

LANTERN

April 2010



夏威夷中華總商會

CCS/CI presentation/mixer

As you may know, there will be a combination presentation and mixer by representatives of the University of Hawaii Center for Chinese Studies and Confucius Institute. The event will be held on Wednesday, May 5, at the Chamber office's Tseu Training Room, starting at 5:30 p.m. Members can learn more about both organizations and their respective programs as well as participate in a mini-language lesson. After the formal program, there will be an opportunity for those attending to meet and mingle while partaking of light refreshments. The session is FREE for Chamber members, but since seating is limited, you must contact the Chamber office at 533-3181 not later than Monday, May 3. Those attending are also asked to bring a canned food donation for the Hawaii Foodbank.

AFTER TAXES FUN-RAISER

On Monday, April 19, around seventy-five Chamber members, regular and associate, gathered at Indigo Restaurant for a mixer and auction, both silent and live. It was a fun event, planned to support the Narcissus Queen and Court on the upcoming Goodwill Tour. In addition, it was a chance to sample some of the *ono* cuisine of chef-owner **Glenn Chu** in a relaxed atmosphere. **Angie Zhang, Selena Qiu, Megan Chun, Karen Chang, and Bonnie Von** did all the planning, with an able assist from other associate members and some advice from **Michele Choy, Wanda Tse, and Vernon Ching**, who also pitched in as combination MC and live auctioneer. Each of the five young women also contributed to the entertainment. All those who attended had a great time and the Chamber gained several new members as well.



Hong Kong Business Forum

The first national Hong Kong-U.S. business forum to be held in Hawaii is scheduled for Friday, May 14, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel Tapa Ballroom. The all-day forum is presented by the National U.S.-Hong Kong Business Association, the umbrella organization for ten Hong Kong Business Associations across the U.S., and the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii. Members of these organizations as well as Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide (which has a network of 32 HKBAs in 24 countries and over 10,000 members), will join with U.S. and Hong Kong government officials for the forum. There are also optional extra events: a golf tournament on Thursday, May 13; a luau on Saturday, May 15; and an Oahu tour on Sunday, May 16. Since the Chinese Chamber is a sponsoring organization, members can attend the all-day forum, including the luncheon and post-forum networking cocktail reception, for a discounted price of \$270.00. For more information or to make reservations, contact NUSHKBA president **Barinna Poon** at bpoon@hawaiiintel.net.

AFTER TAXES FUN-RASISER pictures:

Top Left: Amanda Eng, Karen Chang, Hamilton Liu, and Crystal Lin

Top Right: Chen-Ling Chou and Jeff Lau

Bottom Left: Emcee Vernon Ching and Michele Choy

Bottom Right: Michael Ching, Leonard Kam, Walter Chang, and Vernon Ching



President
Dennis J. Hwang

I want to thank the Queen and Court, **Angie Zhang, Selena Ciu, Megan Chun, Karen Chang, and Bonnie Von**, as well as other associate members, such as **Dan Yuan** and **Catherine Wong Jayne** for helping to organize the fundraiser at Indigo. It was a highly successful and new event for the Chinese Chamber that served many purposes. First, it was the first event organized by the associate members and allowed the Queen and Court to raise money for the upcoming Goodwill Tour. Our members had a fantastic time and there was much laughter and mixing of the approximately

75 attendees, who included board members, the executive committee, members just wanting to take a break from doing their taxes, and the younger associate members. The short program was kept lively with past president **Vernon Ching** as emcee and assisted by mother hen **Michele Choy**. Most important, we were able to sign up several new members and many others are interested.

We are very fortunate, for as our Vice President for Membership, **Gerald Chang**, informed me, many local chambers of commerce and business organizations have been losing members because of the tough economy. Yet the Chinese Chamber has been able to hold on to members and even grow! We think this is attributable to the many activities the Chinese Chamber has in the areas of business, culture, social networking, and community assistance. We know our members have varied interests in the Chinese Chamber.

Speaking of events, there is a class and mixer on Wednesday, May 5, starting at 5:30 p.m. with the University of Hawaii's Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) and Confucius Institute (CI). The

event will be at the Chinese Chamber's **Dr. Lawrence K. W. Tseu and Bo Hing Chan Chu** Conference Room, 8 South King Street. The purpose of this free event is for our members and the community to learn about the numerous Chinese cultural programs at the CCS. We will also learn about the CI's many language programs and even have a brief language lesson, followed by light refreshments. With this event, the Chamber will investigate further opportunities to partner in the future with the CCS/CI.

Then on Thursday, May 27, please attend our installation banquet at the Empress Restaurant as we welcome the new officers for the Chinese Chamber. This has been a very busy year, with the Chinese Chamber accomplishing much, but there is still much more to do. We would like to welcome our new officers as well as recognize our award winners: Lifetime Achievement Award—**Henry Chu**; Outstanding Business Person—**Frances Goo**; Outstanding Chamber Volunteer—**Alvin Wong**; and Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer—**Sylvia Louie**.

C H A M B E R N E W S & A C T I V I T I E S

China-U.S. Earthquake Symposium

by Dennis Hwang

I was in Beijing from April 12 to the 16 as chair of the four-man U.S. organizing team for the China/USA Symposium for the Advancement of Earthquake Sciences and Hazard Mitigation Practices. This is a project proposed by the Chinese Chamber during the 60th Narcissus Goodwill tour while speaking to **Dr. Lu Yongxiang**, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China and current President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Our goal was to pave the way for a 20-man U.S. team of top seismologists, structural engineers, and hazard planners to meet with their counterparts in China to improve earthquake science in both countries and to reduce property damage and loss of life through better practices. The symposium will cover advances in hazard assessment, siting, building codes, design, and emergency response. This meeting will occur in mid-October and has the support of and participation by the U.S. Embassy, National Science Foundation, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Agency, East-West Center, and University of Hawaii. The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute is a symposium co-sponsor with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

While in China, there was a major earthquake in Qinghai Province on April 14 that caused substantial damage and the loss of over 2,183 lives. This created even more interest for the organizers in the symposium and pointed out the importance of a successful outcome for both countries.

Regarding the April 14 earthquake, our associate member **Dan Yuan** and other members have been active in raising funds for relief for victims of the Qinghai earthquake. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Chinese Chamber. Tax deductible donations can be made to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Please write on the "For"-line "Qinghai Earthquake Relief."

Qinghai Earthquake Relief

On Wednesday, April 14, a devastating 6.9 earthquake hit Yushu, in Qinghai province, which is located in the northeastern part of the Tibetan plateau. (According to wikipedia, "The epicenter was in a sparsely populated area on the Tibetan plateau that is regularly hit by earthquakes"). Associate member **Dan Yuan** quickly came up with a plan for collecting earthquake relief funds, and she enlisted the assistance of regular and associate Chamber members, classmates, and friends. The volunteers collected donations on Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24. In addition to raising over \$1,165.00, several prospective Narcissus Queen contestants were identified. Among those helping on the project were **Crystal Lin**, **Kacie Pang**, First Vice President **John Hui**, and Chinese Secretary **John Zhang**. Additional donations are still being accepted by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

The Hong Kong-China-Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Shanghai, is now working to collect relief funds to be sent *via* a number of China-based organizations. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.hkchcc.org/chinaearthquakerelief.htm>.

Support the Hawaii Foodbank

In view of the weak economy, both nationally and in Hawaii, demands on local food banks have been heavy. According to the Hawaii Foodbank's Web site, the Hawaii Bankers Association is currently accepting donations until Saturday, May 29. The Chamber's tenant, HomeStreet Bank, is one HBA member institution accepting canned food donations. The Chamber has also asked members to bring canned food donations to the general membership meetings in December and January, and again asks that you do so for the May 5 CCS/CI presentation/mixer. The "Top 5" are canned meats or tuna; canned meals (spaghetti, chili, etc.), canned soup; canned vegetables; and canned fruit. The need is great, so please remember your fellow citizens and be generous.



CHINA-U.S. EARTHQUAKE SYMPOSIUM AT BEIJING FROM APRIL 12-16
 Sitting - Assistant General Manager - Rao Jie - Overseas Department, Secretary General Zhou Chang - Architectural Society of China (ASC), Dennis Hwang - Chinese Chamber, Martin Zhang - CAIFC; Standing - Dr. Guangren Yu - USA, Zhang Baiping - ASC, Ivan Wong - Seismologists, USA, Gary Chock - Structural Engineer, USA; Shaw Wang - CAIFC; Wang Xiaojing - ASC



AFTER TAXES FUN-RASISER pictures:
 Top Left: Dan Yuan and Michael Ching
 Top Right: Rena Hwang, Stan Okada, and Wanda Tse
 Bottom Left: Eileen Tokita and Patrick Tse

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MEMBER NEWS

According to **Erika Engle's** "The Buzz" column in the April 25 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, "L&L conventioners learn of importance of mayo," the ubiquitous and ever expanding plate lunch chain held its 8th annual franchisee convention last week. With 190 current locations in Hawaii, the South Pacific, and the U.S. mainland, franchisees gathered for three-days at the Sheraton Waikiki for the "Franchisee Convention and Food and Product Show."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 9 Sun **Mother's Day**
- May 18 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber's Office – 5:30 p.m.
- May 25 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 noon
- May 27 Thu **Installation Banquet**
Empress Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.
- May 31 Mon **Memorial Day**



Condolences

On April 17, long-time Chamber Executive Vice President and emeritus director **Welton Won** passed away. Starting in the mid-fifties, he was employed by the Chinese Chamber, and in 1959, Welton was promoted to Executive Vice President, a position he held until his retirement in 1987. With over 30 years of service to the Chamber, Welton continued as an emeritus director. He was dedicated to promoting the local Chinese business community as well as developing and expanding ties with China. Born in San Francisco, Welton lived for a number of years in China, and it is through his ties that the Narcissus Goodwill Tour began to go to China in 1981 (led by **Mel Chow**); the connection with the China Association for International Friendly Contact led to an official dinner for each GWT in the Great Hall of the People (the first in 1982 with **George Chu**); and a connection was established with the China Council for Promotion of International Trade, facilitating Chinese trade shows in Honolulu. Welton is survived by sons **Wilbur**, **Wyatt**, and **Wesley**; daughter **Julie-Ann**; brothers **Wymon**, **Way Kwong**, and **Way Nung**; sister **Kau Y. Fung**; and four grandchildren. Our deepest condolences and sympathies to his family. (Thanks to George Chu for some of the information).

NEW MEMBERS

At its April 27 meeting, the board of directors approved the applications for attorneys **Rai Saint Chu** and **Richard Turbin**, principals of Turbin & Chu, Attorneys at Law (sponsored by **Anthony Chang**), and **Hsin-Fu "Sinker Wu"**, a U.S. Navy foreign area officer at COMPACFLT (sponsored by **Jeff Lau**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber membership event.

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