

LANTERN

May 2007

CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT R E M I N D E R

Golfers have been eagerly awaiting this year's tournament which will be held on Wednesday, May 23, at the recently renovated Navy-Marine Golf Course in Moanalua. The entry fee is \$175.00 for each two-person team, and includes a light lunch, golf cart and green fees, on-course snacks, and the awards dinner at **Sam Snead's** Restaurant. Check-in starts at 11:00 a.m., tee time is at 11:45 a.m., and the format is a modified scramble. This year, an invitation was extended to the various Affiliated Chambers and Business Organizations. Participation is limited to 64 players and entries were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For those of you who missed the April 30 sign-up deadline or didn't call soon enough, you can still attend the awards dinner, which costs \$25.00.

PEARL HARBOR BOAT TOUR

Courtesy of Navy Region Hawaii and the U.S. Navy, Chamber members once again have an opportunity to take a FREE Pearl Harbor boat tour on Wednesday, May 23. The tour departs from the pier adjacent to the USS *Arizona* Museum at 4:00 p.m. and circumnavigates Ford Island, returning to the pier by 5:30 p.m. On the tour, you will sail under the Ford Island bridge, past Waipio and Pearl City to East, Middle, and West Lochs where there are a number of mothballed ships as well as the remains of the USS *Utah*, one of the ships sunk during the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. The boat will sail to the harbor entrance, then turn past the naval shipyard, the Naval Supply Center, and submarine base. Visitors will see active duty ships, the new housing built in the last few years on Ford Island, and the World War II "book-ends," the USS *Arizona* Memorial (where World War II started for the U.S.) and the battleship USS *Missouri* (where representatives of the imperial Japanese government signed the instruments of surrender in Tokyo Bay in September, 1945, ending WWII). Your knowledgeable host will be **Stanford Yuen**, executive assistant to the Admiral, Navy Region Hawaii.

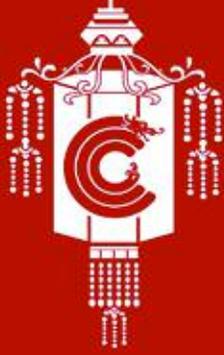
Due to security concerns, there are special instructions for those who take part in the boat tour: No carry-on purses or bags; all carry-on items are subject to inspection; and no loose objects. Cameras are permitted. Names are required in advance and a photo ID must be presented before boarding the boat. In addition, if your name is not on the list, you will not be permitted to board. You are advised to use the on-shore restroom before boarding. Free parking is available in the museum lot. Also, be aware that seating is limited for this invitation-only tour, which is not available to the general public. So call the Chamber right away at 533-3181 (not later than May 9) if you want to take the boat tour.

CHAMBER INSTALLATION

This year, in a break with long-standing tradition, the 2007-2008 slate of Chamber officers will be installed at a lunchtime event on Thursday, May 31, at the Ala Moana Hotel. Chamber members will have an opportunity to showcase their business at display tables inside and outside the Hibiscus Ballroom. Fees are \$25.00 for a display-only table and \$50.00 for a merchandise item sales table. Nineteen tables will be located in the ballroom and 17 in the foyer, a total of 36 tables. The meeting begins with the member exhibition and networking at 11:00 a.m. The Chinese lunch and program will start at 12:00 noon. In addition to the installation of new officers for 2007-2008, there will be awards for businessperson of the year as well as Narcissus and Chamber volunteers of the year. In addition, there will be an exciting keynote speaker. So don't miss this opportunity to promote your business and to network with Chinese Chamber members and friends.

Asian Lunar New Year Law

Thanks to **Johnson Choi** who is reminding many in the Chinese community that on May 1, Governor **Linda Lingle** signed H.B. 1103, S.D. 1, into law. Act 48, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 (which may be cited as "Act 48, SLH 2007"), relates to "Asian Lunar New Year Commemoration" and establishes an annual Asian lunar new year commemoration week, which is the week immediately following Chinese New Year day. It is not, however, a state holiday and the bill became law upon signature by the governor.



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THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Alvin C. P. Wong

It has been said that life is just a series of random events. Yet, I have to believe that my involvement with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii must have been more than just fate. In retrospect, my first involvement with the Chamber began with an innocent and insignificant task. In 1990, **Warren Luke** had asked me to engrave the new queen's name on the Narcissus Queen glass trophy. He told me that the trophy was located at the Chamber's office and that the name of the new queen was spelled "M-a-y-e-t-t-e (space) L-o-w-e." Little did I know that it would start a chain of events that would change my life forever and eventually would lead to having my name engraved on the list of Chamber presidents.

How can I describe my 12-month experience as the president of the Chinese Chamber? I can sum it up by saying, "it was quite a ride!" There are so many fond memories that I will always treasure. Although there were countless meetings, society dinners, formal occasions, legislative hearings and testimonies, endless speeches, and foreign dignitary receptions, I enjoyed every single moment. I have had the honor to meet senators, governors, mayors, generals, admirals, and other high-ranking dignitaries. As president, I have also learned more about our rich Chinese heritage and gained a deeper appreciation of the hardships that our ancestors endured in search of a better future in a foreign land that they called the "Sandalwood Mountain." But, as this year-to-remember now closes, it is time for me to thank the members and Board of Directors of the Chamber for the opportunity to serve this great organization. Without any hesitation, you

have given me your full commitment and support throughout the past year. It has been my honor and privilege to represent the Chamber.

At the start of my term, the Executive Committee had determined that the Chamber's future should not be left to chance. As such, it established 12 goals for the year (September 2006 issue of *The Lantern*). These goals focused on positioning the Chamber for future growth and stability. Our strategy can best be summed up as follows:

• FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Improve profitability of the Chamber by creating new products (i.e., the Narcissus Classic), reducing operating expenses of all existing Narcissus Festival products, and seeking other sources of non-traditional revenue (i.e., grants)...

• ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGY

Stream-line operations by reducing office clutter, promoting office automation, and moving forward in finding a permanent headquarters. Reconsider and restructure the role of the Chamber in relationship to Chinese societies, including the United Chinese Society. Clarify our U.S.-China protocol...

• MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY

Increase membership retention by enhancing member benefits and communication via the Chamber Web site, reviewing member categories and dues structure, and assessing membership needs...

I am happy to say that we have succeeded in reaching all of our goals and that the Chamber is consequently on a better financial footing. I also believe that the Chamber is now in a stronger position for continued success in the future.

Credit for this year's success should be given to our Executive Committee. I have been very fortunate to be surrounded by some very talented individuals who are passionate in producing only the very best. Our monthly meetings were often long, but only because we were concerned with promoting a positive image for the Chamber. In principle, we agreed to operate on a philosophy of "crisis management" (June 2006 issue of *The Lantern*). As such, we were willing to take some

risks in consideration for higher rewards. While there were many changes this year, we made best efforts to maintain the integrity of the program, ever mindful of our mission statement. I am hoping that the Executive Committee and Chamber will continue to move in that direction.

In June 2006, escorting the 57th Narcissus Goodwill Tour to China marked the start of my first official duty as president. It was the beginning of an unforgettable trip that enabled my family and friends to rediscover our Chinese roots. While I had the honor of representing the Chamber as its president at many official functions, I am also proud to say that our queen and court truly lived up to their title of "Ambassadors of Aloha," despite the rigors of the trip. The trip to China was just the start of a wonderful year that I have had with five very special young ladies.

In closing, I have one last favor to ask of the members and Board of Directors. If you can provide the same support that I received during my tenure to President-elect **Edward Pei** and our new Executive Committee, then I am certain that we will enjoy another successful year in our long history. As I leave this office, I have pledged to our new Executive Committee my full support in making this a smooth and seamless transition. Finally, when I pass the gavel to Ed at our 96th annual meeting and installation luncheon, I will tell him that the gavel comes with two simple instructions: "Serve our membership and obey our By-Laws." Aloha and best wishes.



Narcissus Festival sponsor Dr. Lawrence Tseu, international movie star Nancy Kwan and Alvin and Donna Wong (l to r) attended in the soldout Chinese Women's Club of Honolulu, "Cherished Heritage" Scholarship-Welfare Luncheon-Fashion Show Benefit, April 14, 2007, Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Monarch Room. Ms. Kwan is visiting Honolulu for two weeks to help local charities and to promote her latest movie, "Ray of Sunshine"



Alvin Wong together with Narcissus Queen Jessica Lau and 1st Princess Sybil Wong and members of Wong Kong Har Tong at the 2007 Palolo Chinese Home Annual Golf Tournament, April 26, 2007, Pearl Country Club.

Mother's Day

Just a reminder that Mother's Day this year is Sunday, May 13. A number of Chamber members own and operate food establishments of one kind or another, ranging from sit-down to fast food. Quite a few have ads in the *Honolulu Advertiser* (TGIF and Sunday "Dining Out" supplement) and *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* (HI*Life supplement): Chan's Gourmet Buffet (tel. no. 833-9366), Little Village Noodle House (545-3008), and Restaurant Epic (587-7877) [**Jennifer Chan**]; Mandalay Restaurant (525-8585) [**Linda and Larry Chan**]; Helemano Plantation (622-3929) [**Susanna Cheung**]; Seafood Village (921-1818) [**Alan Ho**]; and Hong Kong Harbor Village (566-9989) and Shanghai Bistro (955-8668) [**Li May Tang**]. Call the respective phone number to find out what special dishes are being prepared for Mother's Day. In addition, there are a number of Chamber members with multiple locations or who don't advertise very often: L & L Drive-Inn (at least 40 Oahu locations) [**Eddie Flores, Jr. and Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam**]; Royal Kitchen (538-1668) [**Kwock Nam Lau**]; Ba-Le Sandwich (17 locations) [**Thanh Quoc Lam**]; McDonald's (50 locations) [**Victor Lim** - 7 locations]; Pah-Ke's Chinese Restaurant (235-4505) [**Raymond Siu**]; and Panda Express (9 locations) [**John Zhang**, area coach]. And don't forget that right after Mother's Day come June and public and private high school graduations as well as Father's Day on Sunday, June 17.

OCA Golf Tournament

The Hawaii chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) will hold its 12th annual invitational golf tournament on Wednesday, June 6, at the Ala Wai municipal golf course. Newly installed OCA-HI president **Victor Lim** cordially invites Chamber golfers to participate.

Check in begins at 10:15 a.m. and lunch will be served before the 12:15 p.m. shotgun start. The format is a three-person modified scramble with five drives minimum. There will be men's and women's divisions with mixed-threesome teams competing in the men's division. Lowest computerized handicap as of April, 2007, with 15% of the team's total handicap and maximum handicap of 24 for men and 36 for ladies. There will be hole-in-one and greenie contests on all five par-3 holes. Also, various prizes will be awarded to golfers who excel in their skills. Prizes will be awarded in both the men's and women's divisions.

Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of 210 golfers/70 three-person teams. The entry fee is \$495.00 per team or \$165.00 per golfer. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to send a group of distinguished high school students to Washington D.C. to attend the prestigious Presidential Classroom Program to learn about democracy and our government. (\$100.00 of each golfer's entry fee is tax-deductible for scholarship purposes. OCA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has a tax I.D. number 99-0285851). Entry deadline is May 15 or whenever the first 210 golfers have signed up, whichever comes first. Checks should be made payable to "OCA-HI" and mailed to OCA-HI, 1181 Wanaka Street, Honolulu 96818.

Following completion of play, an awards banquet will be held at the nearby Hee Hing Restaurant. Golfers are requested to bring their score cards to the restaurant immediately after completion of play.



Alvin "Top Gun" Wong, prepares for takeoff on USS Nimitz.



USCPFA President Frances Goo officially joins the Navy's "tailhook" club.



Pre-flight jitters.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Victor Lim was installed as president of the Organization of Chinese Americans on April 14. In addition, at the dinner at the Sheraton Waikiki, **Wesley Fong** was honored with OCA's "Unsung Hero" award for his community service, along with Chief Justice **Ronald Moon** and Congresswoman **Mazie Hirono**. Victor and Wes, both former Chamber presidents, keep active in our community and set an example for other Chamber members.

Stanford Yuen was recently elected to the board of directors of the Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education.

NEW MEMBERS

At its meeting on April 24, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Jessica Cai**, a sales agent with New York Life (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); **Derek Cheng**, a loan officer with American Savings Bank (sponsored by **Thong Songvilay**); **Kip Okinaka**, a sales representative with Liberty Mutual (sponsored by **Leonard Kam**); **Marco Schlessner**, manager of Heartland Payment Systems (sponsored by **Xinhong Yu**); and **David Soong**, a director of Pacific Guardian Life Insurance (sponsored by **Kelfred Chang**). Welcome and we look forward to meeting you at the next general membership meeting.

SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL CHINESE

The Confucius Institute at the University of Hawaii Manoa will be holding a Chinese language immersion sports camp for high school students this summer, Mondays through Fridays, July 8-28. Sixty motivated high school students, who will be in grades 9, 10, and 11 this fall, with no previous experience in Chinese (any dialect) will be selected to participate in the program at UHM. The students will acquire basic listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture skills in Mandarin, and at the end of the program, will be expected to test at the “novice high/intermediate low proficiency” level or higher in speaking or reading.

Students will learn Mandarin while practicing table tennis and martial arts (an hour a day of each) with one-hour language preparation and follow-up sessions and

also breakfast, lunch, and dinner “language table” as well as homework. In addition, on the weekends, there will be excursions, including options for organized hiking, swimming, around-the-island touring, visits to Chinatown, museums, and tourist attractions, private homes, etc.

Pre-camp mentoring for all participants will begin in June, with assigned readings/viewings and online discussion. All camp participants are to arrive at the UHM campus on Sunday, July 8, and to depart on Saturday, July 28. During the three week-long camp, students will be housed at the Hale Aloha Ilima dorm, and meals will be served at campus cafeterias. Students can attend either as residents or as day students. The residential program (presumably for non-Hawaii residents) costs \$2,100.00 per student, exclusive of round-trip airfare to Hawaii, while the day program costs \$1,100.00 per student. (Apparently, the day students receive only lunches, go home at night, and would not be included in the weekend excursions and activities). According to the brochure, “major funding for the program comes from STARTALK, a program of the National Security Initiative funded jointly by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Department of Defense, managed by the

National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland. STARTALK seeks to promote the teaching of Arabic and Chinese at the high school level.”

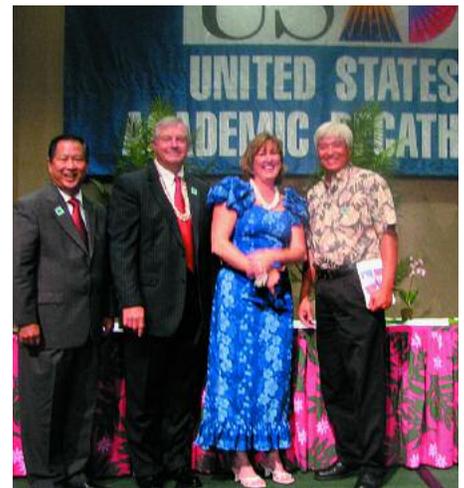
Applications and information similar to the brochure can be downloaded at <http://chinesestudies.hawaii.edu/confucius/projects/summer/2007students.html> and should be sent to Chinese Language Immersion Sports Camp, C/o Confucius Institute at UH Manoa, Center for Chinese Studies, 1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall 416, Honolulu, HI 96822. For more information, call 956-2692 or 956-8891.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 13	Sun	Mother's Day
May 22	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon
May 28	Mon	Memorial Day
May 29	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The Arts At Mark's Garge 12:00 noon
May 31	Thur	Annual Meeting & Installation Luncheon Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom - 11:00 a.m.

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76 North King Street • Suite 202 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
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Editor: Gerald Chang
Graphic Designer: Angela Wu-Ki
Staff: Wen Chung Lin, Grace Chan



Participants in the 2007 United States Academic Decathlon, Awards Ceremony, April 28, 2007, Tapa Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort included Director Wes Fong, USAD President Robert Brezina, USAD Hawaii State Director Anne Miller, and Chinese Chamber President Alvin Wong (l to r). Approximately 400 high school students from 39 states competed in the 3-day competition for scholarships and other academic awards. This year's theme was "China and Its Influence on the World."



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