

LANTERN

March 2010

AFTER TAXES FUN-RAISER

Federal and state tax returns are due on April 15 and April 20, respectively. To mark the end of this annual ordeal, **Angie Zhang, Selena Qiu, Megan Chun, Karen Chang, and Bonnie Von** cordially invite Chamber members to join them at Indigo restaurant, 1121 Nuuanu Avenue, on Monday, April 19, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. It will be in an evening of relaxation from crunching all those numbers, with great food, good fun, and an opportunity to meet and greet your hosts and fellow Chamber members. There will also be a silent auction with items for the men as well as the women, calligraphy for your Chinese name, and maybe an opportunity to have each of the ladies sign a Narcissus souvenir book for you. The cost is \$30.00 per person and tickets can be ordered by calling the Chinese Chamber at 533-3181. Also, if you have an item or items you would like to donate for the silent auction, contact the Chamber.



“Passports. Passports, Please.”

For those of you contemplating going on the Narcissus Goodwill Tour, please remember that you must have a valid U.S. passport that will still have at least six months validity after the trip. If you have never had a U.S. passport or your passport was issued more than 15 years ago, you can get the necessary application (Form DS-11) online. If you have a U.S. passport issued less than 15 years ago, you can use Form DS-82, also available online. Currently, passports or renewals cost \$75.00 (plus \$25.00 “execution fee” for new passports), but some time later this year, the initial passport fee will go up to \$135.00 while the renewal fee will go up to \$110.00. Since a U.S. passport is valid for ten (10) years, it may be worthwhile to get one before the fees go up. (You never know when you may need one). You should be aware that at present, “routine service” takes 4-6 weeks while “expedited service” takes 2-3 weeks and costs an additional \$60.00. Also, while a visa is not needed to visit Hong Kong, a PRC visa is required to enter China and may take an additional two weeks since the passport must be mailed to the PRC consulate in Los Angeles. For more information on U.S. passports, start with http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

Goodwill Tour Preview by Jeff Lau

I’ve just returned from visiting four of the cities on this year’s Narcissus Goodwill Tour. I have discussed much of the trip details with China Travel Service’s Beijing office and the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. Both groups are busy preparing many wonderful sights and activities for our tour members in both Beijing and Shanghai. I also had a chance to scout several of the tourist attractions that we will visit in the seaside resort of Qinhuangdao, which should be very interesting to Chinese history buffs and to nature lovers. We may even take in a famous European villa or two if the time permits. **Bo Wu**, Executive Director of the State of Hawaii Office in Beijing, informed me that Governor **Linda Lingle** will join portions of our trip, including a 25th year celebration our sister-state relationship with Guangdong province; a visit to the Yunnan cities of Kunming and Lijiang, a UNESCO Heritage Site; and may even travel with us to Beijing. After Expo 2010 in Shanghai, much of our remaining time will be spent in the fabulous shopping cities of Shenzhen and Hong Kong before heading home.

If you are interested in joining this truly once in a lifetime tour, June 7-25, and enjoying scenic sites and sights, outstanding Chinese cuisine, and of course tempting shopping, don’t wait. Contact **Peggy Luu** at Skyway Express Inc. right away at 526-1347 or by e-mail at peggyluu@skywayexptravel.com. While the reservation window is closing, it is particularly critical for those who do not have a current U.S. passport as pointed out in the following article.

Colleen Xu, Jeff Lau, Mark Wang and Dan Yuan at CTS Head Office Beijing on March 19 discussing Narcissus Queen Tour in June 2010.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Dennis J. Hwang

Mahalo to Chinese Chamber member and co-chair **Robert Yu** for helping to coordinate the March 25 Congressional Forum jointly sponsored by the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Hawaii Association of Realtors, and our organization. With such a critical election upon us for the recently vacated First Congressional District seat, it was important to hear the candidates' stand on the many issues confronting Hawaii and our nation.

On March 27, there was a very successful tax seminar taught by our members **Tina Au** (H&R Block), **Tom Yamachika** (Accuity LLP), and Dr. **Thomas Pearson** (Shidler College of Business), and also **Jonathan Hall** (ProService). The event was moderated by our member, **Michael Ching** (Ernst & Young), organized by Vice President of Business Development **Libby Lew**, and sponsored by the Hawaii Mainland Overseas Chinese Association as well as Chamber director, L&L founder **Eddie Flores, Jr.** Thank you to all the people and organizations involved. The attendees were given important tips for individual and business taxes, learned about the general excise tax, and received strategies for avoiding an IRS audit.

Both the Congressional forum and tax seminar would not have been possible without our partners. Partnerships will become increasingly more important as the Chinese Chamber expands its role to promote business and help the community under the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC).

One such expanding partnership is with the University of Hawaii's Shidler College of Business. We have already had a joint class, and soon the college's students will help with a community needs assessment, which will help the CCDC tailor its programs (classes, internships, and mentoring)

so that they are most effective in helping small businesses, particularly in Chinatown. Many of these programs will be a benefit for our own members, regular as well as associates. As the CCDC program evolves and develops, we will bring in other university entities, such as the Center for Chinese Studies and the Confucius Institute. We will also involve Hawaii Pacific University and Chaminade University as well.

On the foreign front, I want to inform you about our Chamber's Center for Foreign Relations. This Center was created to build on the excellent relations the Chamber has established with China-based organizations ever since our first annual Goodwill Tour to China in 1981. The Goodwill Tours were started not long after relations with the U.S. and China were normalized in 1979 and are a tribute to the efforts of our past presidents. The goal of the Center is to increase exchanges in the areas of business, culture, education, and science by using the synergy of our past activities with those of our current ones. Recent activities under the Center include military exchanges led by past president **Wesley Fong** and fundraising activities for Sichuan earthquake relief led by past president **Reuben Wong**. The Center works with all foreign countries, but concentrates in the Asia-Pacific region.

During the Goodwill Tour last year, the Chinese Chamber proposed and the Chinese government has accepted a project for the exchange of earthquake scientists. In early October, 25 earthquake scientists from the U.S will go to Beijing to attend the "China-USA Symposium for the Advancement of Earthquake Sciences and Hazard Mitigation Practices." The Chinese Chamber's Center for Foreign Relations is the

lead organization among those that include the U.S. Embassy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Hawaii, the East-West Center, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and many others. Chamber Executive Vice President **Wen Chung Lin** helped with these arrangements through our contacts with the China Association for International Friendly Contacts. In mid-April, I will attend meetings in Beijing on behalf of the Chinese Chamber, as part of the four-man U.S. coordinating team.

So members of the Chinese Chamber, if you have your own particular interest or project in China, and are willing to take the lead to run it through, contact the Chinese Chamber's Center for Foreign Relations and we may just be able to help. Also, please consider joining the 2010 Goodwill Tour, led by President-Elect **Jeff Lau**, as there will be many opportunities for business and cultural contacts.

Finally, I want to mention that all this year we have had many serious business and governmental meetings with the goal of advancing the Chamber and CCDC. However, I want all our members to reserve one event that is geared for FUN. Mark your calendars for on Monday, April 19, there will be a *pau hana* event open to Chamber members at Indigo restaurant, starting at 6:00 p.m. We should thank our Narcissus Queen and Court (**Angie Zhang, Selena Qiu, Megan Chun, Karen Chang, and Bonnie Von**), who are organizing the event. The ladies are using this event as a fundraiser for the Goodwill Tour and will be inviting Chamber members as well as their own family and friends. I hope to see you at Indigo for the good food and camaraderie.

TAX CLASS

On Saturday, March 27, about 35 Chamber members and guests attended a morning tax seminar, "Taxes, Taxes, Taxes: What you and your business should know." The seminar was jointly sponsored by the Chamber's Chinatown Community Development Center and the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association. Chamber members **Tina Au** and **Thomas Yamachika** spoke on "Individual and Small Business Tax Structure" and "Introduction to the Hawaii General Excise Tax." **Jonathan Hall**, risk manager at ProService then spoke on "What the Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief Bill (H.B. 2169) means to you," and the presentations were concluded by **Thomas Pearson**, an accounting professor at UH Manoa, discussing "Strategies for Avoiding an IRS Audit." All in all, it was quite informative and well worth attending. The seminar was organized by Chamber Second Vice President **Libby Lew**, who deserves thanks for all her hard work.

Hong Kong Business Forum

The all-day Hawaii U.S.-Hong Kong Business Forum, "Hong Kong: Asia's World City That Makes It Happen," will be held in Honolulu on Friday, May 14, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. In addition, there are optional events: a golf tournament on Thursday, May 13, as well as a *luau* dinner on Saturday, May 15, and an Oahu sightseeing tour on Sunday, May 16. The forum is being put on by the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii and the National U.S. Hong Kong Business Association. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is a "supporting organization," and Chamber members can attend the one-day forum for \$220.00 if reservations are made by April 24 or \$270.00 thereafter. An informational flier, registration form, and golf tournament flier can all be downloaded at <http://www.uskhforum.org/>.

CONGRESSIONAL FORUM

The Chinese Chamber, in conjunction with the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce and the Hawaii Association of Realtors, sponsored a lunchtime forum on Thursday, March 25. The forum, attended by a little over a hundred people, featured **Ed Case**, **Charles Djou**, and **Colleen Hanabusa**, who are vying to succeed long-time Chamber member **Neil Abercrombie**. This was one of a number of joint appearances by the three candidates in advance of the May 22 first congressional district special election. Those attending had an opportunity to meet and greet the candidates, hear their response to questions on a variety of issues affecting Hawaii and the nation, and evaluate which candidate to vote for. Congratulations to co-chair **Robert Yu** on a job well done.



CHAMBER ELECTIONS

The annual election of directors was held on March 5. Newly elected to the board are **Patrick Graham**, **Angeline Shiroma**, **Sherman Wong**, and **Michael Zhang**. Re-elected to a three-year term are **Gerald Chang**, **Gifford Chang**, **Chian Leng Chia**, **Michele Choy**, **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, **Alan Ho**, **Edward Hu**, **John Hui**, **Kevin Lam**, **Linda Louie**, **Delwyn Wong**, and **Pearl Yuen**. Then on Friday, March 26, the board of directors elected the following as officers for 2010-2011: President **Jeffrey Lau**, President-Elect **John Hui**, First Vice President **Leonard Kam**, Second Vice President **Gerald Chang**, Third Vice President **Gayle Lau**, English Secretary **Michele Choy**, Chinese Secretary **John Zhang**, Treasurer **Sylvia Louie**, Assistant Treasurer **Michael Ching**, and Immediate Past President **Dennis Hwang**.

Hawaii Foodbank Food-drive

As you may know from **Kristine Duong's** article in last month's issue of the *Lantern*, the Hawaii Foodbank is holding its 21st annual Food Drive on Saturday, April 17. Donations will be collected at several locations on Oahu: Koko Marina Shopping Center, Waikeola Congregational Church, McCully Shopping Center, Pearl City Shopping Center, Pearl City Highlands, Town Center of Mililani, and Windward City Shopping Center between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Kristine is "agency affiliations assistant" and will be at the Koko Marina site all day. Regardless of which location you stop at, however, your generous donation will be greatly appreciated.

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Chamber officers recently met with associate members for an organizational meeting and to outline their near term goals. Appointed as officers at this meeting were **Dan Yuan** President, **Catherine Wong Jayne** Vice-President, **Leilani Soon** Secretary, and **Ivy Yeung** Treasurer. **Vernon Ching** and **Wanda Tse** as will serve as advisors for the associate members.

A smiling **Raymond Siu** was pictured **Jo McGarry's** "Table Talk" article, "Hawaii's Chinese Cuisine Is Making Waves," in the March 17 issue of *Midweek*. In addition to talking about Raymond's innovative "Chinese Hawaiian" cuisine, "a marvelous mixture of contemporary and locally inspired dishes," she mentions the first page of the Pah Ke Chinese Restaurant menu that will intrigue local foodies. Also mentioned in the McGarry article is **Alan Ho's** Seafood Village in the Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa in

Waikiki, which was recently voted number 6 in a nation-wide poll in *Chinese Restaurant News*. Not mentioned is that this award was to the Top 100 highest-scoring Chinese restaurants in the U.S. across ten categories, so the Overall Excellence award is no mean feat! Chamber members who patronize either restaurant can look forward to some excellent food.

According to the March 20 *Honolulu Advertiser*, Cirrus Asset Management vice president and Hawaii regional manager **Brian Li** has been selected as one of thirty-one Pacific Century Fellows. The year-long program is modeled after the White House Fellows program. Congratulations, Brian.

The Small Business Administration announced on March 26 that **David Erdman**, president and CEO of PRTech and PacRim Marketing Group, with offices in Honolulu and Tokyo, has been selected as 2010 "statewide small business exporter." The 23rd annual SBA Small Business Awards luncheon will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Friday, April 30. If you want to personally congratulate Dave and attend the luncheon, call the Hawaii Women's Business Center at 526-1001. Tickets are \$55.00.

Former Chamber president **Wesley Fong** wrote an op-ed piece for the Sunday, March 28, issue of the *Advertiser*, "Housing project wrong for Chinatown." The project is the City's proposed River Street Residences, which has stirred up residents and businesses in Chinatown. Wes wrote in his capacity as president of the Concerned Citizens on River Street Housing.

NEW MEMBERS

At its March 26 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Martin Lee**, a partner with the real estate development firm Consultants Plus (sponsored by **Bryan and Ted Li**), and **Sean Quinlan**, a Realtor with Sterman Realty (sponsored by **Reuben Wong**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber event.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr 4 Sun **Easter**
- Apr 5 Mon **Ching Ming Festival**
- Apr 20 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber's Office – 5:30 p.m.
- Apr 27 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 noon



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