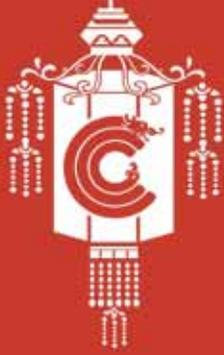


# LANTERN

April 2009



夏威夷中華總商會

THE  
CHINESE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
OF HAWAII

## Swine Flu, Redux

Currently in the news is an outbreak of swine flu, with 44 confirmed cases in the U.S. as of the evening of Monday, April 27. (An earlier outbreak of swine flu in 1976 led to a mass vaccination campaign that was a “debacle,” with the vaccine causing around 500 cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome and 25 deaths before the vaccinations were halted). While there is cause for concern, people should not panic.

According to CNN reports, there are 19 airports nationally that have quarantine stations on-airport, and local news reports indicate that Honolulu International Airport (HIA) is one of those airports. In addition, HIA has Center for Disease Control personnel as well as stocks of Tamiflu, one of two effective antivirals (the other is Relenza), in place. (With direct flights from overseas to Neighbor Island airports, however, it is problematic whether an infected person might slip through). On Sunday, Dr. **Martin Blaser** of New York University told viewers that it is a good thing that the annual flu season is coming to an end with warmer weather, and the summer may provide a break before a possible return of swine flu in the fall. (According to fluFACTS.com, flu season in the U.S. is from October to May, with the peak from December to March. At the same time, the seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere where so far, no cases have been reported in countries below the Equator).

As for precautions, a review of articles in a variety of national publication Web sites (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*), recommends frequently washing your hands with alcohol-based waterless “hand sanitizers” with at least 60% alcohol contents. (Readily available hand sanitizers like Purell® have 62% alcohol). You should avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes with unwashed hands. (Purell®, for instance, comes in handy 2-ounce pocket-size containers). Due to the “aerosol component,” people who cough or sneeze should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, their elbow or hand (which should promptly be “washed” with a hand sanitizer). And of course if you have symptoms of the flu, swine or otherwise, stay home!

Common symptoms of swine flu include fever, fatigue, and lack of appetite, and some people may also experience runny nose, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea. If you have these symptoms, stay home and call your doctor. Don’t just show up at what might be a clinic or hospital that’s unprepared for you.

For more information on precautions, go to the periodically updated Centers for Disease Control Web site ([www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu)) and refer to CDC advice via CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/04/26/swin.flu.risks/index.html>).

## INSTALLATION BANQUET

The installation of Chamber officers for 2009-2010 will be on Friday, May 22. The banquet will be held at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai, with no-host cocktails starting at 5:30 p.m. and the seven-course dinner and the program from 6:15 p.m. In addition to the installation, awards will be presented for Lifetime Achievement (**George Chu**), Outstanding Businessperson (**Warren Luke**), Outstanding Chamber Volunteer (**Paul Hayashi**), and Outstanding Narcissus Volunteer (**Blossom Tyau**). The cost of the banquet is \$38.00 per person or \$380.00 for a table of ten. If you’re planning to attend, call the Chamber at 533-3181 before Tuesday, May 12.

## NARCISSUS GOODWILL TOUR

This year, the June 7-23 Narcissus Goodwill Tour will visit Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Xi’an, Jiuzhaigou, Chengdu, Guilin, and Hong Kong, with an extra-cost option of extending in Hong Kong and adding tours of Zhongshan and Shenzhen. There are currently about 50 Chamber members and friends who have signed up to accompany **Dennis and Rena Hwang** and Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong** and her court on this wide-ranging tour. This is a trip not to be missed since each year, the entire tour group receives royal treatment each year in China. It is still possible to sign up, but the window of opportunity is quickly closing, especially if you need to get a U.S. passport. So don’t wait any longer, call Skyway Express at 526-1347 right away.



President  
Ted C. T. Li

On Tuesday, April 14, Governor **Linda Lingle** signed the bill repealing Act 228/08, which had required archival-quality photographs of certain buildings to document Hawaii's architectural history. This imposed an obvious burden and delay for renovating our new building, particularly since the work was to be done on the interior and would not touch the exterior.

At long last, we were issued our building renovation permit (thanks to **Alvin Wong**, who had to spend hours convincing the City employees) and our contractor, RUI Construction, started the renovations on Saturday, April 18. If everything goes well, the project will be completed by the first week of May. The Chamber is planning to relocate our office around May 10. A grand opening celebration is planned for Wednesday, June 3. Please watch your mailbox, whether e-mail or snail mail, for our office relocation notice and the starting date for conducting business in our new second floor location. The telephone and fax numbers will remain the same. Our new address will be 8 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, and the new building is located at the corner of South King Street and Nuuanu Avenue.

On Thursday, April 2, 2009, the State Legislature honored the 60th

anniversary of the Narcissus Festival. Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong**, Pageant Chair **Michele Choy**, former President **Wesley Fong**, President-Elect **Dennis Hwang**, and I were on hand to represent the Chamber in accepting the honor. Many officers, directors, members, Chinese society presidents, community leaders, and friends were in the House Chamber gallery to witness the ceremony. A House resolution introduced by Representative **Corinne W.L. Ching** cited the Chinese Chamber for providing excellent services to the community over the past 98 years and for an outstanding job in perpetuating the Chinese culture in Hawaii.

A big *mahalo* to Corinne and her staff for making this happen and for arranging and hosting a reception for about 70 people, who were present at the morning legislative session. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Wesley Fong and Corinne's Chief of Staff, **Jacqueline Walden**, for their coordinating efforts. And of course, on behalf of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, I would like to thank all those individuals who were present. Your friendship and support are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank all those past and present presidents and directors of the Chamber for their generous support of our building fundraising effort. As of April 23, we have about 90 percent commitment from our presidents and directors for outright donations or pledges. I am hopeful that by May 15, we will reach our goal of 100 percent participation from our board of directors.

I would like to urge those of you who have not signed up for this month's general membership and networking meeting, please do it ASAP because the facility can only accommodate up to 80

people. Please call your Chamber office at 533-3181 for reservations. The event will be held on Thursday, April 30, at Pier 2 Foreign-Trade Zone, starting at 5:30 p.m. There will be a tour of that facility as well as refreshments and an opportunity to network. I hope to see you there.

I would also like to encourage all of you to participate in installation banquet on Friday, May 22, at Waikiki Lau Yee Chai Restaurant, starting at 5:30 p.m. This year we are honoring Mr. **Warren Luke** as Outstanding Businessperson; Mr. **George Chu** as Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Ms. **Blossom Tyau** as Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer, and Mr **Paul Hayashi** as Outstanding Chamber Volunteer.

Finally, this year's Narcissus Goodwill Tour will start on Sunday, June 7. If you have not participated in the goodwill tour before, I strongly suggest you join our talented and beautiful Queen, **Lisa Wong**, and her court for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. My family and I totally enjoyed the goodwill tour last year. For detailed information, please call the Chamber right away at 533-3181.

## 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.

Each year since 1990, Junior Achievement Hawaii's Business Hall of Fame has honored local businesspeople for their "enduring contributions to ... business and the community" through their entrepreneurial and civic activities. Longtime Helemano Plantation president and CEO **Susanna Cheung** was one of three recently honored by JAH as a 2009 Laureate of the Business Hall of Fame. The April 8 *Midweek's* "Honolulu Pa'ina" included photos Susanna, husband **Ho Ming Cheung**, and others attending the induction dinner at the Royal Hawaiian Monarch Ballroom. (Previous Laureates include **Lily Yao** (1999) and **Eddie Flores, Jr.** (2003)).



Thanks to State Representative **Corinne Ching**, 2009 Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong**, Chamber President **Ted Li**, President-Elect **Dennis Hwang**, Narcissus Pageant chair **Michele Choy**, and former president **Wesley Fong** were invited to a House session on April 2. Each of them was presented with an impressive framed and personalized Resolution as well as numerous *lei*. Afterwards, the five and other invitees enjoyed a reception with food apparently catered by Panda Express.



Two recent incidents of violence in Chinatown galvanized **Chu Lan Shubert Kwock**, president of the recently formed Chinatown Business and Community Association, to take action. According to the April 5 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, the community association demanded that the Honolulu Police Department double patrols in Chinatown and explain their plan for dealing with the violence. And following an April 11 march through Chinatown by concerned residents and businesspeople, Police Chief **Boisse Correa** stated that police presence in Chinatown had been tripled. According to an April 12 *Star-Bulletin* article, residents, shop owners, and shoppers are reassured, at least for the time being.

The April 18 *Star-Bulletin* reported that Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president **Kenneth Sheffield** has been promoted to vice president and business development officer in the Trust and Private Client Services Division.

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In addition to appearing on the **Ellen DeGeneres Show** in February, Narcissus Queen **Lisa Wong** was spotlighted in a Spring 2009 *Iolani Bulletin* article, "2009 Narcissus Festival Queen Lisa H. W. Wong Class of 2001." You can read the article, complete with a full-color photo of Lisa and her court as well as a YouTube clip of Lisa "speed painting" her Pageant talent routine: [http://www.iolanibulletin.org/issues/2009/spring/\\_departments/11\\_alumnus\\_profile](http://www.iolanibulletin.org/issues/2009/spring/_departments/11_alumnus_profile)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 21	Tue	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
Apr 28	Tue	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon
Apr 30	Thu	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> State of Hawaii Foreign-Trade Zone 9 – 5:30 pm
May 10	Sun	<b>Mother's Day</b>
May 19	Tue	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
May 22	Fri	<b>Installation Banquet</b> Waikiki Lau Yee Chai Restaurant – 5:30 pm
May 25	Mon	<b>Memorial Day</b>
May 26	Tue	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon

The LANTERN a monthly publication  
of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
76 North King Street • Suite 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
(808) 533-3181

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## UH CHINESE CLASS

The University of Hawaii Sociology Department is planning to offer a China-focused class, Sociology 356, "Survey of the Sociology of China." The classes would be Monday through Friday, 9:00-10:15 a.m. It would be held during the second summer session (July 6-August 14), however, current enrollment is low and the class may not be held. The course offers a general introduction to the main features of Chinese society. The "themes" covered in the course include "the relations of rural and urban sectors of society, the structure of families, political and economic power, cultural hegemony, education and the media, patterns of social inequality, and future changes." Unfortunately, the announcement assumes people have already have the necessary contact information to sign up for the course. If you're interested, you probably should call the UHM sociology department.

### NEW MEMBERS

At its February 24 meeting, the board of directors approved the applications for **Nichelle Chin**, a student at UH West Oahu (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); **Michael Ching**, a partner at Ernst & Young LLP (sponsored by **Vernon Ching**); **Tiffany Chun**, a student (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); **Helen Lau**, a graduate student now at the University of San Francisco (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); **Bryan Li**, vice president, Fowler Property Acquisitions (sponsored by **Ted Li**); **Shaclyn Lin** a student at Honolulu Community College (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); **Teresa Lu**, a registered nurse at Castle Medical Center (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); 2006 Narcissus Queen **Kristi Sue-Ako**, currently a graduate student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); **Robert Wong**, a registered representative with Grant Bettingen, Inc. (sponsored by **Denis Wong**); **Verna Wong**, Assistant Director for MBA internships at the University of Hawaii Manoa (sponsored by **Edward Pei**); and 2008 Narcissus Queen **Catherine Wong Jayne**, currently a graduate student at the University of Hawaii (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**). We look forward to meeting each of you at an upcoming Chamber event. (NOTE: Due to an editorial oversight, these new members were omitted from last month's *Lantern* – apologies to all).



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII  
76 North King Street • Suite 202 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817