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Chinatown Cleanup

According to an article by **Suzanne Roig**, "Coalition spiffing up Chinatown," in the May 22 issue of the *Honolulu Advertiser*, a cleanup effort centered on Kekaulike Mall has been initiated by the "Friends of Chinatown," a coalition of residents, merchants, and the Honolulu Police Department. The 50-member group has already painted one of the storefronts, removed graffiti, and had City workers steam clean the walkways and trim trees. Their efforts will be expanded to cleaning the sidewalks, painting walls, and bringing order to the sidewalk vendor area.

In addition, according to a sidebar and also an article in the May 27 *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, there will be a Chinatown cleanup day on Saturday, June 5. This cleanup work is being spearheaded by Project C.L.E.A.N. (Community Lokahi to Enrich our *Aina* Now). This will involve cleanup and graffiti removal from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Chinatown area, bounded by Aala Park, Nimitz Boulevard, Fort Street, and Beretania Street. For more information or to sign up, call Sergeant **Lawrence Santos** at 479-6192.

Dragon Boat Races

The annual Dragon Boat Races will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20, at Ala Moana Park. Instead of the usual location adjacent to McCoy Pavilion, however, tents will be further Diamond Head, next to the concession stand. There are "division award" races on Saturday and open division races on Sunday. The two-day Dragon Boat Festival will have attractions for the whole family: live stage entertainment; food, arts and crafts, and other activity booths; a Futsal (mini-soccer) tournament; grass volleyball tournament; and *keiki* rides and activities, including Heather inflatables. In addition, on each evening, there will be free movies: "Alvin and the Chipmunks" (Saturday) and "Avatar" (Sunday).

On Saturday, the Chinese Chamber will have a picnic for Chamber members and their families, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The picnic is FREE for Chamber members and their children under 12 years of age, and \$3.00 for non-members. Please RSVP not later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 18, so that we will have an accurate head count for ordering sufficient food and soft drinks.



Winfred Pong, Alvin Wong, Dennis Hwang, Libby Lew, Walter Chang and Vernon Ching meet with Lu Yongxiang, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Vice-chairman of the National People's Congress at Mandalay Restaurant.

Narcissus Queen Search

The search for contestants for the Narcissus Queen Pageant on Saturday, January 8, 2011, has started, and the Queen Search committee, chaired by associate members **Dan Yuan** and **Catherine Wong Jayne** is actively seeking eligible young women. Contestants must be "nearly" 50% Chinese, single (never married or given birth to a child), between the ages of 19 and 26 on the pageant date, and have been a resident of Hawaii for at least twelve (12) months prior to the pageant. Young women meeting those criteria and interested in learning more should contact the Chamber at 533-3181. The deadline for contestant sign-up is Friday, July 30.

Splendor of China

Once again, the Chinese Chamber will be holding its Splendor of China event at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. However, due to several competing Sunday events, this year the SOC committee, under the leadership of First Vice President **Leonard Kam**, has tentatively shifted the dates to Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2. Details are still being worked out at this early stage, and members will be kept informed about this year's Splendor. Chamber members interested in getting involved with Splendor should contact the Chamber at 533-3181 to be included on the list of volunteers.



President
Dennis J. Hwang

It was an honor to serve as your President for the last year. The year goes by quickly and much was accomplished. Yet there is still more to be done. When I started the term, we were fortunate for the strong foundation laid by our past presidents. Most significantly, we had just moved to our own building after almost 100 years in existence. The building will allow our organization to reach its full potential, but in its initial stages, was simply the skeleton for which the rest of a body needed to be developed. That came with our two evolving Centers.

Chinatown Community Development Center

The Chinatown Community Development Center (“CCDC”) was created and run by the Chinese Chamber. A preliminary curriculum was developed under the direction of Second Vice President **Libby Lew**, consistent with our mission to promote business and help the community. During the year, we had classes in Career Development, Business Expansion and Financing, Business Startup I (Marketing and the Business Plan), Business Startup II (Accounting and Organizational Structure), Taxes, the Obama Stimulus Package, and several other topics. Many of these classes will be held again with parameters modified by a community needs assessment to be done with the Shidler College of Business, one of our many partners with CCDC.

The Chamber and CCDC were also involved in many controversial projects. When the rodent issue in Chinatown arose, we held two classes for Chinatown vendors on proper food storage and sanitation. Now we hope to partner with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture in a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture in a project to provide state-of-

the-art containers to food vendors in Chinatown. The Chamber will be providing administrative support as well as training room and storage space, according to the recently submitted grant proposal.

We were involved in the River Street Residences project and the proposed homeless shelter in the area. The Chamber has helped to facilitate or mediate this issue with parties that are strongly in support as well as those equally opposed. While the parties remain apart, it is nevertheless the CCDC’s role in circumstances such as this to mediate or facilitate rather than advocate.

Center for Foreign Relations

The Center for Foreign Relations was created to foster increased exchange with Pacific-Asian countries in the areas of commerce, culture, goodwill, education, and science. The Center utilizes the synergy created when new activities build off established ones. Past president **Wes Fong** will be leading a fourth military delegation to China in November with the goal of increasing goodwill and mutual understanding between the military of both countries. In June, past president **Reuben Wong** will be leading a group of ten to Jiangyou in the Sichuan Province to inspect the school library built from donations collected by the Chamber after the May 12, 2008 Sichuan Earthquake. In October, I will be leading a group of approximately 20 U.S. earthquake experts to China, with the goal of advancing better siting, hazard assessment, building practices, emergency preparation, and disaster response in both countries. This project was approved by the Vice Chairman of the National People’s Congress and President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences **Lu Yongxiang**, who we met during the Goodwill Tour in China last year and who was in Hawaii in May this year.

Membership

It was a busy year for the membership team lead by Third Vice President **Gerald Chang**. We had four general membership meetings and six mixers. Despite the tough economy and the fact that many organizations are losing members, the Chamber was able to grow. Key highlights during the year were mixers in the beginning of the year that introduced our members to the CCDC and allowed the Chamber to learn about our members from 70 survey forms that were filled out. We were also pleased

that the associate membership program is going well and those younger members were able to organize their first event for the Chamber. Most significant was that the internship program is up and running. With participation from eleven companies and organizations, this program benefits the associates by helping them find job opportunities and to learn about a particular career field. Equally important, it benefits our member companies by helping them find capable employees and assistants. Thank you to John Hancock, Oahu Transit Services, Hawaii National Bank, East Asian Marketing Strategies, Manson Products, Pacific Wealth Management, City and County of Honolulu- Office of the Mayor, Legislative Office of **Corinne Ching**, New York Life Insurance, Guardian Escrow, and **Rachel Zhang** Clinic for your participation. If you or your company would like to participate in this program, please let us know.

Finances

I would like to thank the building committee of **Wes Fong, Victor Lim, Ted Li, Ed Pei, Alvin Wong, Frances Goo, Walter Chang, and Eddie Flores, Jr.** for their dedication and hard work. Much was accomplished and more remains to be done. In an economy where office space is readily available, we found one tenant and a second is likely to be associated with the USDA project. We are almost mortgage-neutral through mortgage pay-downs and rental income. This summer, we will be having a ceremony to thank the many building fund donors as we unveil our donor plaque.

Mahalo and Thank You

On behalf of myself and the Executive Committee, I want to thank each of you for your support and encouragement during the past year. I know you will continue to support the new administration led by incoming President **Jeff Lau**, President Elect **John Hui**, First Vice President **Leonard Kam**, Second Vice President **Gerald Chang**, Third Vice President **Gayle Lau**, Treasurer **Sylvia Louie**, Assistant Treasurer **Michael Ching**, English Secretary **Michele Choy**, Chinese Secretary **John Zhang**, and two unspoken heroes of the Chinese Chamber: Executive Vice President **Wen Chung Lin** and Administrative Assistant **Grace Chan**.

INSTALLATION DINNER

On Thursday, May 27, the Chamber held its annual installation of officers at the Empress Restaurant. There were 380 Chamber members and friends present to enjoy the evening of fellowship, networking, the fine seven-course dinner, and of course the installation of officers for 2010-2011. This being an election year, there were plenty of politicians present, and several took the opportunity to present certificates or resolutions, getting on stage and helping to extend the program. It was an evening that was evidently enjoyed by most of those present since after dinner service was started, many people got up and were busily socializing. People seemed more intent on meeting and greeting than eating. There were speeches – farewell from outgoing President **Dennis Hwang** and inaugural by President **Jeff Lau** – and quite a few accolades for TECO Director General **Philip Wang**, who will be returning with his wife to Taiwan at the end of June after five and a half years in Honolulu. Recognition went to **Sylvia Louie**, as Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer; **Alvin Wong**, Outstanding Chamber Volunteer; Outstanding Business Person **Frances Goo**; and **Henry Chu**, Lifetime Achievement Award. (Not only was Alvin the master of ceremonies for the dinner, but he has set an example as an involved former Chamber president, among other things, having done yeoman service in moving dozens of boxes when the Chamber moved from 42 North King and also from 76 North King). All in all, it was one of the best installation dinners in recent memory and *xiexie* to installation dinner chair **Lily Tang** and her committee.



Dr. Cyndy Ning of the University of Hawaii Center for Chinese Studies and Confucius Institute explains cultural and educational programs available at the UH and possibly the Chinatown Community Development Center.



About 30 people attend the session on May 5th at the Dr. Lawrence Tseu and Bo Hing Chan Tseu Conference Room of the Chinatown Community Development Center.



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Left: Allen Uyeda, president and CEO, First Insurance Company of Hawaii, Dean Vance Roley, Shidler College of Business, Victor Lim, and Anita Lim.

Victor Lim served as the keynote speaker at the annual 2010 UH Shidler College of Business "Business Night" May 5, 2010.



Daniel Lau, 2009 UH Founders Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Dr. M.R.C. Greenwood, president, University of Hawaii, Wesley Fong, 2010 UH Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.



The UH Alumni Association presented Wes Fong with the 2010 UH Distinguished Alumni Award on May 11, 2010, Sheraton Waikiki. Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii members, including 1999 UHAA Distinguished Alumnus Eddie Flores, attended the event.

CHINA TOURISM

In 2009, Chinese travelers spent \$43.7 billion on travel abroad, compared to \$36.2 billion in 2008, according to an April 28 United Nations World Tourism Organization report. That moved China to fourth among the world's top international tourism spenders, displacing France. (In 2005, China was seventh). China's growing middle class is eager to travel abroad, especially since visa requirements have been eased in recent years. Hainan Airlines hopes to begin direct flights between Beijing and Honolulu later this year. (The flights, up to three times a week, were approved last October). And according to the May 25 *Honolulu Advertiser*, Chinese visitors with cards issued by China UnionPay, which is a bank card association similar to Visa or Mastercard, will be able to use the cards at more than 1,000 Hawaii merchants and at 484 Bank of Hawaii automatic teller machines (ATMs). Chamber board member **Betty Brow**, head of Bankoh's international banking division, said that it would encourage more Chinese visitors, who tend to travel with cash, since they wouldn't have to bother with currency conversion.



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On May 8, long-time Chamber member **Neil Abercrombie** received the **Harry S Truman** award for his many years of support of America's troops. The Truman award is the highest honor given to an individual by the National Guard Association of the United States. It was presented to Neil on the birthday of Harry Truman, who was born on May 8, 1884. While in Congress, he was chair of the Air and Land Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, and diverted nearly a billion dollars away from futuristic weapons programs to meet the immediate needs of the men and women in the five armed services. This included yearly pay raises, better retirement benefits, health care improvements, and modern housing. (Driving through Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, one can see ongoing renovation and new housing construction).

(One little known fact about President Truman is that he had no middle name, and in accordance with Scots-Irish tradition, his parents chose "S" as his middle name. He once joked that since S was his middle name, it should not be followed by a period, but a period was used in official documents and by his presidential library. Harry Truman was a member of the Missouri National Guard and commanded an artillery battery in combat in France during World War I. A recent book by Dennis M. Giangreco, *The Soldier from Independence: A Military Biography of Harry Truman*, covers Truman's wartime service.)

The University of Hawaii Alumni Association (UHAA) presented former Chamber President **Wesley Fong** with its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award at a dinner on Tuesday, May 11, at the Sheraton Waikiki. Along with former Chamber President **Alvin Wong**, who provided the report and photos, the guests included 2009 Founders Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Daniel Lau** and 1999 UHAA Distinguished Alumnus **Eddie Flores, Jr.** Congratulations, Wes.

This being an election year, several Chamber members will be having fund-raisers. **Rich Turbin** will have a fund-raiser at his home, 4817 Kahala Avenue, on Wednesday, June 2, \$75.00 donation. The following week, **Suzanne Chun Oakland** will have a get-together for supporters, family, and friends to observe her twenty years in office at Likelike Elementary School, 1618 Palama Road, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., with a \$25.00 suggested donation. Finally, **Stanley Chang** will reportedly be having two fund-raisers in June, but no information was provided at press time. Even if you can't make any fund-raisers, they will undoubtedly be happy to accept your donations in any amount.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7 Mon	2010 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour Departure
June 19 Sat	Dragon Boat Race & Picnic Ala Moana Park – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
June 22 Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber's Office – 5:30 p.m.
June 29 Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12 noon
June 20 Sun	Father's Day
June 26 Sat	2010 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour Return

NEW MEMBERS

At its May 25 meeting, the board of directors approved the applications for **David Chang**, President and CEO of wealth management company WealthBridge, Inc. (sponsored by **Jeff Lau**); **Chenling Chou**, a court interpreter and Ph.D. candidate at UH Manoa (sponsored by **Dennis Hwang**); **Charles Wong**, Vice President of Pacific China Trading Co. (sponsored by **Jeff Lau**); and **Ming Zhou**, CEO of business and marketing company Zhou Consulting (sponsored by **Jeff Lau**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.

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