

LANTERN

May 2009

FIRST MAJOR DONATION TO BUILDING FUND

Following a brief morning tour of the Chamber's new building at 8 South King Street on Saturday, May 30, Dr. **Lawrence Tseu** committed to make a donation of \$150,000.00 to the Chamber Building Fund. He was impressed by the newly renovated Chamber office spaces on the second floor, and by the exciting plans for Chinatown Community Development Center programs. Dr. Tseu, a long-time supporter of the Chamber and sponsor of Chamber events, will have naming rights to the multipurpose conference room.



NEW CHAMBER OFFICE

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, the Chamber's office furniture and equipment were moved from 76 North King Street to the Chamber's new building at 8 South King Street. The new office was up and running on Monday, May 11. The computers, Internet connection, and telephone lines worked seamlessly so that Chamber members and the public were probably not even aware that the office had been moved. That was due to the many hours of hard work by **Justin Goo**. Justin has a doctorate (Ph.D.) in communications and information science, and he put his knowledge and experience to good use over some 10-12 hours so far. Among other things, he moved the existing computer equipment, set up the DSL and telephone lines, reconfigured the e-mail and Web server, and set up the computer work stations on a new network.

The new office has already been used for the monthly meeting of the Chamber executive committee as well as a strategic planning meeting for the 2009-2010 officers. While they have had a chance to see the newly renovated office spaces, many others have not. There will be a dedication and blessing of the new building on Wednesday, June 3, and an open house on Saturday, June 6. Invitations to these events have already been mailed out, so please take this opportunity to see what phase I of the renovations look like. (Eventually, phase II renovations would involve re-roofing to remove asbestos-containing roofing, replacing the air conditioning unit that is on its last legs, installing a small elevator to make the second floor offices more accessible to the public, and ensuring that the bathrooms are ADA-compliant).

Coronation Ball Theme Contest

The start of the 61st annual Narcissus Festival will start with the Splendor of China on the first weekend of October. Meanwhile, **Kevin Lam**, chair of the January 30, 2010 Coronation Ball, has members of his committees hard at work. This time around, input is sought for a theme for the Coronation Ball. The person submitting the best theme suggestion will receive one (1) free admission to the dinner, entertainment, and festivities at that Coronation Ball. Entries should be submitted to Kevin at kthlam@hotmail.com and the subject line should read, "Coronation Ball Theme Contest." Deadline for entries is Tuesday, June 30.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Ted C. T. Li

ALOHA!

Dear fellow members and friends:

A year goes by extremely fast. It has been a very busy, but also a very productive and rewarding year. Thanks to our hard-working and supportive officers, board of directors, and members, together we accomplished many of our goals with splendid results. Here are the highlights of our major accomplishments during the past 12 months:

First, let me give you a report on the Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund. Thanks to your generous donations, we collected a total of \$115,000.00. Through the PRC Los Angeles consulate's 501(c)(3) charitable entity, we transferred the money to an organization in China, the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC), to administer the funds. Our donation was earmarked for a new library at a school being rebuilt in Sichuan. The library will be presented as a gift from the Chinese community of Hawaii

In the area of membership, we were able to retain more members than in any recent year. We are also bringing in more new members at a younger age, and we have even created a new category for Associate Members. The Associate Members pay \$35.00 dues per year, compared to \$120.00 for regular membership. The Associate members are basically either college or graduate stu-

dents or current and former contestants of recent Narcissus Pageants. These Associate Members not only could be a good source for internship at your company, but also a great source of volunteers for our projects.

In the area of the Chamber's financials, we currently have very strong balance sheets due to your support for and participation in the successful projects and programs that we conducted during the year and the current fundraising campaign for our building fund. My sincere *mahalo* to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and event participants.

In the area of programs, in addition to the major programs that we already have in place, this year we have created the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) and the category of Associate Memberships. The CCDC will help shape the financial well-being of our Chinatown community in the future. The Associate membership program will nurture the younger generation to become future business and community leaders, and in the meantime, help to provide additional manpower for our programs and activities.

In the area of activities, thanks to your participation and support, we have been breaking records for many of our events. For the Splendor of China, we had over 150 booths and we had to turn away some vendors. For some of our general membership meetings, we were able to draw 150 to 200 people to attend. For this year's Coronation Ball, we were able to fill the Tapa Ballroom to its maximum capacity with record attendance. For many of our projects, we were able to partner with our city and state governments and the private sector. With the creation of CCDC, I believe we will be able to promote stronger private and public partnerships.

Owning our building has been the chamber's long-time goal and a dream for many of us. After almost a century, our

dream has finally become a reality. We closed escrow for our office building in December 2008, and we finished the phase-one renovation in early May this year. We moved our office on Sunday, May 10, and started to conduct business in our own office building on Monday, May 11. We will have the building dedication and blessing on Wednesday, June 3, and an open house on Saturday, June 6. Invitations have been sent out to all the Chinese society presidents as well as our members and friends. So please join us for the celebration.

A big *mahalo* to our two Narcissus Queens, Katherine Wong Jayne and Lisa Wong, and their Princesses. You all are great ambassadors for the Chinese community in Hawaii and fantastic role models for your peers. I am inspired by your friendliness, talent, hard work, intelligence, and dedication. It was a great pleasure to be associated with all of you.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my executive team for a job well done, and my heartfelt congratulations to our 2009-2010 executive officers. Best wishes to **Dennis** and each of you. For our board of directors, I appreciated your wisdom and would like to thank you for your guidance and support. For **Wen** and **Grace**, thank you very much for your hard work and dedication. For my many friends and Chamber members, thank you very much for your friendship. I hope I will continue to be the recipient of your advice. Because of you, the Chinese Chamber enjoyed a very successful year. I hope the Chinese Chamber can count on your continued support in the months and years to come.

Thank you, *mahalo*, and *xiexie*





Top to Bottom: Daniel with Dr. David McClain, President, University of Hawaii; Daniel with Dr. Vance Roley, Dean of the Shilder School of Business; Daniel with Alvin and Donna Wong.

According to the May 12 *Honolulu Advertiser*, Chamber director **Daniel Lau** was recently honored by the University of Hawaii Alumni Foundation with its 2009 UH Founders Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a 1941 graduate of the UH where he studied business economics. During World War II, Danny earned a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster during the Battle of the Bulge. (For military personnel, the Purple Heart is one award they would rather not receive since it involves being wounded by enemy fire, and the oak leaf cluster indicates a *second* award). In 1952, he was one of the co-founders of Finance Factors and currently serves as chairman of the board. Danny has also been the United Chinese Society's 2003 Model Chinese Citizen and 2008 Honolulu Forever Young Award recipient.

The annual "People's Choice Awards" supplement arrived in the Sunday, May 31, *Advertiser*. Among the businesses selected as the 2009 "Best of the Best" are **Raymond Siu's** Pah Ke's Chinese Restaurant in Kaneohe (first place in Chinese Food); **Thomas Ky's** Assaggio (first place in Italian Food); **Thanh Quoc Lam's** Ba-Le Inc (first place in Vietnamese Food and second place in Sandwich); **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, and **Kwock Yum "Johnson" Kam's** L & L Drive-Inn (second place for Loco Moco and Plate Lunch and third place for Spam Musubi); and **Ted Li's** Crack Seed Center (second place for Crack Seed). Congratulations to each of you! Maybe next year, Advertiser readers and Chamber members will remember **Larry and Linda Chan's** The Mandalay for Chinese food; **Elvira Lo's** Hawaii Monarch candies for Candy; and **Edwin Gum's** Siam Garden Café for Thai food. And oddly, while there are Okazu-ya and Bento categories, there is no *dim sum* one for **Kwock Nam Lau's** Royal Kitchen. Finally, for those looking for a bargain, even if it means getting up when it's still dark outside and standing in line for hours, L & L Drive-Inn/Hawaiian Barbecue will have its fourth annual \$0.76 plate lunch and \$0.10 soft drink specials commemorating the founding of the ever growing, ubiquitous chain in 1976. The event will be on Tuesday, **June 9**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., only at the Keeaumoku location.

"SAVING" SANDALWOOD IN HAWAII

The Oahu chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association has a project to reestablish once abundant sandalwood (or *iliah*) trees in Hawaii. (Hawaii is known as "*tanxiangshan*" or "*tanhearngshan*" in Mandarin and Cantonese, respectively). The Saving Sandalwood Symposium will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Monday, **June 8**, at Kapiolani Community College (*Ohia* Building, Room 118). (There is an *iliah* tree near the southeast corner of KCC's Great Lawn). Those attending will learn about the care and planting of *iliah* as well as its significance in Hawaiian history. *Iliahi* seedlings have been propagated, and are available for purchase as seedlings or a gallon-size plant.

On-line Class

Winnie Chan has forwarded information about an on-line class, "Music as Therapy" (MUS 400), being offered during the first UH Manoa summer session, May 26-July 2. Since it is being offered exclusively online, the start date is not particularly relevant. To register, use "CRN 4145" at www.myuhinfo.hawaii.edu/page/home. If you have questions regarding the class, contact the instructor, Dr. Harvey, at (808) 352-6088 or aharvey@hawaii.edu.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3	Wed	Dedication & Blessing of Chinese Chamber's New Building 8 S. King Street, Suite 201 11:00 a.m.
June 4	Thu	General Membership Meeting Waikiki Lau Yee Chai 11:30 a.m.
June 6	Sat	Open House of Chinese Chamber's New Building 8 S. King Street, Suite 201 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
June 21	Sun	Father's Day
June 23	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 12:00 noon
June 30	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting The New Empress Restaurant 12:00 noon

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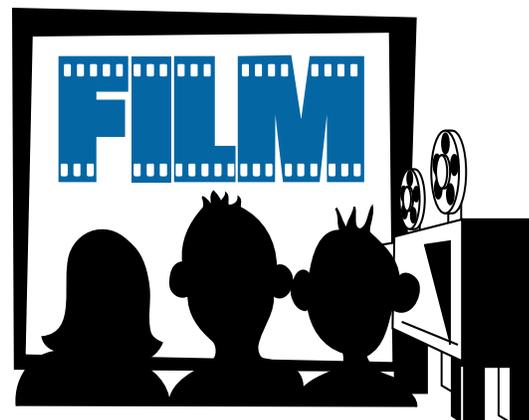
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Academy of Arts Chinese Film Series

The Honolulu Academy of Arts will be showing a series of box-office hit Chinese movies this summer, "Sweet and Sour: Romantic Comedies from China" (June 2-July 10). These movies are the Hawaii premiere of "If You Are the One" (June 2-7); "Sparrow" (June 9-14); "Cape No. 7" (June 16-21); "One Foot Off the Ground" (June 23-28); and "Please Vote for Me" (June



30-July 10). Ticket prices are \$5.00 for Academy members, \$6.00 for students, seniors, and military, and \$7.00 for all others. For show days and times at the Doris Duke Theatre, contact the Academy at 532-8700 or visit their Web site at <http://www.honoluluacademy.org/cmshaa/academy/index.aspx?id=2402>.

NEW MEMBERS

At its May 26 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Howard Lum**, president of Aloha Gourmet Products, Inc., and president of Lum Sai Ho Tong (sponsored by **Victor Lim**); **Daren Lum**, vice president and general manager of Aloha Gourmet Products, Inc. (sponsored by **Victor Lim**); **Richard Landford**, general manager for Sam's Club Keeaumoku (sponsored by Ted Li); **Kacie Unten**, a graduate student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and employed part-time by MH Consulting LLC (sponsored by **Michele Choy**); and **Chenyng Wu**, a student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, majoring in travel industry management (sponsored by **Gerald Chang**).



THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

8 South King Street • Suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813