

LANTERN

October, 2008

NARCISSUS SOUVENIR BOOKS

Those of you who attended the October 4 and 5 Splendor of China know that the Narcissus souvenir books are now available for purchase. The books were printed much earlier this year in order to have them available for sale at the Splendor of China. In recognition of the sixtieth anniversary of the Narcissus Festival, the book has been enlarged to include additional editorial material and color pages, as well as a commemorative DVD, which includes pictures of the contestants over those 60 years, the covers of all the souvenir annuals, and statements from prior Chamber presidents. One free book per Chamber officer, director or member is available for pickup at the Chamber office, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional books, together with the commemorative DVD, are available for sale at \$15.00 each.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ CHRISTMAS PARTY

The last general membership meeting for the calendar year will be a Christmas party. It will be held in the Waikiki Ballroom of the Hale Koa Hotel, 2055 Kalia Road, on Wednesday, December 10. The festivities will begin with no-host cocktails at 5:30 p.m., a sumptuous buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m., and a door prize drawing at 8:00 p.m. There may be an opportunity before the festivities for members to display their goods and services as well as to network with members new and old. There will definitely be entertainment with Christmas carols. Bring your family, friends, and clients. The cost is \$39.50 per person for an evening of fun and good fellowship. Reservation deadline is December 1 or until sold out. And any and all donations for door prizes will be gratefully accepted.

VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS WANTED

From Thursday through Saturday, December 4-6, the State of Hawaii will be hosting an international robotics event at the Hawaii Convention Center. Approximately thirty teams, including students, parents, and teachers, will be participating. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer translator, contact **Lois Hamaguchi** at 586-0081 or lois.hamaguchi@hawaii.gov.

HELEMANO PLANTATION FUND-RAISER

With the holiday season comes the annual Helemano Plantation fund-raiser to benefit ORI and ORI Anuenue Hale, which offer programs and serve the elderly and people with special needs. This gala event includes the popular silent auction, where bidding sometimes gets very competitive; a sumptuous dinner, and dancing and entertainment. The themed event will be held once again this year at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballrooms on Friday, December 12, starting at 5:00 p.m. and running until 11:00 p.m. This year's honorary fund-raising chair is **Vera Wong** (for new members, Vera is former Chamber president **Reuben Wong's** wife). A humanitarian award will be presented to Dr. **Lawrence Tseu**. Monetary donations, item donations for the silent auction, and table sponsorships are welcome. The cost is \$125.00 for individuals, and ten-person table sponsorships are available for \$1,000.00, \$3,000.00, \$5,000.00, and \$10,000.00. For reservations, donations or more information, contact **Yvonne de Luna** at 622-3929.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Ted C. T. Li

Dear Members and Friends:

Aloha. Congratulations to our many 2008 Splendor of China committee members. You all have done a marvelous job! Building on the solid foundations of prior years, we again had a very successful event.

We had more than 150 booths participating in this year's Splendor of China. We brought in a fabulous entertainment troupe from China. On both Saturday and Sunday, the internationally renown

celebrity master chef **Martin Yan** did cooking demonstrations and book signings for our audience. The appearance of our 59th Narcissus Queen and Court, the debut of the 60th Narcissus Pageant contestants, the fantastic fashion show, the ever popular dog show, the interesting cow tongue and guts eating contests, all in all, it contributed to the great success of this year's Splendor of China.

Additionally, this year, we did well in penetrating the tourist market through the efforts of our PR guru, **Lisa Ontai**. We partnered with the Starwood Hotels in Waikiki, where we featured several mini-performances and a cooking demonstration for the Sheraton, the Moana Surfrider, and the Princess Kaiulani hotels. Guests at those hotels enjoyed our previews tremendously. As a result, we saw more tourists at our two-day event. I am hopeful that the Splendor of China will one day soon become a tourist destination.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers and

the federal, state, City and County, and Chinese governments as well as our many sponsors, community organizations, and the Chinese societies for their support, guidance, and participation.

My congratulations to my Narcissus general chair, **Dennis Hwang**, Splendor of China chair **Jeff Lau**, and the entire committee for a very memorable and successful event.

Finally, on a sadder note, on behalf of my brother, my sister, and our families, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to the Chinese Chamber and to the many officers, directors, and members who took the time to visit with my family and me during our mom's funeral service. Based on Chinese custom, my mom was 106 years old, and she had enjoyed a full and wonderful life. Thank you all for your support and patience during my mourning period.

Mahalo.

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

NARCISSUS FESTIVAL

The Splendor of China marked the start of the 60th annual Narcissus Festival. The current Narcissus Queen, **Catherine Wong Jayne**, and her court, **Jacklyn Ma**, **Leilani Soon**, **Teresa Lu**, and **Chantel Ching**, as well as the twelve lovely contestants vying for the title of 60th Narcissus Queen have already had public appearances each day at the Splendor of China and will make appearances on Sunday, November 9 (1:00 p.m. at Windward Mall) and Sunday, November 16 (1:30 p.m. at Kahala Mall). The contestants will then be busy, finalizing their preparations for the big night, the Pageant, on Saturday, January 10. Then comes the gala Coronation Ball on Saturday, January 17, and the Chinatown Open House in which the new Narcissus Queen and her court are escorted around Chinatown by the Chamber officers on Friday, January 23, and the Chinatown New Year Celebration on Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24.

Volunteers are welcome and invited to help out on many of those events. With over 300 Chamber members, it is not practical for an event or committee chair to call each member personally and ask you to volunteer. So if you are interested in volunteering, PLEASE do not hesitate to contact the Chamber at 533-3181 to let them know which event(s) you'd like to help on. (The same applies to helping out on next year's Splendor of China, which will again be on the first weekend in October).



CHAMBER BUILDING

Exciting breaking news! After many years of effort, the building committee located what appeared to be a suitable building at an ideal site in Chinatown. The Chamber's offer, with the assistance of Hawaii National Bank, of \$1.7 million for the two-story building located at 2 South King Street (where the HomeStreet Bank is located) was recently accepted by the owners. A more detailed report will appear in the next issue of *The Lantern*.

Splendor of China

The 6th annual Splendor of China was held once again at the Neal Blaisdell Center's Exhibition Hall on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5. First vice president **Jeffrey Lau** chaired the event, ably assisted by **Dennis Hwang, Libby Lew, and Linda Louie**, as well as the chairs of the various committees and dozens of volunteers. Despite a slowing Hawaii economy, there were a record number of 151 booths and 124 vendors as well as Chinese societies and organizations. A number of latecomer would-be vendors were turned away.

Those who participated were given survey forms to get their input and by and large, they were happy to have participated and are looking forward to participating again next year. In addition, many of them indicated that they would recommend a Splendor booth to others. Some thought has also gone into how to improve Splendor for next year, such as a business roundtable/panel, including Chinese officials who are already in town for the event. So if you're interested in having one or more booths (there were vendors/societies/organizations with multiple booths), don't wait until the last minute to sign up for Splendor of China 2009. And popular, world renowned chef **Martin Yan**, who did cooking demonstrations and signed his cookbooks both days, may be there next year.

GO OUT AND VOTE

As Americans, we have the right to vote for the candidates of our choice. The general election is on Tuesday, November 4. However, due to possible record turnout, there are some other dates to be kept in mind. In lieu of voting on November 4, you can vote early between Tuesday, October 21 and Saturday, November 1. If you choose to vote early, you can do so from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Early voting sites are at Honolulu Hale courtyard, Kapolei Hale, Conference Rooms A and B; Windward Mall directly across from Farrell's; Room 246 in Aiea Shopping Center; and Room 306 at the University of Hawaii Campus Center. You should also be aware that paper ballots are available only at Honolulu Hale while the other four sites have electronic voting.

Condolences

On Saturday, September 27, Chamber president **Ted Li's** mother, **Hao Nat Chieu**, passed away. She was born in the Nam Hoy district of China, close to the mouth of the Pearl River (*Chu Kong*). After living for many years in South Vietnam, Mrs. Chieu came to Hawaii in 1978. When she passed away, Mrs. Chieu was 101 years old according to the Western calendar, but 106 years old according to Chinese tradition. She is survived by sons **Michael** and **Ted Li**, daughter **Quan Luong**, and six grandchildren. Our deepest condolences to the family.

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NEW MEMBERS

At its August 26 meeting, the board approved the applications for **Mitchel Cohen**, general manager for Sam's Club on Keeaumoku Street (sponsored by **Ted Li**); **Nathan Hong**, an attorney with Torkildson Katz, Moore & Hetherington (sponsored by **Wilson Loo**); and **Garry Yee**, a registered financial services representative with National Securities Corp. (sponsored by **Elvira Lo**). And at the September 30 meeting, the board approved the applications for **Henry Chong**, a customs and border protection officer with the U.S Department of Homeland Security (sponsored by **Cy Feng**); **Han Wei Dan**, president, Asian Creation Pearl Co., a jewelry wholesaler (sponsored by **Ted Li**); **Dave Erdman**, president and CEO, PacRim Marketing Group, Inc. (sponsored by **Ted Li** and **Gerald Chang**); **Kenneth Lee**, president and owner of Empress Restaurant (sponsored by **Ted Li**); and **James Schaefer**, director of jeweler **Harry Winston** (sponsored by **Michele Choy** and **Ted Li**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next general membership meeting. [Editor's note: The new members were accidentally omitted in the Aug-Sep issue]

ERRATA

In the July issue of *The Lantern*, while typing up **Reuben Wong's** article on Sichuan earthquake donors, the editor's mind must have wandered, and he typed in the wrong surname for **Alan** and **Sylvia Ho**. Apologies to both Mr. and Mrs. Ho.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 24	Thu	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
Oct 28	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon
Nov 11	Tue	Veterans Day
Nov 18	Thu	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
Nov 25	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon
Nov 27	Thu	Thanksgiving Day

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MEMBER NEWS

In September, **David Low**, managing director of Hawaii Capital Management, won the Singapore Ironman CEO Challenge, which earned him a coveted berth to compete in the Kona Ironman World Championship on October 11.

Among those pictured in the October 1 issue of *Midweek* while attending the Hawaii Restaurant Association's second annual Hall of Fame induction at the Hawaii Prince Hotel were HRA president **Victor Lim** and **Gail Ann Chew**. While there was a two-page spread of the many people attending, there were no pictures of any of the eleven inductees, one of whom was Chamber director **Eddie Flores, Jr.** The cover article of that issue of *Midweek*, "Forever Young," profiled seven men and women older than 65 who remain in the local work force and are socially engaged in the community. Among those honored by the City & County of Honolulu's 2008 Forever Young Award is none other than Chamber director and Finance Factors, Ltd., chairman and corporate secretary **Daniel Lau**.



Daniel Lau and Chamber members at his City and County Forever Young Ceremony which took place at the Hawaii Prince Hotel on Tuesday October 7th, 2008.

Congressman **Neil Abercrombie**, a longtime Chamber member, was one of seven local politicians who sponsored the 5th annual Community Cleanup. On Saturday, October 11, Manoa-Moiliili-Palolo residents and constituents had the opportunity to get rid of things like scrap metal, auto parts, batteries of all kinds, and telephone books, among other household clutter. Neil also wrote the foreword for the recently published and timely *The Dream Begins: How Hawaii Shaped Barack Obama* by local writers **Stu Glauberman** and **Jerry Burris**. Sen. Obama's parents were old family friends of Rep. Abercrombie and his wife, **Nancie Caraway**.

Long-time Chamber director **Stanford Yuen** and former Chamber president **Victor Lim** testified on Thursday, October 2, against the City & County of Honolulu's proposed "River Street Residences" project. Located at 1311 River Street, the project would allot 40% of the affordable housing units for homeless people with severe and persistent mental illness. Stan's motion to oppose the project was approved by the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board. (The Chamber board of directors also has gone on record in opposition to the project). The next day, Stan was interviewed by KGMB-9 News and appeared on the evening news.



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

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