

LANTERN

December, 2008



夏威夷中華總商會

Narcissus Pageant

Once again, this year's Narcissus Pageant will be held in the cozy environs of the renovated Hawaii Theatre on Saturday, January 10, 2009. For months, the eleven lovely contestants have been attending classes on various aspects of Chinese culture, doing individual research and preparation, and rehearsing for an exciting and glamorous night. Come out and bring your family and friends to see the culmination of the contestants' hard work.

Tickets at \$33.00 and \$28.00 are still available by calling the Hawaii Theatre box office at 528-0506, Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tickets can also be ordered in person at the box office at 1130 Bethel Street. For those who haven't yet purchased a special 60th anniversary Narcissus souvenir book, together with a commemorative DVD, you should be able to purchase one at the Pageant for \$15.00.

And don't forget that you will have an opportunity to meet and greet the new 60th Narcissus Queen and her court as well as the other contestants at a post-Pageant reception at Hee Hing, 449 Kapahulu Avenue. There will be heavy pupu and no-host cocktails, and the cost is only \$9.75 per person, with the reception running from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. To make reception reservations (and for a headcount for ordering food), please call the Chamber right away at 533-3181.

NARCISSUS CORONATION BALL

The gala Coronation Ball will be held on Saturday, January 17. For those who have attended Coronation Balls in the past, please remember that this year, the event is being held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Ballroom instead of the usual Coral Ballroom. Since this is the 60th anniversary of the Narcissus Festival, special guests will be past Chamber presidents and former Narcissus Queens, so this is an opportunity to renew old acquaintances. As an added attraction, there will be two chefs brought in from China to add new dishes to the Hawaii repertoire.

No-host cocktails begin at 5:00 p.m. and dinner and the night's program begin at 6:00 p.m. Included in the program will be a special 60th anniversary retrospective video. This is a gala evening of pageantry and splendor, fine food, and entertainment, with an opportunity to dance the night away. Post-coronation music will be provided by LA Image, and **Richard and Lynn Nakamura** have selected music that everyone can dance to. Tickets are \$70.00 for individuals while tables for ten are \$650.00 without wine or \$750.00 for "wine tables" (one bottle each of red and white wine). This will be truly an event not to be missed!

Night in Chinatown

The celebration of the incoming Year of the Ox will be on Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24. On Friday, the new 60th Narcissus Queen and her court, escorted by Chamber officers, will walk through Chinatown, beginning at around 6:30 p.m. from the new Chinese Chamber building at 8 South King Street. The group will walk around Chinatown, visiting various shops and restaurants and offering the owners and patrons best wishes for the new year. They will also visit a number of Chinese organizations and societies with best wishes for their officers and members. At around 10:00 p.m., the Queen and court will make an appearance at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza's Moongate Stage.

There will also be a variety of booths at the Cultural Plaza (as well as elsewhere in Chinatown) on Friday, from 5:00-10:00 p.m., and on Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The booths will be selling things like food, t-shirts, a variety of Chinese products, and narcissus plants. There will also be entertainment on both days at the Cultural Plaza stage as well as various lions dancing around Chinatown on at least Friday evening and perhaps Saturday as well. So bring your friends and family to see the sights and sounds of Chinatown on the eve of Chinese New Year. (Chinese New Year's Day arrives early this year on Monday, January 26).

Chamber Building Purchased

On Friday, December 5, escrow of the Chinese Chamber's purchase of the building at 8 South King Street closed. In addition to anchor tenant HomeStreet Bank downstairs, there are also two suites, comprising a total of 1,952 square feet of leasable space on the second floor. Plans currently envision some renovations and modifications upstairs to better accommodate use for the Chamber office as well as other tenants. Space on the second floor will also be used for meetings and classes, geared primarily toward small businesses, under the auspices of a Chinatown Community Development Center. In this regard, the Chamber will draw on its highly qualified membership to facilitate the classes, and expects to partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) as well as the UHM Shidler School of Business and Hawaii Pacific University. Chamber members and friends who wish to help support the purpose of the Chamber's planned Development Center are invited to make tax-deductible donations to the Chinese Chamber Foundation.



President
Ted C. T. Li

Dear fellow members and friends:

I trust all of you had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones.

Congratulations to all of you. Your Chamber closed escrow for our new building at the corner of South King Street and Nuuanu Avenue. The current address of the building is 2 South King Street. However, we are in the process of changing that to 8 South King Street.

For Chinese people, the number "2" is a very good number, but the number "8" is even better. The number 8 or "bat" in Cantonese sounds phonetically like "fat," which means "prosperity." That's why we see so many automobiles having the number 8 one or more times in their license plate number.

On behalf of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, I would like to thank our former President and emeritus director, **Warren Luke**, and Hawaii National Bank for making the long-held dream of ownership of our own building a reality. The staff at Hawaii National Bank was very helpful, efficient, and friendly throughout the loan process. If you ever have any need for banking and financial services, please consider these "warm-hearted bankers." I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our guarantors, **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, **Alvin Wong**, **George Chu**, and **Walter Chang** for their personal guaranty, which made the financing possible.

Of course, I have to thank our building committee for their hard work, wisdom, and creativity for a very successful acquisition. The acquisition was completed well below budget and well ahead of schedule. The building committee consists of: Chair **Wesley Fong**; Vice Chairs **Victor Lim** and **Eddie**

Flores, Jr.; Secretary **Dennis Hwang**; Legal Counsels **Reuben Wong** and **Delwyn Wong**; and committee members **Alvin Wong**, **Edward Pei**, **Walter Chang**, **Kenneth Chong**, **George Chu**, **Frances Goo**, **Libby Lew**, **Vernon Ching**, and **Ted Li**. They still meet once a week.

The existing ground floor tenant, HomeStreet Bank, will remain as our anchor tenant for the foreseeable future. Your Chamber office will be relocated to the front portion of the second floor after some renovations. Right now, we have completed a schematic architectural plan, and we are looking for contractors who can help us build out the space for your Chamber office. Currently, we are also looking for tenant(s) that can fill the approximately 2,000 square feet of remaining second floor space. If you are interested in helping us to either renovate the building or to rent space, please call the Chamber office at 533-3181.

Right now, we are planning to have an open house for our members and friends in our future home in the early evening on Friday, January 23, 2009, which is also the *choy cheng* night for the Chinese New Year Celebration, unless such an event is not feasible due to the start of renovations. Otherwise, please be on the lookout for the open house announcement from your Chamber.

The Chinese Chamber is always trying to fulfill our mission to promote business and economic development, to preserve and perpetuate our Chinese culture, and to serve the needs of our community, with emphasis on new immigrants and the underprivileged doing business in Chinatown. With the ownership of the new building, we believe we are ready and able to more fully carry out our mission. The Chinese Chamber has so many talented and successful entrepreneurs, business executives, educators, professionals, and community leaders among our members who are willing and ready to give back to the community. A new program called the "Chinatown Community Development Center" is being developed to help and support all those in need and all those who desire to be successful in business. So if you have a specialty that you want to share with the community or you simply want to help others, please let your Chamber know. Together, we will build a better tomorrow for our community.

December has been a very busy month. I would like to thank all those taking time out from your busy schedules to participate in our Christmas Party and the General Membership Meeting. I would especially like to thank our membership committee under the able leadership of our Third Vice President, **Gerald Chang**, for breaking attendance records for both events. The Christmas Party was fun and the General Membership Meeting was very interesting. The talk presented by Governor **Linda Lingle**, her "Five-Point Economic Plan" for our state's slowing economy, was very timely and informative. Everyone appreciated the proactive style of the Governor's plan of action for the current state of our economy.

On behalf of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Linda Lingle for personally presenting her economic plan to our membership and guests, and I also want to thank Director **Ted Liu** for accompanying the governor to our last General Membership Meeting for 2008.

In looking back, while 2008 has been a very challenging year, it was also a very busy and productive year for the Chinese Chamber. I am very thankful that the Chamber has a very supportive board of directors and some very creative and hard-working committees as well as a group of very effective officers.

Your Chamber has done very well in 2008. We broke many records. We have set the highest attendance records for the 59th Narcissus Coronation Ball, the installation banquet, the Christmas party, and the most recent general membership meeting. We also set a record in fund-raising for Sichuan earthquake relief. Through the efforts of our Chamber members and friends, we raised more than \$115,000.00. The total amount raised by all of us in Hawaii has been earmarked to build a school in Sichuan province. Last, but not least, we purchased an office building for the Chamber, and we proudly took ownership before Christmas.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for working together so diligently this year for the benefit of your Chamber and the community. I am optimistic that 2009 will be even more productive and satisfying for all of us.

Best wishes to you and your family for a very happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The final general membership meeting of the calendar year was held on Tuesday, December 23, at the Empress Restaurant. There were 195 people present, including members of several Chinese associations as well as a number of members of components of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's affiliated chambers of commerce and business organizations. Seated at the head table were Governor **Linda Lingle**; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism Director **Ted Liu**; Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Director General **Philip Wang**; UH Manoa Shidler School of Business Dean **Vance Roley**; and Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii President **James Tollefson**.

Following a pre-meeting opportunity to network with other Chamber members and friends and a sumptuous lunch, those attending had a first-hand opportunity to hear Governor Lingle's five-point plan to stimulate the slowing Hawaii economy. Several times, Governor Lingle stated that "this is not the time for business as usual," stressing her outreach efforts to the four county mayors and the leaders of the overwhelmingly Democratic legislature. In addition, she cited a unique Web site (www.hawaii.gov/cip) to allow the public to keep track of the status of some 1,521 capital improvement projects worth \$1.685 billion across the state. All in all, Governor Lingle's optimistic, positive presentation was well received. While Hawaii faces great challenges next year, together we can overcome them.

NEW MEMBERS

At its November 25 meeting, the Board approved the applications for artist **Ding Quan Liu** (sponsored by **Wen Chung Lin**), and photographer **Jacky Wong**, owner and president of Wong's Photos (sponsored by **Wen Chung Lin**). Then at its December 23 meeting, the Board approved the application for **Maggie Huang**, a real estate associate at Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties (sponsored by **Jeffrey Lau**). Welcome to the Chamber, and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber general membership meeting.

Chamber Christmas Party

This year's Christmas party was held on Wednesday, December 10, at the Hale Koa Hotel's Waikiki Ballroom. There were 129 people, including Narcissus Queen **Catherine Wong Jayne** and members of her court and the eleven lovely Narcissus contestants, present to enjoy the fellowship, spirit of the season, and a lavish buffet dinner. There were of course the traditional Christmas carols as well as a trivia contest and an icebreaker game, conducted by master of ceremonies **Vernon Ching**. And although Santa Claus did not make an appearance this year, there were many contest and game prizes as well as door prizes, handed out by **Michele Choy** and **Libby Lew**. And while not all the donors were acknowledged that evening (next year, please attach a business card to each of your donations so that you can be acknowledged by the emcee), we would like to acknowledge the generosity (in alphabetical order) of Avanti Fashions (**John and Jenny Hui**), **Michele Choy**, **Phoebe Chrisman**, Crack Seed Center (**Ted Li**), Elvira Chocolat (**Elvira Lo**), First Hawaiian Bank (**Angie Shiroma**), HomeStreet Bank (**Mona Choy-Beddow**), L & L Drive Inn (**Eddie Flores, Jr.** and **Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam**), Lee Kum Kee, McDonald's (**Victor Lim**), Panda Express (area operations coach **John Zhang**), **Lawrence Tran**, and Yummy Land (**Joanna Zheng**).

EMINENT YOUNG OVERSEAS CHINESE PROGRAM

by Dennis Hwang

In November, I was fortunate to be able to participate in the Eminent Young Overseas Chinese Program organized by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council and the China Overseas Exchange Association. This program has been held for seven years, and in 2008, there were 130 participants from 30 countries, with twelve delegates from the United States. I would like to thank President **Ted Li** and the board of directors for nominating me to represent the Chinese Chamber.

A highlight of the trip was the lectures in Beijing on the importance of "Overseas Chinese" to China, the economy, foreign policy, and Confucianism. It was interesting to learn how Chinese policy has evolved from inward looking to an emphasis on partnerships, collaboration and win-win situations with overseas companies, organizations, and countries. This represents a great opportunity for the Chinese Chamber and Hawaii.



On our third day in Beijing, we toured the city and saw the tremendous growth and accomplishments of China as exhibited by the many architectural wonders. At the 2008 Olympic venues, we saw the recently opened Bird's Nest and entered the famous Water Cube, and then saw the National Grand Theater and the new Beijing airport. Later, we climbed the Great Wall with other delegates and organizers.

While in Beijing, I had the chance to meet with **Colleen Xue** and **Mark Wang** of China Travel Service. We were able to plan many of the logistics for the 2009 Narcissus Goodwill Tour; it helped to have seen many of the wonders only a few days before. Please keep your calendars open for two weeks in June of 2009 for a very exciting trip.

The last half of the program was a trip to Shandong Province and its capital city of Jinan, one of the most rapidly growing areas in China. We met with local government officials and companies who pushed for business and technology exchange in areas such as environmental protection, renewable energy, information systems, and high technology. There is also a possibility of cultural exchange, and perhaps one day, we can obtain performers for the Splendor of China from that region.

It would be great if someone from the Chinese Chamber can participate in the Eminent Young Overseas Chinese Program every year. There were tremendous networking opportunities with the organizers, government officials, and other delegates, many from Chinese chambers of commerce throughout the U.S. and other countries.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 01	Thu	2009 New Year Day
Jan 10	Sat	60th Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center - 6:30 p.m.
Jan 17	Sat	60th Narcissus Coronation Ball Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Ballroom - 5:00 p.m.
Jan 19	Mon	Martin Luther King Day
Jan 20	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office - 12:00 noon
Jan 23	Fri	Chinatown Open House (Lion Dance and Fireworks) Chamber Office - 6:30 p.m.
Jan 23	Fri	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Jan 24	Sat	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Jan 26	Mon	Chinese New Year Day
Jan 27	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon

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In the recent general election, **Lei Ahu Isa** was the top vote-getter for an at-large Oahu Board of Education seat, garnering 115,000 votes. And *The Lantern's* editor was again quoted (or misquoted) in a newspaper, this time in a November 5 article by *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* writer **Allison Shaefer**, "Punahou rejoices in success of Obama." (The actual statement with the word "positions" of **Barack Obama** came out "position"). And the editor may have inadvertently influenced the design of L & L Drive Inn's Year of the Ox t-shirt when he mentioned this summer to founder **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, that then-Senator Obama was born in 1961, an Ox year. (Readers should note that the \$15.00 "limited edition" L & L t-shirt comes in sizes from small to extra-large, in a blue and yellow design for members of the Punahou family and a black with red design for the Iolani family and others.

At the invitation of the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC), **Wesley Fong**, a retired Army Reserve colonel, again led a delegation of retired military officers—ADM **Ronald Hays** (Navy), BG **James Hirai** (Army), BG **Jerome Hagan** (Marines), and BG **Dwight Kealoha** (Air Force) on a visit to China from November 21 to December 1. The men and their wives received VIP treatment in Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai, and non-tourist sites they visited included the Beijing Military Museum, the China Aviation Museum, and People's Liberation Army Tower as well as banquets at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing and at Ying Bin Guang, the State Guest House, in Shanghai. The purpose of this trip as well as a similar trip in 2007 was to foster relations between China and the U.S. as well as their military, even though the delegation and some of their hosts are now retired officers.

Early this month, the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA) selected Avanti Fashions (**John and Jenny Hui**) for the 2008 Best of Honolulu Award in the Hawaiian Wear category. The "Best of Local Business" program recognizes local businesses across the country which have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category as well as enhancing the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community. Congratulations, John and Jenny for this recognition.

President-elect **Dennis Hwang** once again competed in the Honolulu Marathon. In the December 14 event, according to the next day's *Honolulu Advertiser*, Dennis finished the grueling 26.2 mile course in 3 hours, 49 minutes, 50 seconds (3:49:50), good enough to be 240 in the Top 500 Hawaii finishers. Second Vice President **Libby Lew** also participated again in this year's marathon.



Left: COL Wesley Fong, ADM Ronald Hays and GEN Liu Zhenqi, Peoples' Liberation Army, at the Office of the PLA, Ba Yi Building, Beijing.

Below: Delegation with Secretary General Chen Zuming, CAIFC at the Great Hall of the People.



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

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