

LANTERN

March 2009

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There will be a general membership meeting on Thursday, April 30, at the Foreign Trade Zone on Ala Moana Boulevard. There will be a brief presentation starting at 5:30 p.m. and then a tour of Foreign Trade Zone No. 9, followed by a networking session. This is an opportunity for members, especially those who bring in goods from overseas, whether the U.S. mainland or Orient, to learn about how the FTZ can benefit their business. More details will be provided by e-mail or snail mail.

Ching Ming

Ching Ming (or *Qing Ming* in Mandarin) is the 104th day after the winter solstice. In most years, this occurs around April 5 (in leap years like 2008, April 4). This year, the United Chinese Society will be holding its Ching Ming ceremony at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery on Monday, April 6, starting at 10:00 a.m. However, the military color guard and others will be marching up the hill around 9:30 a.m., so those planning on attending may want to arrive early.

For Chinese around the world, Ching Ming is an occasion for the family to remember and honor its ancestors. Families gather at the cemetery to sweep or clean the graves and make offerings, as well as to partake of the food and drink brought for the occasion, either at the cemetery or nearby. To simplify gathering the various foods for a traditional observance, Royal Kitchen has a *Ching Ming* package, which includes the *san ga* (roast pork, eggs, and fish), oyster rolls, roast chicken, roast duck, stuffed tofu, pot roast pork (*kau yuk*), rice, and 16 oz. of tea. In addition, six small disposable containers for the rice, twelve disposable cups (6 1-oz. and 6 2-oz.) for the tea and liquor, and six pairs of chopsticks are included. The *Ching Ming* package costs \$47.00 and is available from April 4 on. To order, call **Kwock Nam Lau** at 524-4461 or 524-2843.

U.S.-CHINA OUTLOOK

Dan Piccuta, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, will give a talk on "U.S.-China Relations under the New Administration," from 5:30-7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 6. He will discuss the political and economic relationship between the U.S. and China at the outset of the Obama administration as well as the impact of the current financial crisis on our bilateral ties. The talk will be held at the Plaza Club, 900 Fort Street Mall (20th floor). The cost is \$20.00 general admission; \$15.00 for members of the sponsoring organizations (the Chinese Chamber is a sponsor); and \$10.00 for academics and students. For more information or to make reservations (deadline is April 3), call the UH Manoa Confucius Institute at 956-8891.

TAIWAN "YOUTH" SUMMER CAMP

The Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission will be holding summer camps this summer: Summer camp #1 will be for youth 16-18 years of age while summer camp #2 will be for young people 19-27 years old. Activities include Chinese language studies, cultural studies, seminars on various aspects of Taiwan, field trips, and "youth" networking. Participants' U.S. passports must be valid for six months beyond the summer camp dates. Participants pay \$600.00 as partial payment for food, lodging, and ground transportation (OCAC pays another \$700.00 per participant) as well as round-trip airfare to Taiwan. There will be an information meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the United Chinese Society hall, 42 North King Street. Please RSVP to **Henry Lee** at 536-4621.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Ted C. T. Li

My heartfelt congratulations to all of our newly elected Chinese Chamber board members and officers for 2009-2010. I am very happy that each of the new board members and officers are proven, strong, and talented business and community leaders. Please mark your calendar and reserve the evening of Friday, May 22, for our Chamber spring banquet and installation of new officers.

Renovation of our new Chamber office building is still pending, due to the building permit taking longer than we anticipated or would like. Hopefully, we will start the renovations before the end of March. The new move-in date will now be some time in April, and we hope to have our grand opening in early May, 2009.

The fundraising activity for our newly acquired building is going strong. The co-chairs are **Victor Lim** and **Ed Pei**. So whenever you receive an email or phone call from any of the fundraising committee members, please *kokua* and give generously, your Chamber needs your support. As of March 26, 2009, we have received one hundred eighty thousand dollars. We hope that we will have 100% participation from our membership, with each member donating or pledging whatever he or she can.

I am told that the general membership meeting on Thursday, March 12, was very successful and well attended. Unfortunately, our Executive Vice President, **Wen Chung Lin**, and I had to be at a dinner reception for a delegation from the Guangdong Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (GOCAO). The reception was co-hosted by your Chamber and eleven other Chinese societies. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a big *mahalo* to all of you for supporting your Chamber events. I hope you liked the networking opportunity and enjoyed the presentation by your fellow member, **Douglas Ho**, as well as the seven-course dinner from **Linda** and **Larry Chan**, who are both Chamber members as well as owners of The Mandalay restaurant. If

you have any suggestions to improve our meetings, please contact our membership committee chair, **Gerald Chang**, or myself.

The GOCAO delegation of five visited many Chinese societies and toured Chinatown. According to the head of the delegation, Director General **Wu Ruicheng**, this was their office's first visit to Hawaii, and it was very fruitful and successful, for they were able to connect with many of the local Chinese societies and to get to know the needs of the local Chinese first-hand. He pledged to work more closely with our Chamber and will provide more support for our Chamber activities. In particular, Director General Wu encouraged the Chamber to partner with some cities in Guangdong to organize Chinese study camps for Hawaii high school and college students. His department will take care of the housing and tuition costs, and the student only has to pay for his or her roundtrip air fare and personal expenses. Of course if any Chamber members needs assistance with commercial affairs in Guangdong, the GOCAO would be happy to help.



2009 NARCISSUS QUEEN GOODWILL TOUR

Delegation Leader: Dennis Hwang
President-Elect & General Chairman of 60th Narcissus Festival

Amazing China VIP Tour Featuring First Class Accommodations; Exclusive Dinners with Marvelous Regional Cuisine; the Great Cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Xian, Hong Kong and Chengdu; and the Beautiful Countryside of Jiuzhaigou, Leshan and Guilin.

Optional Package Tours for Hong Kong, Zhongshan, and Shenzhen Available.

June 7 – June 23 (17 days & 16 nights)
Cost: \$4,688 plus tax

For further information and reservation, please contact:

Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
Phone: 533-3181
Email: info@chinesechamber.com

Skyway Express, Inc. (Travel Agency)
Phone: 526-1347 · Fax: 537-6999
Email: info@skywayextravel.com



CHAMBER ELECTIONS

The annual election of directors was held on Friday, March 6. There were four new directors elected: **Tina Au, Michael Chan, Michael Ching,** and **Angela Wu-Ki.** Re-elected to serve a three-year term (2009-2012) were **Anthony Chang, Kelfred Chang, Lishan Chong, Lee-Ann Choy, Phoebe Chrisman, Cy Feng, Thanh Quoc Lam, Daniel Lau, Ted Li, Hamilton Liu, Edward Ngan, Wanda Tse,** and **Joseph Young.**

With the election of directors completed, a special board meeting was held on Friday, March 20, to elect officers to serve for one year, beginning June 1, 2009. The results were: President, **Dennis Hwang;** President-Elect, **Jeffrey Lau;** First Vice President **John Hui;** Second Vice President, **Libby Lew;** Third Vice President, **Gerald Chang;** English Secretary, **Michele Choy;** Chinese Secretary, **John Zhang;** Treasurer, **Sylvia Louie;** Assistant Treasurer, **Gayle Lau;** and Immediate Past President, **Ted Li.**

The installation banquet will be held on Friday, May 22, at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai. In the meantime, congratulations to the directors and incoming officers.

Condolences

Myron Freeman passed away on February 23. He was a Realtor® and principal broker for Honolulu Real Estate, a real estate sales and property management company. Prior to that, however, Myron founded several businesses, including “Adventure Gear” and “Adventure International” in which he was president as well as chief designer of its outdoor clothing. He also built and managed factories in both China and Taiwan. Following the birth of his son, Kevin, Myron and his wife, Ceci, relocated to Hawaii in 1990, where he opened and operated the five-store chain “Ciao, Ciao Gelato” before devoting full-time to real estate in 1996. He was active with the Honolulu Board of Realtors, Rotary, and the Waikiki Yacht Club. Myron is survived by his wife, **Ceci,** and his son, **Kevin.**

Former Chamber president and long-time emeritus director **Wallace Wong** passed away on March 9 at the age of 100. He was an active member of a number of organizations, including the Chamber, the United Chinese Society of Hawaii, and the Wong Kong Har Tong of Hawaii. Wally’s dedication as a volunteer was recognized by his being named 2002 UCS Citizen of the Year and in receiving the Chinese Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. His favorite pastime was golf, an avocation he avidly pursued over sixty years, and at the age of 92, Wally shot his third hole-in-one! As an avid golfer, Wally served as a member of the Palolo Chinese Home Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament Committee, and managed to golf twice a week with a 21 handicap. He is survived by sons **Gerald, Dennis,** and **Wayne;** brother **John;** sister **Kee Fun Lee;** eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

To both the Freeman and Wong families, we send our deepest condolences at this trying time.

MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The first general membership meeting of the calendar year was held on March 12, at the Mandalay Restaurant. Members and guests had an hour for networking before a sumptuous seven-course dinner. (At least one person commented that the food was better than at the Coronation Ball). After dinner, the 95 people present heard **Douglas Ho,** owner of Classic Coins of Hawaii, give a presentation on “Investing in Gold in Turbulent Economic Times.” He also had a display of some of the gold coins he has for sale, and **Reuben Wong** also brought some of his coin collection.

LANTERN ADVERTISING RATES

Chamber members wishing to publicize their services or goods to our 300-plus members should be aware of the following rates: \$150.00 full-page, \$75.00 half-page, \$40.00 quarter-page, and \$25.00 for business card-size ads. To run your ad, contact the Chamber at 533-3181.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr 21 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
- Apr 28 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
The New Empress Restaurant
12:00 noon
- Apr 30 Thu **General Membership Meeting**
Foreign Trade Zone – 5:30 pm



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MEMBER NEWS

State representative **Corinne Ching** wrote an op-ed piece, “Bill will help Hawaii harness its history to help our economy ” in the Friday, February 20, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. That bill, S.359, was introduced by Senator **Daniel Inouye** in the U.S. Senate on January 30, and calls for federal designation of a “Hawaii Capital National Heritage Area.” Corinne felt that in light of the slowdown in the Hawaii and U.S. economies, “heritage visitors” (who spend more than other tourists) were a prime tourist market. She also noted that President **Barack Obama** “is a native son, and all things Obama are generating huge interest, including where he lived and played.” A later article in the February 27 *Honolulu Advertiser* noted that the NHA designation, “would make organizations and businesses in the Capital Cultural District eligible for millions of dollars in federal and other funds” to encourage cultural tourism. (The Hawaii Capital Cultural District was recognized by the state and city in 2003, and the Hawaii Capital Cultural Coalition was created to oversee planning). A map accompanying the *Advertiser* article shows that the NHA would be bounded by Kalihi Street, the Nuuanu Pali, Punahou Street, and Honolulu Harbor. It would resemble an ancient Hawaiian ahupua’a running from the mountains to the sea. Chinatown (and the Chamber’s new building) is right in the NHA and could qualify for funds.

On March 8, U.S. Representative **Neil Abercrombie** has announced that he will be a candidate for governor in the 2010 election.

NEW MEMBERS

At its March 20 meeting, the board approved the applications for college student **Stephanie Chan** (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); legislative aide **Kristine Duong** (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); University of Hawaii graduate student and federal employee **Jennifer Lam** (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president and commercial real estate loan officer **Brett Lau** (sponsored by **Douglas Ho**); Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) database administrator **Hu Li** (sponsored by **Nelson Wang**); assistant vice president and Bank of Hawaii Chinatown branch manager **Lianne Uradomo** (sponsored by **Gerald Chang**); and Hawaii Pacific University student **Dan Yuan** (sponsored by **Michele Choy**). Welcome to each of you and we look forward to meeting you at an upcoming Chamber function.



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII
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