

LANTERN

January, 2008

CORONATION BALL *by Michele Choy*

With of theme of “East Meets West in the Summer Palace,” this year’s lavish Coronation Ball will be held on Saturday, January 26, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village’s Coral Ballroom. No-host cocktails begin at 5:00 p.m. and dinner and the program will start at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will include Chinese chicken salad, curry shrimp with fried *haupia*, Golden Dragon oyster duck, stir fried scallops with sugar peas and pine nuts, beef and asparagus in black bean sauce, and *chow mein* noodles with chicken, *lop cheong*, and vegetables.



Following the sumptuous dinner, things will get down to the business of the evening: the crowning of the 59th Narcissus Queen. There will be the pomp of a grand Coronation Procession, followed by the traditional crowning of the queen by the governor, the Honorable **Linda Lingle**. To celebrate the coronation, there will be five-diamond entertainment, bridging East and West! Mistress of ceremonies **Ori Ann Lee**, Mrs. Hawaii International 2007, will keep things moving in English as well as Cantonese and Mandarin. From Beijing’s Military Performing Arts Company and now a Hawaii resident, **Sing Sing Bliss** will conjure up ribbon and fan dance. Flying in from New York, a “Guangdong nightingale,” Ms. **Qiu Ying**, will enchant you in regal fashion with Chinese melodies, accompanied by our own **Winnie Chan**. From the West, master of ceremonies **Al Waterson** will serenade the Queen and court. And from Hawaii, five former Narcissus Queens – **Lisa Lee Simon**, **Kit Lo**, **Kuuleialoha Chun**, **Kathleen Wong**, and **Kerri Ching Mokulehua** – will offer a rendition of **R. Alex Anderson’s** “Narcissus Queen” in homage. The evening’s entertainment will conclude with a special ballroom dance routine by **Richard** and **Lynn Nakamura**, created just for this evening. And the Nakamuras have specially selected appropriate ballroom dancing music for the rest of the evening!

So for this gala “Chinese formal” evening, ladies should get out their best Chinese formalwear and men should wear at least a suit and tie (or better yet, their tuxedos, if they have one). The cost for this special evening is \$65.00 per person or \$600.00 for a table of ten while a table for ten with a bottle of red wine and one of white is \$700.00. So don’t wait, call the Chamber right away at 533-3181 to make your reservations. It will be a memorable and enchanting evening!

Narcissus Pageant

by Michele Choy

Saturday, January 5, 2008, is almost upon us. This is the date that thirteen lovely young women have worked so hard to prepare for. The 59th annual Narcissus Pageant will once again be held at the Hawaii Theatre. The night’s excitement will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Tickets at \$33.00 and \$28.00 are still available from the Hawaii Theatre’s box office. They can be purchased in person at the box office Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or charged by phone by calling 528-0506. After the Pageant, there will be a reception at Hee Hing Restaurant on Kapahulu Avenue from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There will be heavy *pupu* and no-host refreshments as well as a chance to meet and greet the members of the new Narcissus Court and the other contestants. The cost is only \$9.50 per person. If you plan to attend, call the Chamber at 533-3181.



Chinese New Year Celebration

The annual Chinatown observance will take place on the first weekend in February (the same weekend as the Punahou Carnival). *Choy Cheung* on Friday, February 1, will have the new Narcissus Queen and her court, escorted by Chamber officers, visiting a variety of Chinatown stores and restaurants to exchange New Year greetings and best wishes. The evening will start with a gathering of lions from five lions clubs in front of Hawaii National Bank at King and Smith Streets at around 6:30 p.m. Then on Saturday, February 2, the five members of the Narcissus Court will make an appearance at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza’s Moongate Stage in the evening. And of course Thursday, February 7, is Chinese New Year’s Day, the start of the Chinese year 4706, a Year of the Rat.

夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Edward Y. W. Pei

Happy New Year! May 2008 bring all of you much happiness, good health, and prosperity. And let's also hope that the new year will bring our troops home, more tourists for our state, and packed houses for our Narcissus Festival events.

Chinese New Year in 2008 falls on Thursday, February 7. Between now and then, we have three major Narcissus Festival events. The Queen Pageant on Saturday, January 5 is almost sold out, so if you want to attend, get your tickets now. The Coronation Ball on Saturday, January 26 is one of the gala social events of the year in Honolulu, and this year's event, under the visionary leadership of **Michele Choy**, promises to be a spectacle. And we will celebrate Chinese New Year in Chinatown during the weekend of Friday and Saturday, February 1-2. We hope to see you at all of these events.

Many of you may have seen the recent announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding between the government of the People's Republic of China and the United States. This agreement, conferring "approved destination status" or ADS on the U.S., will facilitate tourist group travel

from China to the U.S. China is the fastest growing travel market in the world, estimated to reach 100 million international travelers by the year 2020. This agreement will allow Chinese travel agencies to organize and to market leisure group travel to the U.S. Hopefully, Hawaii will benefit tremendously from this new opportunity.

Unfortunately, this agreement does not change any of the visa policies of our country. Currently, one in four visa applications from a resident of China is denied. There is a trend toward a lower denial rate, but the changes are slow to happen. This agreement will likely become effective in three to four months, but it will take some changes in our country's visa policies to truly open doors to the eager visitors from China.

One day, hopefully sooner rather than later, Hawaii can become a popular destination for these visitors. But is Hawaii ready? Can we make the visitor experience as welcoming for the Chinese visitor as we have for those from Japan? Do we have the language skills? Do we understand the Chinese visitors' wants and expectations? Is our tourist infrastructure properly equipped to serve this new market?

At a recent Board meeting, we decided that the Chamber can play an important role in preparing Hawaii for the onslaught of Chinese visitors. Partnering with other local resources, we hope to develop a training program for our Chinese visitor industry to help them understand how to create a pleasant and enjoyable experience for these visitors. **Winfred Pong** has agreed to chair a task force to build this training program and to roll it out in time for the giant swell of visitors from China. If you are interested in assisting Winfred, please contact him.

But are we sure the Chinese want to come to the U.S.? A friend of mine in San Francisco belongs to an organization called "The Committee of 100." It is a national, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization comprised of Chinese-American leaders in a broad range of professions. Earlier this year, this organization conducted a survey, a large-scale parallel polling of both Americans and Chinese about their opinions toward each other. The recently released survey results revealed that "American and Chinese mutual perceptions can best be described as a paradox of hope and fear. On one hand, a majority of citizens in the U.S. and China generally hold positive views of each other; both countries broadly recognize the importance of U.S.-China relations and sense their increasing economic interdependence. On the other hand, a strong majority of Americans view China's growing economic and military power as a serious and potential threat, and nearly half of the Chinese feel that the U.S. is trying to prevent their country from becoming a great world power." If you would like more details about this survey or this organization, please visit www.committee100.org.

Our hope is that there are many more Chinese who would like to visit the U.S., just as there are Americans eager to visit China. And let us hope that their first port of entry will be Honolulu. Finally, when they are ready to come, we hope to be ready to provide them an enriching visitor experience. Maybe they, like you, would like to come to our Narcissus Coronation Ball in 2008 and in future years.

See you soon!

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

2008 ILF CIVIC FELLOWSHIPS

The International Leadership Foundation will award up to thirty internships to help Asian-Pacific American (APA) college students who will be future arts, business, community, legal, medical or professional leaders better understand the workings of American government. Each ILF Fellow will spend eight weeks during the summer working for a federal government agency in Washington, D.C. In addition to their internships, Fellows attend weekly seminars and other events. Each Fellow receives a \$1,500.00 scholarship, funded by the ILF and its sponsors. The ILF works with government agencies to place each Fellow in his or her area of interest. Fellows must pay for their own travel, housing, and living expenses during their internships. Any undergraduate student with at least a 3.0 grade point average at a university, college or junior college is eligible to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Interested students can get the application form and more information online at www.ileader.org or by calling (202) 531-5031. Applications must be received by February 1, 2008. Students interested in working at the State Department must submit their applications by January 4, 2008.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The last general membership meeting of the calendar year was held at the Hong Kong Harbor View Restaurant on Wednesday, December 12. The lunchtime meeting featured a presentation on “Marketing Hawaii to China” with **Bo Wu** and **Alex Lei**, executive directors of the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) offices in Beijing and Taipei. Their presentations were particularly fortuitously timed since a memorandum of understanding (MOU) had been signed the day before, conferring approved destination status (ADS) on the United States. Arguably, this will make it easier for Chinese tourists to visit the U.S. (It should be kept in mind, however, that Hawaii has no direct air links to China, unlike many cities in the continental U.S., and there are non-stop flights between China and cities like Chicago in the Midwest and even the East Coast). The meeting was well attended, with eighty Chamber members and guests in the audience, partaking of the handiwork of Chef **Chih-Chieh Chang**. On the menu were a platter with *siu mai*, chive dumplings, and *char siu bao*; Chinese chicken salad; seafood *tofu* soup with spinach; dry garlic and coconut prawns; roast duck; minced pork with Chinese pancakes; ground *tofu* and shrimp balls on spinach; Taiwan-style rice noodles; and mini-*gin dui*. As for the substance of the meeting, the capacity crowd listened closely to the speakers and also took advantage of the opportunity to network before and after the lunch and program.

MOAA Tour

by Wesley Fong

In November, a small, select delegation of retired Hawaii veterans, who are also members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and their spouses were invited as guests of the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) on a VIP tour to visit China and to promote a closer friendship between the United States and China. The delegation was the first military group hosted by the CAIFC to visit China. The invitation was extended through the Chinese Chamber, which helped to organize the tour in coordination with the CAIFC.

The CAIFC is a people-to-people organization devoted to friendly external exchanges. Its purpose is to promote international non-governmental exchanges and cooperation for world peace and development. It has developed friendly relations with over sixty countries and regions in the world. Its Council is composed of retired and incumbent senior government officials, diplomats, entrepreneurs, educators, artists, and scholars. It maintains a close relationship with governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China.

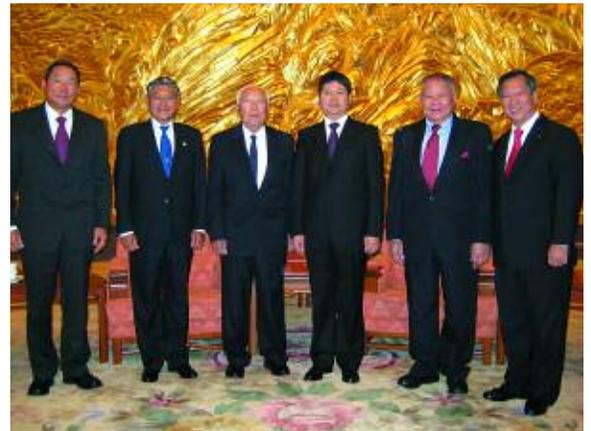
The “Hawaii Veterans’ Goodwill delegation” of retirees was led by Colonel (COL) **Wesley Fong**, a past president of the Chinese Chamber, and included Lieutenant General (LTG) **Allen Ono**, Major General (MG) **Calvin Lau**, Brigadier General (BG) **Haruo Shigezawa**, and COL **Richard Wong**. (COL Wong is a member of the Hawaii MOAA chapter while everyone else is a member of the Aloha chapter).

The delegation visited Beijing, Luoyang, and Shanghai between November 17-27. In Beijing, besides climbing the Great Wall and visiting the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and the Summer Palace, the delegation was the first military and the first foreigners to visit the Beijing Military Museum. They also paid a courtesy call on LTG **Liu Zhenqi** of the People’s Liberation Army at the PLA Tower, *Ba Yi* Building (comparable to the U.S. Pentagon). Another highlight was being hosted at a banquet at the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square by Mr. **Xin Yunming**, vice president of the CAIFC.

Next stop was Luoyang, the seat of Zen Buddhism, which was founded during the Wei dynasty in 600 A.D. The delegation visited the White Horse Temple, reputedly China’s oldest Buddhist monastery, and the famous Longmen Grotto where a giant sculpture of Buddha, along with over 2,400 other statues of Buddha are carved out of a mountain. Their visit to Luoyang ended with learning some *kung fu* moves at the famous Shaolin Temple where *kung fu* began.

Upon arriving in Shanghai, they marveled at the contrast of old Beijing and ancient Luoyang with modern Shanghai, with its tall, modern design skyscrapers filled with European designer shops. They visited the famous Shanghai Museum and Yu Gardens, and cruised the Huangpu River at night, with the lights of the old Bund on one side and the newly developed area of Pudong on the other. The final, farewell dinner was hosted by CAIFC with retired LTG Lui Renxian, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of Shanghai’s People’s Congress, at the Jinjiang Hotel’s Grand Hall, where President Richard Nixon and Chairman Mao Zedong signed the famous Shanghai Communique in 1972. A quick ride on the new Shanghai bullet train, traveling at 340 kilometers per hour, took the delegation to Shanghai Airport and their flight home.

“We were very honored to be the first military delegation hosted by the CAIFC to visit China. As warriors, we too believe that friendship is very important. It can help prevent wars and preserve peace. We thank the CAIFC for the invitation and congratulate them on their continued success in fostering a closer friendship and a better understanding between the United States and China,” said COL Fong.



NARCISSUS SOUVENIR BOOKS

The souvenir books for the 59th annual Narcissus Festival have arrived. Lovely Narcissus Queen **Jessica Lau** graces the cover. Members can stop by the Chamber office at Suite 202, 76 North King Street, and pick up a copy. Copies at \$10.00 each are available for sale to the general public at the Chamber office as well as at the Hawaii Theatre on the night of the Pageant on January 5.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1	Tue	2008 New Year Day
Jan 5	Sat	59th Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center – 6:30 p.m.
Jan 21	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 22	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
Jan 26	Sat	59th Narcissus Coronation Ball Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom – 5:00 p.m.
Jan 29	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The New Empress Restaurant – 12:00 noon
Feb 1	Fri	Chinatown Open House Chinese Chamber Office – 6.30 p.m.
Feb 2	Sat	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza – 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Feb 7	Thur	Chinese New Year Day

COCH Legislative-Business Forum

The Chamber of Commerce, together with the Affiliated Chambers and Business Organizations (ACBO), will hold its 6th annual Legislative-Business Forum at the Pacific Club on Tuesday, January 8, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The Chinese Chamber is part of the ACBO (our immediate past president, **Alvin Wong**, is vice chair), and all members are invited to attend and voice their concerns to the legislators (fifty confirmed, to date). It is also an opportunity to network with members of other ethnic and geographic chambers of commerce. There will be a program on the Chamber's 2008 legislative priorities as well as heavy *pupu* and no-host cocktails. The cost is \$25.00 for Chinese Chamber members, \$35.00 for guests. Deadline to RSVP is Monday, December 31; there are no refunds after that date; attendance is confirmed upon payment; and a \$5.00 fee is added for late registration. To RSVP, call **Kyle** at 545-4300. And on Tuesday, January 15, there will be a "Capitol Walk-Around," from 9:30-11:30 a.m. to meet and greet the seventy-six legislators on the day before the session opens. For more information or to RSVP, call **Sherry Menor-McNamara** at 545-4300, extension 394.



MEMBER NEWS

Quite a few Chamber members were at **Susanna Cheung's** December 7 Coral Ballroom fundraiser for her ORI/Helemano Plantation operation. **Ann Higa** was conspicuous in her role as mistress of ceremonies. **Linda Louie** was busily taking pictures while **Wen Chung Lin** and **Grace Chan** (and their respective spouses), **Stanford Yuen**, **Gerald Chang**, **Elvira Lo**, **Vernon Ching** and former Narcissus Queen **Ying-Ying Lee**, as well as other former Chamber presidents, **Tai Yau Chung**, **Wesley Fong**, **Frances Goo**, **Reuben Wong**, and **Ming Chen** (and their respective spouses), were enjoying the food, fellowship, and silent auction. (Gerald and Wes were particularly dapper in their tuxedos).

City Councilman **Nestor Garcia** was pictured in the December 19 issue of *Midweek's* "Honolulu Paina" at the blessing and grand opening of the new state-of-the-art Cancer Center at Queen's Medical Center. Elsewhere in that same issue, **Jeffrey Lau** and his wife **Susan** were guests at a holiday reception at University of Hawaii President **David McClain's** residence at College Hill in Manoa.

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