

LANTERN

January 2011



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NOTICE: *The Lantern* Goes Online!

Chinese New Year is Thursday, February 3 That will be the approximate start date for *The Lantern*, which will be available to Chamber members and others interested in the Chamber primarily online at the Chamber Web site (www.chinesechamber.com).

While this may represent a major change for some Chamber members (“But we’ve always done it this way...”), there are a number of benefits for the Chamber and its members. First, we are well into the 21st century and many of our members do much of their reading and research online rather than clutter their office or home with printed or “hard” copies of newspapers, magazines, and even newsletters. Second, in an online or “virtual” version, all of the *Lantern’s* photographs will be in color rather than only black and white in the hard copy. Third, the process of producing a hard copy that is mailed out to each of our members each month is expensive in terms of money and manpower. Postage costs alone (without considering paper and copying) amounts to about \$200.00 each month or \$2,400.00 a year. In addition, printing, folding, inserting one or more fliers, labeling, attaching stamps, and taking the bundled *Lanterns* to the post office takes a day or more of staff time. Finally, getting the *Lantern* online is environmentally friendly – no trees have to be cut down nor paper produced.

So starting with the February, 2011 issue of *The Lantern*, if you wish to continue to receive the hard copy via snail mail delivered by an agent of the U.S. government, you must call the Chamber right away and let Wen or Grace know. (This is known as “opting in”). If you do not so notify the Chamber, it will be presumed that you want the online version of *The Lantern*. The choice is simple: Do nothing and you can access *The Lantern* at the Chamber Web site OR call the Chamber and say you want to continue to get *The Lantern* through the U.S. mail.

Narcissus Pageant and Reception

On Saturday, January 8, the Narcissus Pageant will again be held at the Hawaii Theatre. There are 13 lovely contestants who have worked long and hard attending a variety of classes on Chinese culture, perfecting a talent number, practicing walking in a long *cheongsam* and high heels, doing research for the question they will be asked on-stage, and preparing for the judges’ interview. It will be an exciting and suspenseful evening. Due to time constraints, the Pageant will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. and end before 10:00 p.m., so if you plan to attend, please get there early. If you do, you’ll have a chance to meet members of the current Narcissus Court, buy a souvenir book (which covers the various Festival events as well as having some interesting articles), and greet old friends who you may meet only once a year at the Pageant. Tickets are \$34.00 and \$29.00, and good seats are still available.

In addition, following the Pageant, family and friends are asked to vacate the building, and to meet and greet their favorite contestant outside, in the park on the *makai* side of the Hawaii Theatre. For those who want to meet and greet the new Narcissus Queen and her court as well as the other contestants in a more leisurely and less crowded manner, you can do so at a post-Pageant reception at the Panda Express in Moanalua Shopping Center, 1090 Valkenburgh Street, starting at 11:00 p.m. Food and soft drinks will be provided by Panda Express. There is an “early bird” rate of \$5.00 for post-Pageant reception tickets, which will be \$10.00 at the door. If you plan to attend either event, please contact the Chamber right away at 533-3181.

Narcissus Souvenir Books



The 62nd annual Narcissus Souvenir book is now available. Each Chamber member is entitled to one free copy and should stop by the Chamber to pick one up. (Souvenir books will also be on sale on Saturday, January 8, at the Narcissus Pageant, so you may pick one up there, if there are extras). The price for extra copies or for non-Chamber members is \$10.00, and that is \$5.00 less than it was two years ago.



President
Jeffrey D. Lau

Xin Nian Kuai Le! Happy 2011!

It was a very busy December, beginning with a heartwarming Congressional Medal of Honor presentation with the **Wai** brothers and highlighted by the exhibition of the actual Medal of Honor delivered by an Army Museum escort. On the 8th, we held our annual Chamber Christmas party at the Hale Koa Hotel, with our Narcissus contestants present like so many beautiful ornaments. Our members had so much fun that the party ran way over its allotted time. I want to thank the many Chamber members who volunteered their time and resources to make this such a wonderful event as always. This was followed on the 15th by TECO Director General **Paul Chang's** informative and detailed report on the newly signed Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between China and Taiwan.

A special thank you and shout-out goes to Immediate Past President **Dennis Hwang** and his lovely wife **Rena**. They hosted members of the last two Narcissus Goodwill Tours, the executive committee, associate members, and this year's Narcissus contestants for a Christmas party at their home so that they could compare notes as well as trade stories and digital images of their tours. *Mahalo*, Dennis and Rena!

A special Christmas treat was in store for us when **Alan Ho** graciously allowed the Chamber to hold its general membership meeting at his brand new Jade Dynasty Restaurant on December 28th, just two days after it had opened. Over a hundred people attended to listen to our presentation on "Building Business Bridges to China." Our panel of distinguished guests included **Brenda Foster**, President of the Shanghai American Chamber of Commerce; **Lawrence Foster**, former Dean of and now

Professor at the University of Hawaii Law School; **Edward Hu**, Vice President of the Bank of Hawaii International Banking Division; Professor **Ronald Brown**, a UH specialist on Chinese labor law; and moderated by attorney **Russell Leu**, a former Chamber director now living and practicing law in Beijing. The Chamber received tremendous, rave reviews for their presentation and also for the venue. Thank you and congratulations to all.

A special mention must be made of the passing of Hawaii icon and Chamber member **Walter Chee Kwon Chun** last week and the "celebration of life" that his family held for him at the Mandalay Restaurant on January 2nd, which was attended by many of his Chamber friends and colleagues. Many were amazed at the wonderful life he led in China and Hawaii and the great number of people he touched and inspired throughout his life. Thank you, **Yen** and **Sau Chun** for sharing.

As we turn the calendar, we have many activities to look forward to this month, commencing with the selection of our Queen and Court at this year's Narcissus Pageant, which takes place this Saturday, January 8, at 6:30 pm. There are still a many good seats available, so please contact **Wen** or **Grace** as soon as possible. This is such a great family event and a valuable showcase of female Chinese grace, culture, and beauty, so please bring your friends and family. Don't forget that 11:00 p.m., we will be having a post-Pageant reception where you can congratulate the new Narcissus Queen and Court and greet the other contestants at the Moanalua Panda Express. All you can eat for \$5.00 if tickets are purchased from the Chamber by Friday, January 7 or \$10.00 at the door. You can see the new Court, along with the pageantry of our Coronation Ball, on Saturday, January 22, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, and also

during the Chinatown Open House "*Choy Cheng*" on Friday, January 28. You may also get a glimpse of them riding in the Chinatown Parade on the afternoon of January 29 and during our Narcissus Classic Fashion show on March 13th. (And this June, President-Elect **John Hui** will lead the Narcissus Goodwill Tour to China. For more information or to reserve your place, call the Chamber at 533-3181).

This year, the Chamber will be involved in many other projects, including the APEC meeting as well as the centennial celebrations of **Sun Yat Sen's** Xinhai revolution that overthrew imperial China, of the Republic of China, and of our own Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. Past President **Vernon Ching** will be in charge of our celebration and intends to put out a commemorative book on the Chamber's past 100 years.

In addition, throughout the year, we will be having a number of general membership meetings and informal mixers for our members. We hope to schedule a wine tasting and mixer in mid-February, coinciding with the Lantern Festival, which marks the end of Chinese New Year festivities, as well as a Saturday morning tax update and planning session at the end of the month.

As you can see, the Chamber has really expanded its activities and wants and needs many volunteers on its standing committees (Narcissus Festival, government affairs, business programs, budget and finance, membership, personnel, and strategic planning) and special committees. Regardless of the length of your membership, we want you involved. So if you are interested in making a difference or want to get to know and work with other Chamber members, please contact the Chamber office and join us.

As we look forward to an exciting Year of the Hare, I wish all of you a Happy New Year and *Gung Hay Fat Choy!*



Paul Chang Cross Straits Agreement Seminar

Presenting donation to Palolo Senior Care Home

Chinese New Year Celebration

On Friday, January 28, a pride of lions from six Chinese lion dance clubs will gather at the Chinese Chamber building, 8 South King Street, for the ceremonial *choy cheng* (*Cai qing* in Mandarin) or “picking the greens.” This also marks the start of the Chinatown Open House, in which the Narcissus Queen and her court, escorted by Chamber officers, will visit a variety of Chinatown shops and restaurants to wish them a happy and prosperous new year. They will make their way through Chinatown and end at the Moon Gate stage at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza.

The Chamber-sponsored Chinese New Year Celebration at the Cultural Plaza will be held on Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29. There will be booths selling food, Year of the Hare t-shirts, and narcissus flowers, depending on whether they bloom at the right time, as well as a succession of entertainment on stage. Both events are free, but the booths, shops, and restaurants will all be vying for your attention (and dollars).

General Membership Meeting on December 28th and presentation on “Building Business Bridges to China”



December Recap

There were quite a few Chamber events, making for a very busy month. On Wednesday, December 1, two donor plaques were unveiled at a lunchtime ceremony. On the plaques are listed the names of the donors to the Chamber Building Fund and their categories of donations. An informative presentation on World War II Medal of Honor recipient Captain **Francis Brown Wai** was held on Saturday, December 4. Instead of focusing solely on Francis, the presentation also included information about his three brothers (all of the brothers were star athletes in high school and college) and growing up in 1930s Honolulu as well as World War II. On Wednesday, December 8, the annual Chamber Christmas party was again held at the Hale Koa Hotel. There were a little over 100 people who gathered to enjoy the festive occasion with a fine meal, many door prizes, several challenging games, Christmas carols, a roving female singer, and even an appearance by Santa Claus.

Then on Wednesday, December 15, TECO Director General **Paul Chang** gave a talk on the recently signed Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between China and Taiwan. It is the basis for further economic cooperation in the future. Finally, on Tuesday, December 28, the last general membership meeting of the year was held at the new Jade Dynasty restaurant in Ala Moana shopping center. This was without doubt a successful event. Shoehorned between Christmas and New Year's, there were nevertheless 108 people in attendance. They were so intent on networking that the lunch and panel – Shanghai American Chamber of Commerce President **Brenda Foster**, Prof. **Larry Foster**, Bank of Hawaii Vice President **Edward Hu**, and Prof. **Ronald Brown** – were delayed. Even then, only a couple of people left before the program, “Building Business Bridges to China,” ended. And following the program, those attending resumed their networking.

NEW MEMBERS

At its December 21 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Mangmang Brown**, an attorney and administrator with the University of Hawaii Foundation (sponsored by **Jeffrey Lau**); **Desmond Delce**, Assistant Manager, The Food Pantry (sponsored by **Allen Woo**); **Roger Fong**, Director of ELS Language Centers Honolulu (sponsored by **John Hui**); **Kenneth Lai**, Vice President, Investments, UBS Financial Services (sponsored by **Walter Chang**); and **Christopher Pan**, an associate attorney at Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert (sponsored by **Jeffrey Lau**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber membership event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1	Sat	2011 New Year Day
Jan 8	Sat	62nd Narcissus Queen Pageant Hawaii Theatre Center – 6:30 p.m.
Jan 17	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 5:30 p.m.
Jan 22	Sat	62nd Narcissus Coronation Ball HHV Coral Ballroom – 5:00 p.m.
Jan 25	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Jan 28	Fri	Chinatown Open House Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Jan 28	Fri	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 5-10 p.m.
Jan 29	Sat	Chinese New Year Celebration Chinatown Cultural Plaza 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
Feb 3	Thu	Chinese New Year Day

NARCISSUS CORONATION BALL

Dancing lions, a royal procession, the crowning of the 62nd Narcissus Queen, a multi-course Chinese dinner, performances by experienced ballroom dancers (it is a ball, after all), and then dancing by those attending. All this will take place on Saturday, January 22, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The evening starts with no-host cocktails at 5:00 p.m., and dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program. Tickets are \$67.00, with tables of ten at \$670.00 and wine tables (1 bottle each of red and white wine) at \$770.00. Dress is coat and tie, but black tie is optional, so if you have a tuxedo, please wear it. The deadline for reservations is Friday, January 14, so please contact the Chamber if you're planning to attend this gala evening.

MEMBER NEWS

The December 15 *Midweek's Pa'ina* covered Mun Lun School's centennial celebration at the Empress Restaurant, and those photographed included **Wesley** and **Linda Fong** (twice), **Stanford Yuen** (3 times), state Sen. **Suzanne Chun Oakland**, **Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock**, Dr. **Joseph Young**, **Jimmy Young**, **Cy Feng**, and **John Hui**. Also covered in that issue was the Ronald McDonald House Charities Hawaii's "Share A Night" dinner at the Sheraton, which was attended by multiple franchisee **Victor Lim** and his wife **Anita**.



4th Princess (2008) *Chantel Ching*, 2nd Princess (2008) *Lani Soon*, 2nd Princess (2009) *Dan Yuan*, and 2nd Princess (2010) *Megan Chun* with 2010 UCS Citizen of the Year *Chief Justice Ronald Moon*

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