

# LANTERN

March 2007



夏威夷中華總商會

## Narcissus Classic

This new Narcissus Festival event will be Saturday, March 10, at the Hawaii Theatre. There will be classical, Chinese, and Broadway songs from four artists: mezzo soprano **Yun Deng**, soprano **Cinderella Liao**, baritone **Kewei Wang**, and rising actor, pianist, and singer **Xu Le**. The two women and two men will be accompanied by **Beebe Freitas**, the “best pianist in Hawaii.” Tickets are still available at \$41.00 and \$31.00, plus a \$2.00 restoration fee, by calling the Hawaii Theatre box office at 528-0506, Tuesday through Saturday.



## BISHOP MUSEUM EXHIBIT

*“Lost Maritime Cultures,”* an exhibit which links the ancient Hemudu culture in what is now Zhejiang province (located south of the Yangzi Jiang and Shanghai) and rising sea levels with the voyages through Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia, all the way to Rapa Nui (Easter Island). (A map accompanies **Marie Carvalho**’s article in the February 23 *Honolulu Advertiser*). The exhibit began on February 24 and ends on April 15. Admission is \$15.95 general, and \$12.95 for seniors and children, ages 4-12. For more information, call the Bishop Museum at 847-3511.

## Chinese Classes

The Hoo Cho School, 1342 7th Avenue in Kaimuki, has resumed basic and intermediate conversational Mandarin classes for adults. The classes meet on Sundays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and cost \$25.00 per month (four sessions per month). New students can join the class on the first Sunday of the month. For more information or to sign up, call **Steven Li** at 387-3389 or hoochoschool@gmail.com.

## OVERSEAS CHINESE DINNER

On Saturday, April 14, the Organization of Chinese Americans’ Hawaii Chapter will hold its 2007 installation and scholarship fund-raising dinner at the Sheraton Waikiki ballrooms. OCA- Hawaii president **Victor Lim** cordially invites one and all to attend the dinner, which costs \$75.00 per person and starts at 6:00 p.m. In addition, OCA-Hawaii announces the **Jessie Cheng** public service internship program for incoming second and third year college students from Hawaii. Two students who “have a demonstrated interest in serving the Asian-American or Pacific Islander communities and have good communications skills” will be selected for a six-week internship with either the governor’s or Honolulu mayor’s office. Each student will receive a \$1,500 stipend, thanks to OCA-Hawaii and the Cheng internship program. Applications, due not later than Friday, March 30, must include an official record of college grades (3.0 GPA minimum), two letters of recommendation, and an interview by the program review committee. For more information on the internship or where to file the application packet, contact **Susan Wong** (732-0700) or **Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock** (391-4350).



President  
Alvin C. P. Wong

It has been an extraordinary month for what could have been an ordinary one. On February 3, Mayor **Mufi Hannemann** crowned our new Narcissus Queen **Jessica Lau** at our 58th annual Coronation Ball. The event marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter and the closing of a special and unforgettable year. At the Coronation Ball, I mentioned to our 2006 Narcissus Queen **Kristi Sue-Ako**, 1st Princess **Lindsey Mau**, 2nd Princess **Shayla Chun**, 3rd Princess **Lu Lu**, and 4th Princess **Kristin Lum** that this was not a time to say goodbye, but a time for them to step forward and assume a greater role in the community. We are hoping that they will use the experience that they have gained to help others enrich their lives.

Much to the delight of the crowd, our Mayor displayed his range of versatility by crooning to the crowd and serenaded Queen Jessica Lau with his rendition of **Frankie Avalon's** hit song, "Bobby Sox to Stockings." Not to be outdone, the smooth-stepping Chamber Officers **Ed Pei**, **Ted Li**, **Dennis Hwang**, **Gerald Chang**, and yours truly, capped off an enchanting evening by performing the first waltz with the new queen and court. I told Ed that we must have made a lasting impression because my friends continue to remind me that our version of the waltz was very "unique."

On February 9, Narcissus Queen Jessica Lau, 1st Princess **Sibyl Wong**,

2nd Princess **Adrienne Au**, 3rd Princess **Jennifer Lam**, and 4th Princess **Julia Chen** made their first public appearance as the newly crowned queen and court at the first of four February weekend events, which is now called the Chinatown New Year Celebration.

This year, the City and County of Honolulu, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the Chinatown Merchants Association (CMA), the United Chinese Coalition (UCC), and the United Chinese Society (UCS) joined forces to present a month-long celebration in Chinatown. Starting with the night of our Coronation Ball, the UCC warmed up the community by presenting their Cultural Plaza event on two consecutive weekends—February 2 and 3 and February 9 and 10. Despite competition from the Punahou Carnival and the Pro Bowl on successive weekends, the UCC reported that their event was well attended and received by the public.

On Friday evening, February 16, thanks to the City, the Chamber was able to close Chinatown to traffic and welcomed thousands to our annual Chinatown Open House. The grand opening of the evening began with twelve lions performing the traditional salute at the King and Smith intersection to Mayor Hannemann, Director General **Philip Wang**, the Chamber officers, and the 2007 Narcissus Queen and court. The following day, our queen and court participated in the CMA's Night in Chinatown parade from the State Capitol to Aala Park.

For the final event of the month-long Chinatown New Year Celebration, the CMA sponsored movie nights on Friday and Saturday, February 23 and 24. Unfortunately, the first night happened to coincide with the debut screening of "Finding Sandalwood Mountain" at Punahou School. Interestingly, the film pointed out that the principal reason for

the acceptance and ultimate success of the Chinese in Hawaii was the grace and hospitality of the Hawaiians. It should be noted that former president and long-time director emeritus **Warren Luke** was instrumental in the production of this historic film.

Also in keeping with the search-of-roots theme, the Bishop Museum announced the opening of an exhibit entitled, "Lost Maritime Cultures: China and the Pacific." Recent archaeological excavations by Dr. **Tianlong Jiao**, chairman of the Department of Anthropology, indicate that maritime cultures flourished along the southeast coast of China as early as 7,000 years ago. This "must-see" exhibit includes a selection of astonishing works of art unearthed at the Hemudu site in modern Zhejiang Province. Bishop Museum stated that "Although 'Lost Maritime Cultures' is the story of the Austronesian link between prehistoric China and the Pacific, it is also the story of a quiet revolution in Chinese archaeology. Bishop Museum and Dr. Tianlong Jiao are central figures in that revolution." I have often speculated that prehistoric Chinese were probably involved in the human migration throughout the Pacific. This exhibit now provides some evidence of such a link.

Finally, "innovation" appears to be the new buzzword from Governor **Linda Lingle**. In her 2007 State of the State address, she noted that "[I]nnovation, entrepreneurship and risk-taking need to be encouraged, nurtured and rewarded. Innovation and risk-taking are part of our cultural DNA in Hawaii." I am happy to say that our Executive Committee is already committed to innovation, as evidenced by various changes made during the past months. The February Narcissus Classic is a prime example of our spirit of innovation. This new event is not proven, but we envision tremendous upside potential.

## Chinatown Open House

The first Narcissus Festival appearance for the 2007 court was the Chinatown Open House on a sometimes wet Friday evening of February 16. Narcissus Queen **Jessica Lau** and her four princesses – **Sibyl Wong**, **Adrienne Au**, **Jennifer Lam**, and **Julia Chen** – escorted by Chamber officers, visited thirty businesses and restaurants in Chinatown and the Chinatown Cultural Plaza to wish the owners good luck in the Year of the Boar. The evening was kicked off at 6:00 p.m. with a lion blessing at the King and Smith Street intersection. A dozen lions danced amid exploding firecrackers, saluting Mayor **Mufi Hannemann**, TECO Director General **Philip Wang**, the Chamber officers, and the new Narcissus Queen and her court. The ten-member Chamber party had started about an hour before at the Cultural Plaza and spent most of the evening wending their way through Chinatown, back to the Cultural Plaza, and ending at the Hawaii Heritage Center. For the five lovely young women, it was a long evening, but hopefully a rewarding learning experience, showing them views of Chinatown that they may never have seen before.



## “Finding Sandalwood Mountain”

Earlier this month, the initial screenings of the 95-minute long documentary on the two century history of the Chinese in Hawaii (as well as their role in the overthrow of the Manchu Qing dynasty in 1911) were held in Honolulu – at First Chinese Church on February 10 and 24 and two showings at Punahou on February 23. **Sun Yat-sen’s** two periods of Hawaii residence and attendance at Iolani School as well as Punahou (then Oahu College) were mentioned. However, the producers were apparently unaware that at the time of the successful “Double Ten” revolution, Dr. Sun was on a transcontinental train in the U.S., and also may not have pointed out that Dr. Sun had made a number of previous attempts to overthrow the Manchus before finally succeeding. Longtime emeritus director and former Chamber president **Warren Luke** was instrumental in bringing the movie to fruition. (According to the a2media Web site, a “sixty minute” documentary is slated to be shown on PBS later).



Pictured at the February 16 St. Louis High School dinner honoring Dr. Lawrence Tseu are (standing) Winfred Pong, Gayle Pei, Libby Lew, Dr. Tseu, Michele Choy, Bernard Choy, and Michael Louie, and (sitting) Elaine Ogata, Frances Goo, Sylvia Louie, and Donna Wong.

## Judges Wanted

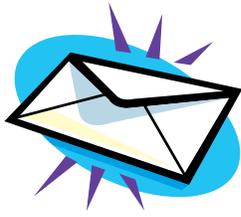
The United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) will be holding its 2007 Nationals competition in Honolulu. This year’s theme is “China and Its Influence on the World.” Nine-member teams from around the country will be participating. Interestingly, the high school teams must be made up of three “A” (honor), three “B” (scholastic), and three “C or below” (varsity) students. Each student competes in ten events: art, economics, essay, interview, language and literature, math, music, science, social science, and speech. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded for individual events and total scores. USAD is looking for judges, presumably knowledgeable about China, for the Nationals competition, which will be held in Honolulu April 25-28. For those who are interested in helping out with the competition, according to the USAD Web site ([www.usad.org](http://www.usad.org)), there is a 4.2 MB Nationals packet that can be downloaded, and the Chamber has some brochures available.

# CORONATION BALL

On Saturday, February 3, some 660 Chamber members, family, and friends gathered at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom for the gala 58th annual Coronation Ball. Themed “A Tribute to the Future,” the opening ceremony featured 2005 Hawaii World Invitational Lion Dance champions **Thomas Cheong** and **Ken Kang** of Gee Yung International Martial Arts Lion & Dragon Dance Association performing awesome *tiu jongs* or pole jumping. President **Alvin Wong** made brief welcome remarks before the introduction of distinguished guests and a farewell performance by the 2006 Narcissus court, a graceful *hula* by the court, accompanied on the piano by 2006 Narcissus Queen **Kristi Sue-Ako**. Dinner included Chinese chicken salad, shrimp curry with fried *haupia*, stir fried scallop with sugar peas and pine nuts, beef with asparagus in black bean sauce, salt and pepper pork tenderloin, and *lup cheong* and chicken with vegetables and *chow mien* noodles.

Following brief remarks by Narcissus Festival Chairman **Edward Pei**, 2007 Narcissus Queen **Jessica Lau** was crowned by Mayor **Mufi Hannemann**, who later serenaded her with **Frankie Avalon**’s hit “Bobby Sox to Stockings.” Following a presentation of awards and entertainment by Gee Yung students as well as **Ernest Chang**’s students **Stephanie Lum** and **Elvina Zhang**, Coronation Ball chair **Yu Shing Ting** acknowledged the efforts of a number of people. And then came the moment many had been waiting for (or dreading), the first waltz by the Chamber officers with the 2007 Narcissus court. From all reports, the effort was a success. After that, people could dance to the music of LA Image, but some of the hard-core ballroom dancers in attendance were not too happy with the musical selections. Nevertheless, it was a grand evening of food, fellowship, and pageantry that the five lovely young ladies in the 2007 Narcissus court will long remember. Thanks to emcees **Stephanie Lum** and **Walter Makaula**, both of KHNL News 8/KFVE, who kept things moving throughout the evening.





Chamber President **Alvin Wong**, holding a set of blueprints, was pictured along with his two California Dreaming partners in the February 1 issue of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. The trio's 42-unit affordable rental California Avenue Apartments project in Wahiawa will be for tenants 62 years of age or older, with annual incomes between \$24,950 and \$28,500, and who will be charged monthly rents of \$605, including utilities and parking, for a one bedroom apartment.

Former Chamber president and long-time McDonald's franchisee **Victor Lim** is probably smiling broadly nowadays. McDonald's was featured in the February 5 *BusinessWeek* cover article, which looked at its new 24/7 strategy, recognizing that people eat at different times of the day and night, not just at "normal" business, lunch, and dinner hours. Since its first-ever quarterly loss in 2002, McDonald's has enjoyed U.S. sales increases for 45 months in a row. In addition, in a test of plain black coffee to-go in the March 2007 issue of *Consumer Reports*, the least expensive coffee – McDonald's Premium – was judged best

when compared to coffee from Burger King, Dunkin' Donuts, and Starbucks. (*Consumer Reports* tasters found the Seattle-based Starbucks coffee to be "strong, burnt and bitter," and a local coffee connoisseur once told the *Lantern* editor that Seattle's Best coffee was better).

*Honolulu Weekly* restaurant writer **Napua Leong** dedicated her February 14 column to the "Year of the pig" and to selecting "the island's best traditional and innovative pork dishes." Among the selections were the bacon tofu roll, "a pleasant jumble of flavors and textures," from **Li May Tang's** Shanghai Bistro, and from the many "manapua" available from **Kwock Nam Lau's** Royal Kitchen, the best one was the *kalua* pig manapua, "filled with smoky shreds of *kalua* pork cooked with chopped onions."

On Sunday, February 11, Restaurant Epic opened at 1311 Nuuanu (the corner of Nuuanu and Pauahi). The grand opening featured the traditional lion dance and firecrackers, and those attending had a chance to sample the food. Among the partners is **Jennifer** and **Kenneth Chan's** CCRI (Chan's Chinese Restaurant Inc.), owners of Chan's Chinese Buffet on Nimitz and award-winning Little Village Noodle House on Smith Street. Photos from the grand opening appeared in the February 16 *Midweek Friday*, and among those pic-

tured were Jennifer Chan and also **Anthony Chang**, who among his many pursuits leads the weekly Chamber Chinatown tour. The restaurant, which features new American cuisine, opened to the public on February 19.

Brothers **Kelfred** and **Gifford Chang** were spotlighted in the February 22 *Honolulu Advertiser* story, "Will movies fix Aala's ills?" Their City "Bright Idea Award" winning project involved Asian movies, along with food and other booths, at Aala Park on Friday and Saturday, February 23 and 24. Double-feature movies were shown on both evenings, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Changs hope to periodically have "Asian Movies in the Park."

## NEW MEMBERS

At its meeting on February 26, the Board approved the applications for **Michael Hsu**, a real estate broker with Grubb and Ellis Las Vegas (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); **Bryan Luke**, Vice President for Hawaii National Bank (sponsored by **Warren Luke**); **James Murray**, Vice President for sales and marketing at the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (sponsored by ); and **John Zhang**, Area Coach for Panda Express (sponsored by **Alvin Wong**).

## MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

As members may know, the membership committee, headed by Second Vice President **Dennis Hwang**, has been hard at work developing a package of benefits to enhance the value of membership in the Chinese Chamber. A number of local businesses and restaurants are giving discounts to Chamber members upon showing their 2007 membership cards. The list of discounts is updated at least monthly, and members should periodically check the Chamber Web site.



## *With Deepest Sympathy*

*By Alvin C. P. Wong, President*

Please join me in expressing our deepest sympathy and grief with Executive Vice President **Wen Chung Lin** in the passing of his mother, **Ying Shyen Lin**, on February 22, in Shanghai, China. Although she was not a Chamber member, she had often supported and participated in many Chamber activities and events. Our prayers are with Wen Chung during this time of loss and remembrance.



## BEACH PARTY POSTPONED

In the last issue of the *Lantern*, a membership barbecue at Ala Moana Park was announced for Saturday, March 17. Unfortunately, the Dragon Boat races, which were to be held on March 17 and 18, have been postponed until some time in August. Details on the new date and time for the races and the barbecue will be published in the *Lantern* as they become available. In the meantime, if you're interested in paddling one of the two Chamber boats, please contact either **Kristi Sue-Ako** (cell. phone 265-2904) or **Daniel Chun** (cell. phone 277-7517). And presumably the membership committee will be scheduling an alternative general membership meeting in the next few months.



The LANTERN a monthly publication  
of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
76 North King Street • Suite 202 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
(808) 533-3181

*Editor:* Gerald Chang  
*Graphic Designer:* Angela Wu-Ki  
*Staff:* Wen Chung Lin, Grace Chan

# HAWAII CHINESE Yellow Pages

**Joanna Zheng** is offering a free full-page ad in the Hawaii Chinese Yellow Pages to associations and societies, and a 10% discount on the regular advertising rate to Chamber members who choose to advertise. For more information, contact Joanna at 728-2686.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Mar 02 Fri | <b>General Election</b><br>Chamber's Office<br>9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.   |
| Mar 10 Sat | <b>58th Narcissus Classic</b><br>Hawaii Theatre Center - 7:30 p.m.   |
| Mar 13 Tue | <b>Executive Board Meeting</b><br>Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon  |
| Mar 16 Fri | <b>Special Board of Directors Meeting (Election of New Officers 2007-2008)</b><br>New Empress Restaurant<br>12:00 noon |
| Mar 16 Fri | <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b><br>New Empress Restaurant<br>12:00 noon  |



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII  
76 North King Street • Suite 202 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817