

LANTERN

January 2010

Chinatown Open House/New Year Celebration

This year, Chinese New Year falls on Sunday, February 14. So on Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6, the Chinese Chamber will be having its annual two-day celebration. The Chinatown Open House on Friday will have a number of lion dance clubs cavorting throughout Chinatown and 2010 Narcissus Queen **Angie Zhang** and her Court visiting shops and restaurants, wishing the owners and patrons a happy and prosperous new year. Saturday afternoon, the Narcissus Queen and Court will participate in a 3:30 p.m. parade from the State Capitol, along Hotel Street to Maunakea Street. And on both days, there will be the Chinese New Year Celebration at the Cultural Plaza, with booths selling a variety of goods and delectable foods. So bring your family to Chinatown to see the lions and feed them for good luck in the Year of the Tiger.

"The White Snake"

Once again, the University of Hawaii Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance is presenting Chinese *jingju* (Beijing "opera") with its production of "The White Snake," one of China's most famous and beloved plays. There will be high productions values, and the performances will include comedy, drama, thrilling song and music, and vibrant battles.

The current production will be the English-language world premiere. Performances will be at Kennedy Theatre, 1770 East-West Road, on February 5 and 6 and 10-13. Tickets are available by phone at 944-2697 or online from www.etickethawaii.com. Prices are \$22.00 regular; \$20.00 seniors (age 60 or older), military, and UH faculty/staff; \$15.00 students; and \$5.00 UHM students with a validated Spring 2010 UHM photo ID. UHM students can get two tickets for \$5.00, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on February 10 and 11. For more information, call the box office at 956-7655.



(L to R) Michelle Boudreau as "The White Snake" and Meg Thiel as "The Green Snake" in the production of "The White Snake" at UHM's Kennedy Theatre Feb. 5-14. Photo by David Beales



Chinese Jingju (Beijing Opera) production of "The White Snake" at UHM's Kennedy Theatre Feb. 5-14. Photo by Shuzo Uemoto

Narcissus Classic

by Sylvia Louie

Due to popular demand, the Diamond Head Theatre has sold out almost all of its shows of "The Joy Luck Club." If you haven't reserved your tickets yet for the Chinese Chamber's special showing on Wednesday, February 10, please do so right away, as the theater has been referring the general public to our event. We have already heard glowing reports about the show and its four fabulous female principal actors.

The ticket cost is \$35.00 and includes a light meal during intermission, courtesy of Panda Express. Not only will you enjoy this beloved family play about the assimilation of four Chinese immigrant women into American culture, you can also visit with your fellow members and meet lovely 2010 Narcissus Queen **Angie Zhang** and her Court.

To reserve your tickets today, contact **Grace** at the Chamber right away by phone at 533-3181 or by e-mail at gchan@chinesechamber.com. Seats are on a first come, first served basis.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Committee for Chinese Culture and Festival will host a Chinese New Year celebration on Sunday, February 21, at McKinley High School auditorium. There will be singing, Chinese and Hawaiian dancing, martial arts, and lion dance performances from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from the Chinese Chamber.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Dennis J. Hwang

Congratulations to 61st Narcissus Queen **Angie Zhang**, and her court: 1st Princess **Selena Qiu**, 2nd Princess **Megan Chun**, 3rd Princess **Karen Chang**, and 4th Princess **Bonnie Von**, for being selected as new representatives for the Chinese Chamber. I know they will have a most memorable year. Congratulations also to each of the other contestants: **Ramona Char**, **Li Mei Chen**, **Nina Jung**, **Erica Kao**, **Yi-Ting Ling**, **Lina Shi**, and **Theresa Tang** for their impressive efforts. The Chamber is very proud of all of them, and we look forward to their participation as associate members in our various programs. Thanks to **Michele Choy** and her dedicated committee for successfully running the pageant and setting the high standards for this event.

Our Coronation Ball on January 30th at the Hilton Hawaiian Village will have occurred by the time you get this, but I cordially invite you to attend other upcoming Festival events.

On February 5th, there will be the Chinatown Open House, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Chinese Chamber Office. After blessing the Chamber office, five lion club associations will fan out through closed streets of Chinatown to bless the merchants by chasing away evil spirits and bringing prosperity. Meanwhile, the Chamber officers and Queen and Court will give New Year greetings to the vendors. Also on February 5th, from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m., and on February 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., there will be the Chinese New Year Celebration at the Cultural Plaza, featuring wonderful entertainment, food, and vendors. The Chamber will have a booth at the event, so please join the officers, Narcissus Queen

and Court, members, and associate members for this fun event. If you want to volunteer for a few hours, call or e-mail the Chamber office. Or just come down and mix with your fellow members. On February 10th, we will have the Narcissus Classic - the "Joy Luck Club" at the Diamond Head Theatre, starting at 7:30 p.m. Good tickets are still available, so sign up soon.

Turning to membership activities, we had a successful general membership meeting at the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai restaurant on January 15. About 120 people showed up to hear Governor Linda Lingle speak about her initiatives on her recent China trip. These included smoothing the visa process for Chinese tourists, promoting trade in Hawaii-made products, and increasing renewable energy. Thanks to event chair **Elvira Lo**, and membership V.P. **Gerald Chang**.

As a result of a video of rats at Kekaulike Marketplace, at the request of Governor Lingle, classes on rodent control and proper food storage and sanitation were held under the auspices of the Chinatown Community Development Center. Classes were held for the Marketplace vendors on December 29 and January 7, with the possibility of more classes for the larger community since rats are a problem not limited to Chinatown. The second class was well attended, and **Andrew Nowinski** from

Tropical Termite and Pest Control conducted the class. Ten glue traps were donated to every vendor by Xtermco. I would like to thank **Wes Fong** for helping to coordinate these activities.

A curriculum is being put together for future classes, with tracks related to business development, workforce development, community improvement, and cultural activities. **Libby Lew**, **Ed Pei**, and **Patti Look** have been hard at work on this important work. It has garnered interest from our members as well as other business and educational organizations, such as Shidler College of Business and Chaminade and Hawaii Pacific Universities.

The Chinese government has accepted a Chamber proposal for ten earthquake and hazard scientists from the United States to meet with their counterparts in China. The U.S. coordinating team will be going to China at the end of April.

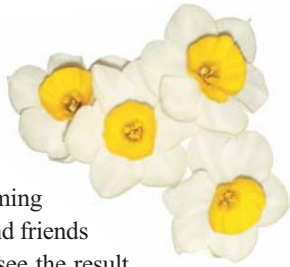
My primary goal for the remainder of my term as President is to get the members involved by actively participating in, not just attending, activities of the Chamber. As I mentioned at the Pageant, the Chamber offers something for everyone, whether your interest is cultural, business, community oriented or social. The Executive Committee and I will reach out to all of you. At the same time, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

HAITI AND OTHER DISASTER RELIEF

On January 12, Haiti was struck by a massive 7.0 earthquake, which has killed at least 150,000 Haitians. There are many governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) helping in earthquake relief. One little known NGO is ShelterBox (www.shelterbox.org), founded in 2000 by a Rotarian and initially supported by his Rotary Club. Since then, it has grown to have ten affiliates world-wide, including ShelterBox USA (www.shelterboxusa.org). At the ShelterBox Web site, there is a Rotary Club logo and a label that it's "A global Rotary Club project," the largest one in Rotary's 100-year history. Depending on the situation, the plastic ShelterBox will include two tents, each capable of sheltering ten people or one ten-person tent and an assortment of other supplies. One ShelterBox costs \$1,000.00, and smaller donations are aggregated to reach that amount. According to a January 24 *New York Times* article, an official with the International Organization for Migration says, "Tents, tents, tents ... we need tents" in Haiti. In light of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and the chance of future natural disasters in China and Taiwan, ShelterBox may be an NGO to keep in mind. And with so many would-be Haiti relief organizations looking for funds, Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) may be helpful in checking a "charity"'s *bona fides*.

Narcissus Pageant

Due to the Shanghai Circus appearing at the Hawaii Theatre on the January 15 weekend, the Narcissus Pageant was held on Saturday, January 9. (As a result, there was a three-week interval between the Pageant and Coronation Ball). Despite coming soon after the holidays, hundreds of family and friends as well as Chamber members turned out to see the result of months of preparation and practice by the twelve lovely contestants. The opening number was choreographed by **Leilani Soon**, 2008 Narcissus Second Princess and 2010 Miss Honolulu Chinese, who participated in the opening. The talent phase showed a variety of musical or dancing skills by the contestants. Following a brief intermission, the gown and speech phases allowed the contestants to show off their poise as well as their research into Chinese culture. Master of ceremonies **Jai Cunningham** did an excellent job in keeping things moving as well as interesting.



Erica Kao was named Miss Popularity based on sales of Pageant tickets and souvenir books; **Bonnie Von** was chosen Miss Congeniality based on a vote of the contestants, and **Angie Zhang** was chosen Miss Talent for her flawlessly impressive piano skills. Then the new Narcissus Court was announced: Bonnie Von was named Fourth Princess, Third Princess was **Karen Chang**, Second Princess was **Megan Chun**, and **Selena Qiu** was named First Princess. Finally, the moment everyone had waited for all evening: The judges' choice for the 61st Narcissus Queen was Angie Zhang.

Following the Pageant, there was a reception for all of the twelve young women who had competed as well as their families and friends. Altogether, around a hundred people gathered at the Empress Restaurant for a late night snack and a chance to congratulate each of the contestants for all their hard work and many hours of practice. Well done to long-time Pageant chair and contestant coordinator **Michele Choy** and her experienced team as well as to reception chair **John Zhang**.



CORONATION BALL

On Saturday, January 30, Chamber members, family, and friends gathered for an evening of pomp and ceremony, fellowship, a six-course Chinese dinner, a stately procession featuring the 2009 and 2010 Narcissus courts, the crowning of 61st Narcissus Queen **Angie Zhang** by Gov. **Linda Lingle**, and the First Waltz for the new Queen and her four princesses. This being an election year, there were a number of politicians among the dignitaries, taking the opportunity to meet potential supporters and voters. The crowd numbered 500, somewhat smaller than in previous years, but this was perhaps a reflection of the challenging economic situation in Hawaii. In any event, there was plenty of food this year as well as opportunities to meet new friends and to greet old friends. A commendable job by Chair **Kevin Lam** and his hard-working team of volunteers.



Chinatown Rats Update

At Governor **Linda Lingle**'s request, the Chinese Chamber was asked to help in the education effort for Chinatown businesses, especially those in the Kekaulike Marketplace, in controlling a possible infestation of rats. **Wesley Fong** was coordinator for educational sessions on December 29 and January 7 at the Chamber's Tseu conference room. While the first session with Department of Health personnel was sparsely attended, due to the early hour (4:30 p.m.), the second session on January 7 was very well attended by Marketplace merchants. At that session, Tropical Pest and Termite president **Andrew Nowinski** gave a presentation on getting rid of rats, and Xtermco gave each vendor 10 glue traps. The Hawaii Pest Control Association donated more than 80 pounds of sewer rodent treatment. Consideration is being given to additional sessions for Chinatown businesspeople.



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The December 28 *Honolulu Advertiser* had a nice article by **Andrew Gomes** on Ba-Le Sandwich & Bakery founder **Thanh Quoc Lam**. The very nice front page article, “Ba-Le entrepreneur stakes his future on new location,” outlined Thanh Quoc’s plans for the former Weyerhaeuser property on Nimitz as well as his willingness to take a calculated risk during what others see as bad times. Renovations to the box plant building, located at the corner of Nimitz and Alakawa, are currently on-going. (For newer members who aren’t familiar with Thanh Quoc, in 2002, he was named the Small Business Administration’s National Small Business Person of the Year). While he is a smart businessman, he is also one of the nicest, most humble people around and has materially supported the Splendor of China, among other Chamber events, over the years.

Former Chamber President **Wesley Fong** has been much in the news lately. In addition to his efforts on the Chinatown rat problem (see article above), he testified as president of the Mun Lun School in favor of Resolution 09-364. That resolution, approved 9-0 by the City Council, urges the City to prepare a special plan for the area bounded by Nuuanu Stream, Vineyard Boulevard, Nuuanu Avenue, and Nimitz Highway. Located within this area is the City’s proposed 100-unit River Street Residences, originally intended to include the chronically homeless among its residents. In addition, Wes will be one of four University of Hawaii graduates who will be recognized by the UH Alumni Association as “2010 Distinguished Alumni” at a dinner on May 11 at the Sheraton Waikiki. (For more information on the dinner, go to the UHAA’s Web page at www.uhalumni.org/old/pub/UHF).

On **Martin Luther King, Jr.**’s January 15 birthday, **Marsha Rose Joyner** helped ring the Nagasaki Peace Bell on the grounds of Honolulu Hale and was pictured doing so in the next day’s *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. Then in an op-ed piece in the January 19 *Star-Bulletin*, while lauding Mayor Hannemann’s efforts in helping Chinatown, Marsha also referred to the “River Street Corridor.” She correctly pointed out that communities need residents who live and work in the area, and adding more homeless to the area [such as the proposed River Street Residences project] generates no income and thereby drains City coffers. Marsha writes of “SIMBY,” start in my backyard, to develop the corridor, not to house more homeless people. (A companion op-ed by **Lee Stack** deals with Chinatown “Doing more than its share on housing” the homeless as well as affordable housing).

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii’s BizNet in the January 18 *Advertiser* focused on Opihi Net, LLC (www.opihinet.com) and **Justin Goo**, Ph.D., in “Solutions that stick.” Justin is the proud owner of the IT (information technology) consulting company as well as the creator of the Chinese Chamber’s Web page. If you have questions or problems with your computer system, whether just one or more than one, Justin may be able to help.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
Feb 15	Mon	President’s Day
Feb 16	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber’s Office – 5:30 p.m.
Feb 23	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 noon

NEW MEMBERS

At its December 22 meeting, the board of directors approved the applications for **Alex Lei**, CEO of Green Security Corp. (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); and **Mary Ann Zhao**, Director of Hawaii Excellence for Learning (sponsored by **John Zhang**). Then at its January 26 meeting, the board approved the applications for **Randall Ching**, President of Highway Construction Co., Ltd. (sponsored by **Libby Lew**); **Chongyi Liu**, an MBA candidate at Hawaii Pacific University (sponsored by **Gerald Chang**); **Hana Yin**, a financial advisor at AXA Advisors (sponsored by **Tina Au**); and **Sonny Zhang**, Assistant Vice President at Bank of Hawaii (sponsored by **Betty Brow**). Welcome to the Chamber, and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.

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