

LANTERN

December 2009

NARCISSUS FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

by Jeffrey Lau, Festival General Chairman

Happy Holidays, everyone. Now that the holiday celebrations are almost behind us, Chamber members have our most exciting time of the year to look forward to in the coming weeks. We have twelve lovely contestants vying for positions on our 2010 Narcissus Queen and Court. The Narcissus Pageant is nearly upon us as these well qualified young women finish up their preparation for the Pageant on January 9, at the historic Hawaii Theatre in Chinatown. Please be sure to purchase your tickets through the Hawaii Theatre as soon as possible as seats are going quickly.

After the Pageant, we will have our post-Pageant party within walking distance at the Empress Restaurant for a very reasonable price of \$10.00. With a nearby in-town location, more of you can join in on the festivities.

Then on January 30, our new Narcissus Queen will begin her reign at our Coronation Ball, which will be held in the Coral Ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. We anticipate that the Governor and the Mayor as well as many out-of-state dignitaries from China and Taiwan will attend.

The following weekend will be our Night in Chinatown Celebration where we will introduce our new Queen and Court to the Chinatown community. As tradition dictates, on Friday, February 5, they will start the evening at the Cultural Center and tour Chinatown amidst fireworks and dancing lions. If you are interested in having them visit your particular society, club, business or restaurant, please be sure to contact the Chamber as soon as possible, and we shall see whether we can accommodate you. If you miss this opportunity to see them, the Queen and Court will participate in the Chinatown Parade shortly thereafter.

A few days later, they will make an appearance at our Narcissus Classic. This year, it will be the Diamond Head Theatre production of "The Joy Luck Club" on Wednesday, February 10. Come see the Queen and Court as well as this terrific award-winning play by **Amy Tan**! It will be a great opportunity for Chamber members to get together for this wonderful experience.

Gong Hee Fat Choy! Gong Xi Fa Cai!

CORONATION BALL

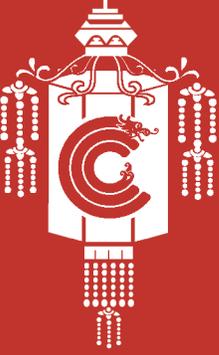
On Saturday, January 30, the 61st Narcissus Queen will be crowned at the gala Coronation Ball by Governor **Linda Lingle**. The evening starts with no-host cocktails at 5:00 p.m., dinner and the program beginning at 6:00 p.m., and dancing until 11:45 p.m. On the six-course menu are Chinese roast duck salad, sauteed tender shrimp with green peas and coconut fried shrimp, beef with asparagus and black bean sauce, crispy chicken with fresh papaya and sweet chili sauce, steamed sea bass filet with Sichuan chili bean sauce, and *lup cheong* and chicken with vegetables and chow mein noodles. There will of course be the pomp and ceremony of the coronation and first dance with the Narcissus Queen and Court, and the Chamber officers. Tickets are \$68.00 per person, with a table of ten for \$680.00 or a wine table (1 bottle each of red and white wines) for \$780.00. To reserve your seat or table, call the Chamber at 533-3181 by Monday, January 18.

Narcissus Pageant

by Michele Choy, Pageant Chair
and Contestant Coordinator

The Narcissus Queen Pageant is quickly approaching on Saturday, January 9. After four months of Chinese culture classes, the twelve beautiful and anxious young women are gearing up to showcase their poise and talent at the Hawaii Theatre Center. This year, there will be a variety of interesting talents, the product of much hard work over months or even years. There are still good seats available, priced at \$34.00 and \$29.00. For tickets or more information, please contact the Hawaii Theatre Center box office, which is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, by phone at 528-0506 or online 24-hours a day at the HTC Web site. In addition, you can buy copies of the newly published 2010 Narcissus souvenir book, with lovely Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong** on the cover, at \$10.00 a copy. This will be a not to be forgotten evening, so come out and support your favorite contestant!

After the pageant is over, please join us for *siu yeh* at the Post-Pageant Reception at the Empress Restaurant, conveniently located at the nearby Chinatown Cultural Plaza. Tickets for the late night snack are only \$10.00. Reception chair **John Zhang** has arranged a menu including *jook* (rice soup) with fish, pork with pickled vegetables, *choy sum* with oyster sauce, beef *chow fun*, and *mai fun* (rice noodles) with chicken. This will be an opportunity for family, friends, and fans to mix and mingle with the twelve lovely young women gave their best at the Pageant. You may also be able to get them (and members of the 2009 Narcissus court) to sign your 2010 Narcissus souvenir books. In order to get an accurate head count and order enough food, please contact the Chamber at 533-3181 and let Grace know that you're coming.



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THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Dennis J. Hwang

On December 8th, the Chinese Chamber had our annual Christmas Party and a good time was had by all as the members and Narcissus contestants were treated to games, door prizes, a visitation by Santa Claus, and caroling by Dizanne Productions' Honolulu Madrigal Quartet. Special thanks go to the co-chairs for the event, **Carol Lu** and **Joannie Tam**, for the most entertaining evening.

There are two broad areas I would like to update you about this month:

NARCISSUS FESTIVAL

The Chinese Chamber is proud to hold the 61st annual Narcissus Queen Pageant on Saturday, January 9, at the Hawaii Theatre, starting at 6:30 pm. This is the oldest and largest ethnic cultural event in Hawaii. Many thanks go to the Pageant chair **Michele Choy**, who does a great job every year to prepare the contestants, holding classes in the areas of beauty, culture, as well as personal and career development. On Saturday, January 30, the new Queen will be crowned at the elaborate and exciting Coronation Ball, run by chair **Kevin Lam** and his army of volunteers. We ask you to support the 12 talented contestants and the Chamber, by attending the Pageant and Coronation Ball and encouraging your family, friends, and co-workers to do likewise.

As the 61st Queen and Court are soon to be selected, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong**, 1st Princess **Tina Ng**, 2nd Princess **Dan Yuan**, 3rd Princess **Kacie Pang**, and 4th Princess **Kristine Duong** for being wonderful ambassadors for the Chinese Chamber. I know their experience over the last year will serve them well in the future.

The schedule of events for the entire Narcissus Festival and the background of

the contestants is described in our annual souvenir book, now available at the Chinese Chamber. There are also stories on attractions in China, the year of the Tiger, and recipes! Mahalo goes to Souvenir Book chair and editor **Vernon Ching** and authors **Lisa Wong**, **Gerald Chang**, **June Tong**, and **Lenora Ching** for a job well done.

CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

We would all like to thank Dr. **Lawrence Tseu** and his late wife, **Bo Hing Chan**, for their recent major contribution to the building fund. On December 3, there was a dedication for the two as we named the multipurpose conference room in the Chamber building in their honor. The event was chaired by past presidents **Victor Lim** and **Frances Goo**. Dr. Tseu will be glad to know the room is very active and expected to have a major impact on the community. Already, there have been classes from business expansion and financing to entrepreneurship. The latest round of classes has a wait list and a curriculum for the 2010 year is upcoming. There are still naming opportunities for other rooms as well as the programming for the CCDC. Please contact the Chinese Chamber if you are interested.

The CCDC is also the vehicle for many meetings with other organizations helping Chinatown on issues ranging from affordable housing to food sanitation in Chinatown. For example, Governor **Linda Lingle**, the Director, and Deputy Director of the Department of Health asked the Chinese Chamber to help DOH address the recently publicized rodent issue in Kekaulike

Marketplace in Chinatown. On December 28 and January 7, there will be two educational classes held by the DOH on the best practices for food storage, waste disposal, and vector control. The Chamber building will be used due to its centralized location and training room facilities. Materials provided by DOH will be translated by the Chamber into Chinese, Vietnamese, and Filipino. This effort is being spearheaded by past president **Wesley Fong**, with the help of **Ted Li**, **Betty Brow**, and others.

The Chamber and CCDC will be partnering with many companies, organizations, and government entities in the future wherever there is a natural fit. One such area is an offshoot of the Chamber's recent involvement with Governor Lingle for her trip to China in November. As a result, there will be a general membership meeting at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai on Friday, January 15, starting at 11:30 a.m. for a reception, lunch, and presentation by the governor. She will discuss prospects for increased Chinese tourism, trade in Hawaii-made products, and clean energy initiatives. In the coming months, there may be a follow-on forum on increased trade with China, featuring the governor and other speakers.

With so many moving parts to the Chinese Chamber, from the Narcissus Festival to the CCDC, the officers of the Chinese Chamber – **Jeff Lau**, **John Hui**, **Libby Lew**, **Gerald Chang**, **Michele Choy**, **Sylvia Louie**, **John Zhang**, **Gayle Lau**, **Wen Chung Lin** – and I invite you to get involved with our activities. We also wish you a very Happy New Year – *Xin Nian Kuai Le*.

Chamber Christmas Party

The annual Chamber Christmas party was once again held at the Hale Koa Hotel Waikiki Ballroom. On Tuesday, December 8, 128 people were signed up for an evening of networking, fellowship, and fun. This year, there was a served dinner with herb-crusted mahimahi and grilled sirloin steak instead of the buffet of the last few years. There was even a program that lasted slightly over an hour, ably kept on track by emcee **Bobby Ho**. The entertainment included a group of strolling carolers located by **Wanda Tse**, an eager and funny Santa Claus located by **Michele Choy**, and a "numbers game" led by Michele and enthusiastically participated in by two teams of people attending and aided by the twelve lovely Narcissus contestants. There were also door prizes with many contributed by the Chamber as well as donations by **Wilson Lau**, Panda Express (**John Zhang**), HomeStreet Bank (**Mona Choy-Beddow**), and Third Vice President **Gerald Chang**. Many of those attending picked up free Year of the Tiger calendars from L & L Drive-Inn (**Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and **Kwock Yum Kam**). And Hawaii Foodbank donations totaled 34 pounds of canned goods. *Xiexie* to the donors of the door prizes as well as the donations for the Hawaii Foodbank. All in all, an enjoyable and fun evening, thanks to all the hard work of co-chairs **Joannie Tam** and **Carol Lu**. Well done, ladies!

**CHINATOWN OPEN HOUSE/
CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

In advance of Chinese New Year's day on February 14, there will be a Chinese New Year Celebration on Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6, at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza. There will be a variety of booths selling food, Year of the Tiger t-shirts, and a variety of other goods related to the new year, and continuous entertainment on the Plaza stage each night from 6:00-10:00 p.m. On Friday evening, the new Narcissus Queen and her court, escorted by Chamber officers, will visit restaurants and stores in Chinatown to offer best wishes for the new year. Lions from various lion dance clubs will congregate at the Chamber building at 6:00 p.m. for *choy cheng* or "feeding the lions" with *li see*, and then will disperse throughout Chinatown.

Narcissus Classic

by Sylvia Louie

The 61st annual Narcissus Festival comes to a close with the Narcissus Classic, featuring a stage production of "The Joy Luck Club" at the Diamond Head Theatre on Wednesday, February 10. The play is based on the beloved book by **Amy Tan**, which tells the story of four older Chinese-American women and their complex relationship with their American-born daughters. The cost of the event is \$35.00 per person and includes light *pupu* during intermission. To order tickets, please call the Chamber at 533-3181. Reserved seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so order early!

GOVERNOR LINGLE'S CHINA TRIP

On Friday, January 15, Governor **Linda Lingle** will be the featured speaker at the first general membership meeting of the year. Having recently spent two weeks visiting six cities in China – Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Haikou and Sanya on Hainan, and Guangzhou – her talk will be "China Trip Briefing: Tourism, Trade, and Energy Initiatives." Gov. Lingle met with Chinese officials and discussed ways to increase Chinese tourism to Hawaii, increase export of Hawaii-made goods and services to China, and developing alternative/renewable energy projects, sales, and investment. That barely summarizes the information she will share with Chamber members and businesspeople interested in doing business with the Chinese, either in Hawaii or China or both. The meeting will start with registration at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai from 11:30 a.m., while lunch and the program will be from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. The cost of the six-course lunch and presentation is \$25.00 for Chamber members or \$225.00 for a table of ten while the cost for non-members is \$35.00 or \$325.00 for a table of ten. Included in the cost is validated parking in the Waikiki Business Plaza. Space is limited, so call the Chamber right away at 533-3181 to reserve a place. Please note that no one is permitted to make a video of the presentation without prior permission from the Chamber, and in light of community needs, each person is asked to bring a canned food (meat, soup, vegetables or fruit) for the Hawaii Foodbank.



Chamber supports Tsinghua Prep Basketball Team at the Iolani Classic. The China team are sponsored by Nike China with the assistance of Chamber Member Russell Leu and help from Jeff Lau and Reuben Wong. (L-R): Across the front row is a student interpreter from Iolani; John Zhang; Susan Lau; Mike Van, Nike Sports (China) Ltd.; Jeff Lau; Dan Yuan; Wang Dian Jun, Tsinghua principal; Russell Leu; and Sonny Zhang, Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association.

Dance Aliamanu Benefit

by Michele Choy

Dance Aliamanu will be having its First Anniversary and Charity Ball on Friday, January 15, 2010 at the Pacific Beach Hotel from 5:30-11:30 p.m. What's so special about it? **Lynn and Richard Nakamura**, longtime Coronation Ball ballroom dance instructors for the Chamber officers and new Court, are helping with the Charity Ball and have asked our Contestant Coordinator and Queen Pageant chair, **Michele Choy**, to represent the Chinese Chamber as a "celebrity dancer," along with other VIP/celebrity dancers. The cost is only \$58.00, which includes a delicious buffet dinner, exciting dance exhibitions, and door prizes. Please come out to support her. Around 400 guests are expected, but tickets are still available. Please contact Michele at 348-0550 if you would like to support her.



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NARCISSUS SOUVENIR BOOKS AVAILABLE

At long last, the 2010 Narcissus souvenir books are available and Chamber members can pick up their complimentary copy at the Chamber office. Additional copies are on sale for only \$10.00 each. Lovely 2009 Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong** graces the light green cover. Souvenir books will also be on sale on Pageant night, January 9.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1	Fri	2010 New Year Day
Jan 9	Sat	61st Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center – 6:30 p.m.
Jan 15	Fri	General Membership Meeting Waikiki Lau Yee Chai – 11:30 a.m.
Jan 18	Mon	Martin Luther King Day
Jan 19	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 5:30 p.m.
Jan 26	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 noon
Jan 30	Sat	61st Narcissus Coronation Ball HHV Coral Ballroom – 5:00 p.m.
Feb 5	Fri	Chinatown Open House (Lion Dance & Fireworks) Chinese Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Feb 5	Fri	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Feb 6	Sat	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Feb 10	Wed	Narcissus Classic – A Stage Production of Joy Luck Club Diamond Head Theatre – 7:30 p.m.
Feb 14	Sun	Chinese New Year Day

Oh, Rats!

Thanks to a video shown on YouTube, the public has been made aware of rats in the Kekaulike Marketplace. (Actually, rats are seemingly common around Oahu, particularly where uncovered food or table scraps are found, such as the City fire station's dumpsters at Beretania and Fort Streets). In response to the adverse publicity affecting Chinatown merchants, the Chinese Chamber is providing facilities for Department of Health educational sessions. Unfortunately, the very informative educational session for vendors with DOH's **Dennis Loo** on December 29 was sparsely attended. **Marsha Rose Joyner** expressed concerns about state budget cuts affecting monitoring and investigation efforts. **Wes Fong** is coordinating the Chamber's efforts, which include helping translate a DOH educational handout into Chinese and Vietnamese. Another session scheduled for Thursday, January 7, may be better attended if keyed to Kekaulike vendors' closing time.

MEMBER NEWS

As he has done over twenty times, Chamber President **Dennis Hwang** competed in the December 13 Honolulu Marathon. Dennis finished 1,682nd in a field of 20,557, with a time of 4 hours. **Libby Lew** participated in her fifth Honolulu Marathon at her own pace, enjoying a beautiful sunny day. In addition, she and husband **Bob** are pictured paddling a canoe off Lanikai in the January-May 2010 Windward Community College non-credit course catalog.

Associate member and newly crowned Miss Hawaii Chinese 2009 **Leilani Soon** was recently in a new role, that of movie critic. She wrote a review of the movie, "*No Puedo Vivir Sin Ti*," in the December 16 *Midweek*. Meanwhile, **Dave Erdman**, president and CEO of PacRim Marketing, was quoted in "Courting China," a December 13 *Star-Bulletin* article on Hawaii's prospects for increasing its Chinese visitor market. Dave cited an incident in a high-end hotel restaurant where a Chinese customer was mistaken for a Japanese tourist. And former Narcissus Queen **Catherine Wong Jayne** appeared in the December 30 *Midweek* Poll.

City Councilman **Rod Tam** had an op-ed piece in the December 13 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* in favor of a bill (Council bill No. 7) allowing more bed and breakfast ("B&B") operations on Oahu. The following day, local daily newspapers reported that he is a candidate for lieutenant governor.

In the *Advertiser's* December 25 TGIF "Metromix," **Melissa Chang's** article on "Best bao in town" included the baked *char siu bao* from **Kwock Nam Lau's** Royal Kitchen among the five best in Honolulu.

The LANTERN a monthly publication
of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
8 South King Street • Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph: (808) 533-3181 • Fax: (808) 537-6767

Editor: Gerald Chang
Graphic Designer: Angela Wu-Ki
Staff: Wen Chung Lin, Grace Chan



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII
8 South King Street • Suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813