin C. P. Wong

With the completion of the first ninety days in office, I have been told that “the honeymoon is over” and that it is now time for business. In talking to the directors and officers of the Chamber, it appears that we will again face an interesting, challenging, and exciting year. Our annual Narcissus Festival is almost a twelve-month long event, and I am grateful to have President-elect **Ed Pei** chair this event. He and his committee have been working overtime in planning and organizing our historic 58th annual Narcissus Festival. It promises to be another exciting year filled with family activities that should appeal to both our local community and out-of-town visitors. In addition, Ed shortly plans to unveil and introduce an inaugural festival event for this year.

On August 17, Pageant Coordinator **Michele Choy** debuted the contestants for the 58th Narcissus Queen and Court at an orientation meeting held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. As I addressed the parents and contestants, I mentioned to them that the quality of an event, such as the Narcissus Pageant is defined in terms of not only who are the participants but also the producer. As such, I felt it necessary to talk about the history of the Chamber, the importance of our sponsors, and the purpose of their participation. The Pageant has enjoyed a long history of success because of the backing of our diverse membership, coupled with the help from many talented outside volunteers. The validation of our efforts is reflected in the continuous financial support that we receive from our many sponsors. But more importantly, these generous companies and

individuals have allowed their names to be proudly displayed at all of our events. In every Narcissus Souvenir Annual, you can find our honor roll of sponsors and financial underwriters. Finally, I mentioned to the contestants that the purpose of their participation is to serve as representatives of our Chinese community and the state of Hawaii. While the title of Narcissus Queen is majestic, it is perhaps more symbolic of our Chinese history and heritage.

In 2005, we dovetailed the relatively new Splendor of China into the Narcissus Festival. Based on that success, this year’s Splendor of China on October 7 and 8 will again serve as the springboard for the start of our Narcissus Festival. While First Vice President **Ted Li** and his committee plan to include more attractions and vendors this year, Ted has promised to bring back the very popular Chinese dog show as well as the *manapua* eating contest. This is the Chamber’s first major event of the year, and we are looking forward to strong support from our membership.

Our Executive Committee has been busy discussing several key issues that will affect the Chamber for many years to come. The major issue that the Chamber is facing today is the task of finding a permanent office location. As you know, the Chamber’s office lease with the United Chinese Society expired on December 31, 2005. Through the efforts of Immediate Past President Dr. **Ming Chen**, the lease was

extended to June 30, 2006, and then further extended to December 31, 2006. At this time, the United Chinese Society is offering a new lease based on the following terms and conditions:

1. Term of lease not to exceed five years;
2. Market rate of about \$1.50 per square foot;
3. Monthly payment to include *pro-rata* payment of common area maintenance (CAM) expenses; and
4. Monthly fee (to be determined) for the storage of any personal property outside of the office premises.

In view of those terms and conditions, the Building Committee and Executive Committee concluded that the offered terms are not favorable and recommended that the Chamber decline the offer. Currently, the Building Committee is investigating various relocation alternatives, including the purchase of a proposed office condominium. Given the limited amount of time, the Chamber will unfortunately be forced to seek temporary office space.

In closing, the Executive Committee will continue to seek additional sources of revenue, grow our membership base by expanding membership benefits, streamline the maintenance of our Web site, and increase office automation. With the conclusion of the first ninety days in office, I feel that I have only reached the end of the beginning, but there is much work to be done.

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

Narcissus Patrons

by Ed Pei

The 58th annual Narcissus Festival is upon us and Chamber members will have an opportunity to show their support for this annual extravaganza by becoming a Chamber Patron. The success of our annual Festival is largely due to the generous support of our members and their companies. We encourage everyone to support our Festival by participating in its events, and also by donating funds to perpetuate its success.

There are several ways to become a Chamber Patron. Please be assured that all member contributions will be fully acknowledged in our annual Narcissus souvenir book. The following are the various sponsor levels available:

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Midweek columnist **Yu Shing Ting's** "On the Move" column in recent weeks has dealt with asthma (August 4), mold (August 11), bed bugs (August 18), and dust mites (August 25). The latter may be of interest to some of the people with offices in Honolulu Hale.

Surf instructor **Cherry Fu** was spotlighted in an article in the August 16 *Midweek*, "You Surf, Girl." According to an article in the August 25 *Honolulu Advertiser*, Cherry is owner of Girls Who Surf (a surfing school) and is making use of her Harvard degree in economics.

The I Love Kalihi festival was held on Saturday, August 26, at Kawanānakoā Park. State Representative **Corinne Ching** started the event back in 2003 as a way to instill community pride among the residents.

CHAMBER'S VISITORS

Aug 7 - 11, 2006

- Mr. Xu Hongmeng, Real Admiral
Chinese Navy delegation of 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------|-----|--|
| Sept 4 | Mon | Labor Day |
| Sept 19 | Tue | Executive Board Meeting
Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon |
| Sept 26 | Tue | Board of Directors Meeting
Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon |
| Oct 7 | Sat | 4th Annual Splendor of China
Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall
- 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. |
| Oct 8 | Sun | 4th Annual Splendor of China
Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. |

Restaurant News

Linda and Larry Chan's The Mandalay restaurant on Alakea was featured in the August 27 *Honolulu Advertiser* "Dining Out" insert. For dining-in, there are *ala carte* dishes and *dim sum* which is ordered from a card rather than a cart. For those in a hurry, there is an adjacent take-out counter and *dim sum* "packages" are also available. And a new option is a *pau hana* "happy hour" from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., featuring *pupu* or finger food.

Meanwhile, the monthly cooking classes at **Li May Tang's** Shanghai Bistro in Waikiki have entered their second year chronologically. On Saturday, September 23, executive chef **Chih-Chieh Chang** will demonstrate deep fried goldfish-shaped dumplings and vegetarian roast duck. The classes start at 10:00 a.m. and cost \$35.00 per person, which includes the weekend buffet that runs to 3:00 p.m. Students receive recipes and a class certificate as well as some hands-on experience. (In the August class – number 11 in the series – each student received a plate with four already butterflied 31-40 size shrimp as well as small containers of an egg-flour mixture and *panko*, and were directed to dip and coat each shrimp). Meanwhile, at Li May's Hong Kong Harbor View Seafood Restaurant, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. daily, "*kamaaina dim sum*" is available for \$1.89 per plate (which is relatively inexpensive), and each month, there is a special dinner menu, so check the newspaper ads.

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