

LANTERN

March, 2008



夏威夷中華總商會

Narcissus Classic

The 59th annual Narcissus Festival comes to a close with the Narcissus Classic, featuring "A Stage Production of Flower Drum Song," at the Diamond Head Theatre on Wednesday, April 2. The cost is \$55.00 per person for the pre-performance reception and the play. Heavy *pupu* will be provided by Hong Kong Harbor View, The Mandalay, and The Willows restaurants. **Nancy Kwan**, star of the 1961 film, will be a special guest at the reception as well as at a VIP reception on Saturday, April 5, at Dr. **Lawrence Tseu's** home. Tickets for this special reception are limited and are \$150.00 per person or \$250.00 per couple. So if you wish to attend either event, call the Chamber right away at 533-3181.

Annual Awards

The Chamber is currently accepting nominations for Outstanding Chamber Volunteer of the Year, Outstanding Narcissus Volunteer of the Year, and Outstanding Businessperson of the Year. The Chamber volunteer should be a Chamber member who meets the criteria of outstanding and ongoing contributions through exhibition of exceptional leadership skills, promotion of Chamber activities and events, and contribution to advancing the Chamber's goals and objectives. This award is bestowed on a recipient based on either accomplishments during the current year or during several years of service.

The Narcissus volunteer need not be a Chamber member, but must have made outstanding and ongoing contributions toward the enhancement and promotion of the annual Narcissus Festival. Key considerations are the level of assistance, contribution, and other support resulting in outstanding improvement of the Narcissus Festival. This award is bestowed on a Chamber member or non-member and is based on either accomplishments during the current year or during several years of service.

Finally, the Outstanding Businessperson of the Year must have had three years' minimum in business, and must have made significant contributions to promoting business with the Chinese community in Hawaii or overseas. A nominee for this award need not be a Chamber member.

Nominations should be submitted to the Chamber not later than Monday, March 31. Nomination forms are available on request by calling the Chamber at 533-3181.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION

This is a last-minute reminder that there will be a general membership meeting on Friday, March 7. There will be a lunchtime talk by **Rosita Chang**, Ph.D., on "The Chinese Stock Market: Opportunities and Challenges." Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m., with lunch at 12:00 noon. Tables (\$30.00 for an 8-foot long one) may still be available for members to display their brochures or goods to those attending. In addition, March 7 is also the date for the annual election of directors, and the sixteen candidates will be presented during the program. The cost is \$27.00 per person.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONTEST

For lovers of *musubi*, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue is having a "green corned beef *musubi*" eating contest on Saturday, March 15, at the Kahala Mall center stage area, starting at 10:00 a.m. Presumably, the green color and corned beef are in honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17 (or perhaps the Irish heritage of L & L's **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and **Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam**).





President
Edward Y. W. Pei

So what exactly is a chamber of commerce and what does it do? That was an important question for me last year as I was preparing for my term as President of our organization. I scheduled a meeting with **Jim Tollefson**, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, hoping that he had a model organization structure or some kind of procedures manual as to what the role of a chamber of commerce should be. Unfortunately, there is no recipe book on how to build such an organization. In fact, he indicated that there are probably no two organizations alike in our country. So I asked him about the purpose and activities of his organization. He indicated that their top priority is public advocacy, and they have a rather large organization dedicated to monitoring legislation and lobbying efforts on behalf of its members. They also have an excellent training program for their members, offer-

ing 4-6 workshops and seminars every year. Finally, they have a very successful monthly networking function that is very well attended.

I next looked to our fellow ethnic chambers to understand what they do. The mission of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce seems to focus on assisting and serving their members. The Filipino Chamber is an active organization as well, with a good training program, monthly membership meetings, and member receptions with legislators. I am planning on getting together soon with my counterparts at these other chambers to share strategies and philosophies.

I recently checked the Web sites for other Chinese Chambers throughout the country. It appears that many of them are similar to us. They typically have a strong emphasis on serving the needs of their members, primarily through networking functions. Most of them conduct workshops and seminars, ranging from personal finance to working with the IRS. And many of them have a cultural component, including a beauty pageant. Most of them don't have our longevity.

This brings us back to the original question. What kind of organization is the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii? Are we content to just be the proud sponsors of the Narcissus Festival or should we consider re-branding ourselves to have a complementary focus on business activities and serving the needs

of our members? And if the latter is the case, are we properly aligned to meet these objectives?

There is an effort under way to revise our By-Laws to assure that our resources are properly aligned. The Chamber's By-Laws were last revised in 1991. Some believe that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." I prefer the words of renowned management guru **Tom Peters**, who said "if it ain't been fixed, it will break." An *ad hoc* committee has been formed to review our current By-Laws and to propose revisions. We will look forward to seeing their recommendations.

Meanwhile, the 59th annual Narcissus Festival is drawing to a close. It has been a great year, and every event has been tremendously successful. The last Festival event is the Narcissus Classic, which this year is a stage production of "Flower Drum Song" at the Diamond Head Theatre, to be held on Wednesday, April 2. We are so very pleased that **Nancy Kwan**, star of the movie, will be attending our event. This is a rare opportunity to meet the first Chinese actress to achieve fame and success in western cinema. Only a limited number of tickets are still available for the stage production (as well as a VIP reception for Ms. Kwan on April 5), so contact the Chamber office immediately if you are interested in attending and meeting Nancy Kwan!

See you soon!

N E W M E M B E R S

At its meeting on January 29, the Board approved the applications for **Calvin Ching**, Court Administrator with the State Judiciary (sponsored by **Kevin Lam**); **David Chen**, a business banking officer with Central Pacific Bank (sponsored by **Ted Li**); **Meli Hare**, business development officer at Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union (sponsored by **Angie Shiroma**); **Carol Lu**, Vice President of Fast-N-Easy Mortgage (sponsored by **Wanda Tse**); **Louis Luu**, General Manager for Skyway Express (sponsored by **Edward Ngan**); and **Cindy Watanabe**, a Realtor-Associate with Coldwell Banker (sponsored by **Ryan Marn**). Then at its February 26, the Board approved the applications for **Ronda Day**, a Realtor with Realty Executives Oahu (sponsored by **Winfred Pong** and **Ted Li**); **Phil Fong**, CEO and owner of Jeans Warehouse (sponsored by **Ted Li**); **Bobby Ho**, a retirement income planner with Edward D. Jones & Co. (sponsored by **Wanda Tse**); **Yi Jin**, International Banking Officer with Bank of Hawaii (sponsored by **Edward Hu**); **Ed Korybski**, Executive Director of the Honolulu Culture and Arts District (sponsored by **Kevin Lam**); **Annie Lin**, a commercial property associate with American Land Company (sponsored by **C. L. Chia**); **Sharon Sato**, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager for Central Pacific Bank (sponsored by **Alvin Wong** and **Victor Lim**); **Irvin Wong**, Liliha branch manager for First Hawaiian Bank (sponsored by **Edward Pei**); **Mary Yee**, owner of Kim Fai Import and Export Products Co. (sponsored by **Ted Li**); and **Dwight Young**, Chinatown branch manager for First Hawaiian Bank (sponsored by **Angie Shiroma**). Welcome to each and every one of you, and we look forward to meeting you at the next general membership meeting.





The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii



Proudly presents

The 59th Annual Narcissus Festival

***Narcissus Classic:
A Stage Production of Flower Drum Song***

*by the
Diamond Head Theatre*

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Reception & No Host Cocktails: 6:30 pm

Program & Show: 7:30 pm

at the

Diamond Head Theatre:

520 Makapuu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816



From her unforgettable starring role in "The World of Suzie Wong" to her spectacular performance in the musical "Flower Drum Song", Nancy Kwan became one of the first Chinese actresses to achieve fame in Western cinema. Nancy will be a special guest at the Diamond Head Theatre reception, courtesy of Dr. Lawrence Tseu.

The pre-show reception will feature delicious Chinese cuisine prepared by the Hong Kong Harbor View, The Mandalay and The Willows restaurants

For Information/Tickets:

Ph:533-3181 Fax:533-3184 Email: info@chinesechamber.com

RESERVATIONS

Name: _____ Company: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Number of ticket(s): _____ x \$55.00 Total check enclosed: _____ Check number: _____

Credit card information: Visa / MasterCard (please circle)

Total amount charged: _____ Card no. _____ Exp. date: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

The February 6 *Midweek's* "Style" section featured the members of the 59th annual Narcissus Court – **Catherine Wong Jayne, Jacklyn Ma, Leilani Soon, Teresa Lu, and Chantel Ching** – as well as **Ted Li**. Each of the lovely young women was photographed (twice each) at Ala Moana Center in fashions from Shanghai Tang. In the same *Midweek* issue, **Jade Moon** had a nice article about Patti's Chinese Kitchen, founded quite a few years ago by **Calvin Chun**. Now his daughter, **Patti Louie**, oversees her namesake restaurant in Pearlridge Shopping Center Uptown after moving from Ala Moana Center.

Thanks to *Midweek* Managing Editor **Yu Shing Ting**, its February 13 "Honolulu Pa'ina" had a two-page spread on the recent Coronation Ball. As a result, the pictures included (in no particular order) Dr. **Ming Chen** and state Representative **Corinne Ching**; **Ed Pei, Catherine Jayne, Leilani Soon, Chantel Ching, and Michele Choy**; **Teresa Lu, Jacklyn Ma, and Ted Li**; **Jeff Lau, and Sylvia and Alan Ho**; state Senator **Suzanne Chun Oakland**, and Ed and **Gayle Pei**; **Warren and Carolyn Luke and Tan Tek and Wai Ling Lum**; **Alvin and Donna Wong**; the 58th Narcissus Court (**Jessica Lau, Sibyl Wong, Adrienne Au, Jennifer Lam, and Julia Chen**); **Patricia Li**; **Peter and Daisy Chun**; **Wilbert and Queenie Chee**; and Narcissus contestants **Shaelyn Lin, Jasmine Nip, Christina Say, Stephanie Chan, and Jessica Chiu**.

First Vice President **Dennis Hwang** competed in the President's Day (February 18) Great Aloha Run, completing the 8.15-mile course in 63 minutes and thus finishing 515th out of a field of 13,742 participants. Meanwhile, his wife **Rena** was featured in an article, "Helping the boss be the boss," in the February 25 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* Business Section's weekly "Hawaii at Work." **Rena** is executive assistant at American Savings Bank for both CEO and chair **Connie Lau** and president **Timothy Schools**.

On Friday, February 29, **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, was interviewed by host **Howard Dicus** on the KHET program, "Everybody's Business." Among other things, **Eddie** mentioned that L & L Drive Inn in Hawaii will be changing its name over time to "L & L Hawaiian Barbecue" so that visiting mainlanders will have an easier time finding the Hawaii locations. In addition, **Eddie** mentioned the challenge of escalating food ingredient prices as well as pricing in different mainland markets. In Texas, where L & L will soon open its first location, what is a "mini" in Hawaii will be a "regular" while the Hawaii "regular" will be a "large." And according to the March "Best of Honolulu" issue of *Honolulu* magazine now hitting newsstands, L & L has the "best loco moco" and "best chicken katsu" in town. (Several weeks before that, on February 8, MacDonald's franchisee and former Chamber president, **Victor Lim**, was interviewed by **Dicus**. Some of you may have scored in MacDonald's recent free breakfast burrito promotion).

The *Honolulu Advertiser's* February 27 "Honolulu People" insert had **Ed and Gayle Pei** on the front page, and inside were **Carol Lu** (and husband **Wayne**), **C. S. Li** (and wife **Lynn**), and **Joannie Tam** (and husband **Daniel**). All of them were among members of six Honolulu Rotary clubs celebrating Chinese New Year on February 9 at the Ala Moana Hotel's Royal Garden restaurant.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 7	Fri	General Election
Mar 7	Fri	General Membership Meeting Dole Cannery Lanai Ballroom 11:00 a.m.
Mar 18	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
Mar 21	Fri	Special Board of Directors Meeting – Election of New Officers The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon
Apr 2	Wed	59th Narcissus Classic: A Stage Production of Flower Drum Song Diamond Head Theatre Reception & No Host Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Program & Show at 7:30 p.m.
Apr 4	Fri	Ching Ming Festival

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