

LANTERN

February 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Thursday, March 25, the Chinese Chamber, together with the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) and Hawaii Association of Realtors, will present a forum featuring the First Congressional District candidates: **Ed Case**, **Charles Djou**, and **Colleen Hanabusa**. The forum will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Japanese Cultural Center's Manoa Grand Ballroom. You will have the opportunity for a side-by-side comparison of the three candidates and to ask them their position on issues facing our state and nation in the Congress. The JCC is located at 2454 South Beretania Street in Moiliili. The cost is \$30.00, which includes lunch, and on-site parking is available for \$5.00 with validation. (The cost is \$35.00 for non-members). To reserve a seat, call the HJCC at 949-5531. Seating is limited, and the reservation deadline is Friday, March 19.

And on Saturday, March 27, there will be a panel of tax experts, providing a variety of tax tips and information in advance of the April 15 and April 20 deadlines for paying your federal and state income taxes, respectively. The class will be held at the Chinese Chamber building. More information on the speakers, the topics they will cover, and the class details will be provided shortly.

Narcissus Classic

This year, the Narcissus Classic featured a performance of "The Joy Luck Club," a play based on the novel of the same name by **Amy Tan** and performed at the Diamond Head Theatre on Wednesday, February 10. Due in part to favorable reviews in the local newspapers and the popularity of the play, 470 of the 475 seats were sold. There was even a light snack from Panda Express during the intermission. And all this for a mere \$35.00. Narcissus Classic chair **Sylvia Louie** acknowledges the efforts and hard work of **Jenny Hui**, **Linda Louie**, **Wanda Tse**, and **Elroy Abe**, as well as **John Zhang** and the managers of Panda Express, for the success of the event. The successful and well received Narcissus Classic marked the conclusion of this year's Narcissus Festival.



Meeting with the Cast of Joy Luck Club

Hawaii Foodbank

by Kristine Duong

The Hawaii Foodbank is holding its 21st annual Food Drive on Saturday, April 17, and we're seeking volunteers for our sites around the island to help collect canned goods, "fishnet" for donations along the side of the road, and sort donations. Three shifts are available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are asked to fill out an application and waiver form and turn it in by March 26. Volunteers must be 16 years old to participate. I am the Agency Affiliations Assistant at Hawaii Foodbank and will be at the Koko Marina Center site all day, so if you can't be a volunteer, swing by with some canned goods and say "hi"!

The Hawaii Foodbank is also currently seeking donations to raffle off during its sixth annual Hunger Walk on August 28. The Hunger Walk is an opportunity for Hawaii Foodbank member agencies to build financial support for their food pantries and feeding programs. With public support, member agencies will have more food to feed more people in need. Monies raised will benefit Hawaii Foodbank member agencies representing Oahu's food pantries, feeding programs, homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers, and soup kitchens. Some items they are looking for are gift certificates/cards to restaurants, movies or services as well as corporate promotional items such as water bottles, mugs or umbrellas. For more information, please contact me at kristine@hawaiifoodbank.org.

(Editor's note: Kristine was 2009 Narcissus Fourth Princess and is an associate member).



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Dennis J. Hwang

I would like to thank President-Elect and Narcissus Festival General Chair **Jeff Lau** and his entire team for successfully completing the major events for the 61st Narcissus Festival. Despite the tough economy, we had well attended and profitable events that were enjoyed by our members and showcased the efficiency and talents of our organization.

The Coronation Ball on Saturday, January 30, was ably chaired by **Kevin Lam** and his many volunteers. We were fortunate to have Governor **Linda Lingle** in attendance, and she gave strong words of support for the Chinese Chamber, both for our past and future activities. Later, she helped crown the new Narcissus Queen, **Angie Zhang**. The officers danced the first waltz with the Queen and court, and the guys displayed their ballroom dancing skills. The general comments we had from attendees was how smooth and classy the Coronation Ball is, this year and in the past.

On Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6, we had New Year celebrations in Chinatown and at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza. I would like to thank overall Chair **John Zhang** for helping to coordinate so many moving parts, as well as **Gayle Lau**, chair for open house visitations and **Leonard Kam**, chair for the Cultural Plaza vendors and program, and his assistant, **Bobby Ho**. **Gifford Chang** and **Kelfred Chang** helped make the Chamber's role in the Chinatown parade on Saturday afternoon a great success. Overall, the attendance for the events was very good, both in Chinatown and at the Cultural Plaza, as tens of thousands of people attended.

Just a few days later, on Wednesday, February 10, all 470 seats for the Narcissus Classic performance of the "Joy Luck Club" were sold out. This was an outstanding play,

with wonderful performances by local actors. Congratulations to Narcissus Classic chair **Sylvia Louie** and her hard working team. Kudos also to Diamond Head Theatre and Executive Director **Deena Dray** for all their assistance and support for our event. There is the possibility that there will be another Chinese-related blockbuster coming to the DHT next year.

On Sunday, February 21, we were involved with the Chinese New Year cultural performances put on by the Committee for Chinese Culture and Festival. Thanks go to Immediate Past President **Ted Li** for helping to coordinate this event. Associate member and 2010 Narcissus contestant **Erica Kao** danced the hula. This was the committee's first cultural performance and the auditorium was packed.

Regarding the Chinatown Community Development Center, we had a ceremony honoring Past President and Emeritus Director **Tai Yau Chung** on Tuesday, February 2. The conference room in our new building was named in his honor for his many years of support as well as his current contributions to the building fund. The dedication was a well deserved honor for Tai Yau, who was a great leader for the Chamber when he served as President from 1972 to 1973 and continues to serve as head of our nomination committee. City Managing Director **Kirk Caldwell** as well as TECO Director General **Philip Wang** each said a few words in Tai Yau's honor. We were fortunate to have **Linda Louie** chair this dedication ceremony, ably assisted by Chamber staff **Wen Chung Lin** and **Grace Chan**.

Please keep your calendars open for a Congressional Forum with candidates **Charles Djou**, **Colleen Hanabusa**, and **Ed Case** on Thursday, March 25, at the Japanese Cultural Center in Moiliili. This

event is sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and the Hawaii Association of Realtors and co-chaired by our member, **Robert Yu**.

Also in March, we will be having a tax class for businesses and individuals, so keep an eye out for the flier. It will be taught by three of our members as well as a faculty member from the Shidler College of Business. Vice President for Business Development **Libby Lew** is assisting with this class. We have been working with Shidler, through our member **Verna Wong**, partly to develop our curriculum and also to encourage some of its business students to join the Chamber as associate members. In the future, we will also be working with the Center for Chinese Studies and its Confucius Institute as well as Chaminade and Hawaii Pacific University.

Overall, the Chinese Chamber, under the guidance of membership Vice President **Gerald Chang**, is working to involve our membership, and we are establishing sustainable standing committees involving the members to help in all of our activities, including cultural activities, membership events, community assistance, business development, and networking. We are basing much actions on information from 70 surveys that were filled out by our members at four mixers we had in September and October of last year. If you have not filled out the survey form, please call the Chinese Chamber at 533-3181 and ask for one. Of course, we may just call you up anyway.

With that, the Executive Committee of **Ted Li**, **Jeff Lau**, **John Hui**, **Libby Lew**, **Gerald Chang**, **Michele Choy**, **Sylvia Louie**, **John Zhang**, **Gayle Lau**, **Wen Chung Lin**, and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year in the Year of the Tiger. Gung Hee Fat Choy!



Forming Partnership with Shidler Business School

Tai Yau Chung Room

On Tuesday, February 2, Chamber officers, directors, family, and friends gathered for the dedication of the conference room in the Chinese Chamber building. The room will now be known as the **Tai Yau Chung Room** in honor of the Chamber's former president (1972-73), who is still an active member of the Chamber board, head of the nominating committee, and regularly attending Chamber events. There was a short program, a video, a number of tributes to Tai Yau, and light refreshments. All in all, it is a well deserved honor for a former president who has remained active in Chamber affairs rather than just "fade away."



Dedication of Conference Room for Tai Yau Chung

Chinatown New Year Events



The sound of exploding firecrackers (as opposed to "fireworks") and pounding drums reverberated throughout Chinatown on the evening of Friday, February 5. The occasion was the annual Chinatown Open House in which the new Narcissus Queen, **Angie Zhang**, and her court (**Selena Qiu**, **Megan Chun**, **Karen Chang**, and **Bonnie Von**) visited a variety of shops and restaurants, wishing the owners a prosperous and happy Year of the Tiger. A number of lion dance clubs assembled at the Chamber building at 6:30 p.m. for a joint *choy cheng* ceremony before dispersing throughout Chinatown.

Then on the afternoon of Saturday, February 6, the Narcissus Queen and court took part in a Chinese New Year parade, which started at the State Capitol, proceeded along Hotel Street, and culminated in Chinatown. The five members of the Narcissus Court enjoyed the opportunity to ride and wave to the crowds from shiny convertibles. (In contrast to about five hours walking around Chinatown the day before). The parade was organized and sponsored by the Chinatown Merchants Association. That evening, the five young women made an appearance at the Moongate Stage at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza.

John Zhang chaired the two-day events in Chinatown and organized the Friday visits by the lion dance clubs, **Gayle Lau** put together the list of shops and restaurants to be visited on Friday, and **Leonard Kam** organized the entertainment and vendors at the Cultural Plaza. The product of their efforts, highlighting aspects of Chinese culture, was enjoyed by thousands of tourists and local residents alike.

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MEMBER NEWS



Coronation Ball on Saturday, January 30, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 5 Fri **Chamber Election Day**
Chinese Chamber Office
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Mar 23 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber's Office – 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 26 Fri **Special & Regular Board of Directors Meeting**
(Election of New Officers)
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 noon

Nadine Kam's "Weekly Eater" restaurant review in the February 10 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* took a look at the "revamped" Empress Restaurant in the Chinatown Cultural Plaza. She noted that over the last three years, its latest owner, **Kenneth Lee**, has "done a lot to update" an old standby. Local chef and TV personality **Titus Chan** had "high praise" for the cooking there and selected the dishes for a dinner with Kam. In the end, she gave the Empress four stars (out of a possible four) for service and value, three-and-a-half for the stars for the food, and two-and-a-half for ambience. As some members may be aware, the Chamber board meets at the Empress once a month at lunchtime, and it was also the location in January for the post-Pageant reception.

Raymond Siu, chef-owner of Pah Ke's in Kaneohe, was asked by **Jo McGarry** for her "Food for Thought" column in the February 21 *Star-Bulletin* about his style of food. He replied "Hawaiian Chinese cuisine," with the front of the menu featuring special dishes using local ingredients. Raymond's background is in fine dining.

Yu Shing Ting's "Xposure" photo gallery in the March 3 *Midweek* included one of **Michele** and **Bernard Choy** with dance instructors **Richard** and **Lynn Nakamura** at the January 15 Dance Aliamanu Charity Ball. In the same issue of *Midweek*, Ba-Le Sandwiches & Bakery founder **Thanh Quoc Lam** and son **Brandon** were pictured at the preview party for "Foodland Farms Aina Haina," a new concept for Foodland.

NEW MEMBERS

At its February 23 meeting, the board of directors approved the applications for **Randy Ho**, a program manager with the U.S. Air Force at Hickam AFB (sponsored by **Ed Pei**); **Jon Matsuoka**, dean of the **Myron B. Thompson** School of Social Work and a professor of social work at the University of Hawaii Manoa (sponsored by **Wes Fong** and **John Hui**); and **Tanny Waters**, business service coordinator at Aloha Pacific Federal Credit Union (sponsored by **Gayle Lau**).

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