

LANTERN

February 2011



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CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES BANQUET

You are cordially invited to welcome the Year of the Rabbit at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Center for Chinese Studies banquet on Friday, February 4, at the Royal Garden restaurant at the Ala Moana Hotel. There is a no-host bar starting at 6:00 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. There will apparently be seven-courses, with a regular menu at some tables and a vegetarian menu at others. The cost is \$30.00 for "regular" attendees and \$20.00 for UH Manoa students. For more information, call **Daniel Tschudi** at 956-8891. Please note that payments must be received by Thursday, February 3.

PAAC Paul Bachman Award

On Thursday, February 10, the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council will present its **Paul S. Bachman** Award to **Warren Luke**, chairman, president, and CEO of Hawaii National Bank and a former Chamber president. The Bachman Award is made to an individual who or organization that has "contributed significantly to the improvement of relations of the United States and its neighbors in Asia and the Pacific." The presentation will be made at PAAC's annual dinner meeting, "A Global Affair," at the Kahala Hotel & Resort, which starts with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$175.00 for PAAC members and \$200.00 for non-members. Table sponsorships are available starting at \$3,500.00. PAAC member **Walter Chang** is putting together a table, and you can contact him at 597-8135 or call the Chamber at 533-3181 not later than Friday, February 4.

2011 Narcissus Pageant

The Hawaii Theatre was again the venue for the 62nd annual Narcissus Pageant on Saturday, January 8. A fairly full house enjoyed an evening with thirteen lovely young women showing off their talent, their beautiful gowns, and their understanding of and research on various aspects of Chinese culture. Things were kept moving by mistress of ceremonies **Stephanie Lum**, anchor on KGMB and KHNL evening news, who moved capably and adroitly between the script and occasional ad libs. After the talent, gown, and speech phases were completed, special awards were made to Miss Popularity, **Erica Lee**, who sold the most Pageant tickets and Narcissus souvenir books; Miss Congeniality, **Jasmine Nip**, who was chosen by a vote of all of the contestants; and Miss Talent, **Christina Soo Hoo**, who performed a vocal and guitar rendition of "Hallelujah." Finally, the moment everyone, especially each contestant's friends and family, had been waiting for, the announcement of the four runners-up and the 2011 Narcissus Queen: **Laura Hung** as 4th Princess, **Stacey Lam (Baba)** as 3rd Princess, **Jasmine Nip** as 2nd Princess, **Christina Soo Hoo** as 1st Princess, and **Ningjian Miao** as 62nd Narcissus Queen. (Since then, however, due to personal reasons, Laura gave up her position as 4th Princess. As a result, the next highest scoring contestant, Erica Lee has replaced her).

Wine Tasting Mixer

Your first opportunity to meet new Chamber members and greet long-time ones will be on Friday, February 18. That marks the first full day after the traditional 15-day Chinese new year celebration, which officially ends with the Lantern Festival on February 17. The mixer will be held at HASR Wine Co. and the adjoining Grand Café & Bakery, which are located on North Pauahi Street in Chinatown. This is an opportunity for you to sample a selection of wines from HASR Wine Co. as well as *pupu* prepared by Chef **Anthony Vierra**. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m., new members and associate members will be introduced. (The new 2011 Narcissus Court may make an appearance). The cost is \$30.00 per person, and non-member guests are welcome. There is also an opportunity to be a sponsor: For a donation of \$50.00, you will have a 3-minute opportunity to talk about your business or company (\$75.00 for 5-minutes) right after the introductions. (For potential sponsors who don't want to speak, we may be able to accommodate a small banner or at least fliers about your business or company). So come out, meet and greet other members, new and old, and perhaps get a souvenir book signed by the Narcissus Queen and Princesses. In order to have an accurate and final headcount, please call the Chamber to RSVP at 533-3181 not later than Tuesday, February 15.





President
Jeffrey D. Lau

Xin nian kuai le! Happy Chinese New Year, everyone! This is the year that the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii will celebrate its 100th year anniversary, and we have much to look forward to this Fall. Besides our Chamber's birthday, there are several other centennial celebrations happening, including the Xinhai Revolution, which ended the Qing dynasty. There is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Hawaii to host the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in November. But before we can discuss that exciting time, we must begin with reporting on our very own Narcissus Festival celebrations packed into this very busy month of January.

The Chamber had very little time to recuperate from our traditional New Year's celebration as we kicked off the new year with **Vernon Ching** marshaling a group of prestigious judges for the January 8 Narcissus Pageant. What a wonderful job he did in selecting a fine group of judges, with Bank of Hawaii Chairman and CEO **Peter Ho**, Philanthropist Dr. **Lawrence Tseu**, East-West Center Board of Governors Chairman **Puongpun Sananikone**, Managing Director **James Schaefer** of Harry Winston Jewelers, attorney **Russell Leu** from Beijing, **Donna Walden** of Kilohana Square, KITV-4's **Yasmin Dar**, and our very own former Narcissus Queen **Carol Liu Kokame**, who is just as beautiful as ever, by the way. And away they went, first to Oahu Country Club, courtesy of Past President **Ed Pei**, to interview the 13 contestants, and then on to the Hawaii The-

atre (and a near sell-out crowd as we ran out of programs) to select our new Queen and Court. Congratulations to our new Queen, **Ningjin Miao**, and her princesses, **Christina Soo Hoo**, **Jasmine Nip**, **Stacey Lam**, and **Erica Lee**. What a great job you ladies have done thus far. Congratulations and thanks also go to all of our other contestants and new associate members for a job well done as this pageant went off like clockwork, much to the satisfaction of Narcissus Pageant Chair **Michele Choy** and Pageant Producer **Janet Maduli**. Thank you, ladies! Adding to the excitement was our first ever post-party reception at the new Panda Express in Moanalua Shopping Center where there was ample parking and a new facility for us to enjoy, thanks to Chinese Secretary **John Zhang** and Panda Express President **Andrew Chern**.

Once again, thanks to **Richard and Lynn Nakamura**, Michele then got five Chamber officers to put on their dancing shoes and to rehearse with the Court enough ballroom moves to dazzle the crowd at the January 22 Coronation Ball. Mayor **Peter Carlisle** crowned Narcissus Queen **Ningjin Miao** after a beautiful and best ever procession highlighted by former Narcissus Court members dressed in gorgeous minority costumes from throughout the Middle Kingdom. Just awesome, Michele, thank you for your wonderful efforts and enjoy your well deserved rest!

Ah, but your Chamber never sleeps as our officers tackled issues in preserving our traditional *choy cheng* celebration with aplomb this year by uniting the many lion dance organizations that wanted to continue this time honored event. Thanks to the efforts of **Leonard Kam** and **Wen Chung Lin**, the permitting process was nailed down for the Chinatown community. With the help of **John Zhang**, many of the issues between the clubs and the City and County were resolved prior to the January 28 event, satisfying the concerns of the City and police and fire departments. Congratulations to all of you and especially to the merchants and the lion dance associations for their terrific coop-

eration this year. *Mahalo*. In addition, **Gayle Lau** and I would like to thank all of the merchants who participated in the Narcissus Court's visits for their generosity to and hospitality towards this year's beautiful Queen and Court. Let's not forget our Mayor **Peter Carlisle**, who not only crowned our Queen at the Coronation Ball, but also appeared with our Court and officers at the Moon Gate Stage in the Chinatown Cultural Center. Mayor Carlisle enjoyed the experience so much that he invited our former Narcissus Queens and Court members and contestants to appear with him the following day in the Chinatown Parade, starting a new tradition for our associate members. Thank you, Mayor Carlisle. What a blast it was for **Susan** and I to ride in an Indy 500 Pace Car, greeting everyone in Chinatown and proudly leading our entourage of Narcissus beauties, including the lovely **Leilani Soon**, Miss Chinese International Hawaii. Congratulations go out to **Gifford** and **Kelfred Chang** and their Chinatown Merchants' Association and title sponsor Finance Factors for a job well done.

It seems that Narcissus Queens never sleep as our new Queen was up several mornings in a row for television appearances, but still had enough energy to appear with her court at McCoy Pavilion Sunday morning to address a Child and Family Services function and push on to perform her Pageant talent number at the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association's Spring Banquet where the Mayor and guests were also treated to a piano performance by 2010 Queen **Angie Zhang**, elegantly attired in white. Mistress of Ceremonies 2009 Narcissus 2nd Princess **Dan Yuan**, dazzling in a floor-length evening gown, announced the return of our Chinese Community's favorite opera singer, **Bai He**, who sang beautifully in Chinese and Italian for us while again wowing the crowd. Bai He has returned to Hawaii to attend the University of Hawaii School of Music. We truly appreciate her talent. Thank you, President **Daily Zhang** and HMCOA for a wonderful evening.

Before things settle down, many Chamber members may be involved with upcoming Hawaii Tourism Authority activities celebrating China Eastern Airlines and the China CYTS Tours charter flight celebrations this week at the Sheraton Waikiki. Let's hope this first of an initial three charters will be the start of a long relationship for Chinese visitors to Hawaii.

Look elsewhere in this *Lantern* for our next mixer, a wine tasting happening at Grand Café and HASR Wine Co. which may be delayed as we prepare to welcome the New Los Angeles Consul General **Qiu Shao Sang** from the People's Republic of China at a welcoming banquet on the 15th of February and other activities extending to Friday the 18th. Also, be prepared to be amazed at our Narcissus Classic Fashion Show, coming up on Sunday, March 13, at the Coral Ballroom, featuring many local models as well as the possibility of international models from Chongqing, China, brought to us through special efforts of Dr. **Lawrence Tseu** and Chamber Director **Douglas Ho**. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

As you can see, the Chamber has been quite busy of late, so to alleviate the burden of all of these functions on the executive committee, we have started a program to staff our standing committees to keep and maintain the quality of our programs. The committee list is elsewhere in this issue of the *Lantern*. If you are interested in serving, please call the Chamber. I can guarantee that you will meet many other terrific members and have a really great time with truly meaningful activities.

Don't forget President-Elect **John Hui** has a great Narcissus Goodwill Tour leaving for China on June 1, so contact **Peggy Luu** at Skyway Travel or Grace at the Chamber for more information. One hint: We will be visiting Nanjing to celebrate its favorite daughter and our new Narcissus Queen, **Ningjin Miao**.

So please enjoy the many spring banquets with your families and friends during this auspicious Year of the Rabbit. *Gung Hee Fat Choy!*



Narcissus Queen Pageant judges.

Thirteen lovely contestants showing off their beautiful gowns at Queen Pageant night.



CORONATION BALL

On Saturday, January 22, about 560 Chamber members, family and friends of the thirteen lovely Narcissus contestants, and ballroom dancers gathered at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom for the elegant annual Narcissus Coronation Ball. The evening began with no-host cocktails and a reception line at 5:30 p.m. The six-course Chinese dinner was delicious, with generous portions for each course. There was the usual pomp and circumstance of the post-dinner procession and the crowning of 2011 Narcissus Queen **Ningjin Miao**. Following the First Waltz of the Chamber officers and the Court members, the dance floor was open to the ballroom dancers. And later, quite a few people were seen departing with leftovers, the narcissus centerpiece or both. All in all, a good time was had by all.



Richard & Lynn Nakamura, new Narcissus Queen & Court, and Chamber officers at ballroom dancing practice for the Coronation Ball.

Choy Cheng | Chinese New Year Celebration

Newly crowned Narcissus Queen **Ningjin Miao** and her Court had a full weekend on Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29. On Friday, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Moon Gate stage of the Chinatown Cultural Plaza, they spent the next five hours walking all around Chinatown, visiting nearly 30 businesses, restaurants, and Chinese societies and wishing everyone best wishes for the upcoming Year of the Rabbit. The following afternoon, Chamber President **Jeff Lau** and wife **Susan**, Narcissus Queen **Ningjin Miao**, and the four Princesses rode in the back of Corvettes belonging to members of the Corvette Club of Hawaii. The Narcissus Queen and Court also made appearances at the Chinatown Cultural Center Moon Gate Stage on both days as part of the Chamber-sponsored Chinese New Year Celebration.



KUDOS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jeff Lau

Congratulations go out to Director **Alan Ho** on the January 18 grand opening celebration of Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant, which is sure to be long-term hit at Ala Moana Center. The crowd of over 500 people included former governor **Linda Lingle**, former Mayor **Mufi Hanneman**, and former Chief Justice **Ronald Moon**.

Later in the week, the Chamber held a dinner to thank Panda Express's **Andrew Chern** for sponsoring many of the Chamber initiatives throughout the years. The following night at the Coronation Ball, the Chamber formally recognized his many contributions to the Chamber's activities. Panda Express will be hosting a management convention in Honolulu later this year, bringing in more than two thousand visitors to our island. Thank you, Andrew!



Always-on-the-go Former President **Ted Li**, Executive Vice President **Wen Chung Lin**, associate members Chair **Dan Yuan**, and Mun Lun School Principal **Chock Wong** formed a Chinese community coalition group to host the Sichuan University Talent Troupe. The group was returning to China after its U.S. mainland tour and provided a great evening of entertainment, with face changers, Chinese opera and music, and minority dances. Their Thursday evening performance before a nearly sold out house at the historic Hawaii Theatre was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and was co-sponsored by the Chinese Chamber and the Confucius Institute. What is remarkable is that this project was put together in less than two weeks. Amazing! Congratulations, Ted. Your team did a wonderful job on such short notice!



Sichuan Talent Troupe performing in Hawaii

Restaurant News

January has been an active month for Chamber members in the food service business. On Facebook, Panda Express has announced a new dish "firecracker chicken breast" just in time for Chinese New Year. Also on Facebook on January 24, L&L Drive Inn posted on its wall about three "Healthy Selections" that their franchisees have on their menu. Meanwhile, in real life (as opposed to social media), **Thanh Quoc Lam** (of Ba-Le Sandwiches & Bakery fame) and family officially opened La Tour Café on January 11. It's a departure for them, but it provides a smart showcase for some of their varied line of breads and other baked goods. One young Chamber associate member tried it a few days ago, and commented that the French onion soup is her "new-found favorite" and "definitely" recommends La Tour Café, which is located at 888 North Nimitz Highway, despite sometimes crowded parking. (The "La Tour" in the Ba-Le logo is of course "La Tour Eiffel" or the Eiffel Tower). **John Heckathorn** has a January 7 review on the *Honolulu Magazine* Web site (and apparently there will be an article on Thanh Quoc in the February issue). Finally, **Alan Ho's** Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant at Ala Moana Center officially opened on January 18 with a party for hundreds of well-wishers, including quite a few Chamber members. The January 16 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser's* "Dining Out" tabloid had a photo of Alan's partner, **Ave Kwok**, with a selection of dishes as well as a two-page spread inside.

Join a Standing Committee

Under the Chamber's By-Laws, there are a number of standing committees: Narcissus Festival, government affairs, business programs, budget and finance, membership, personnel, and strategic planning. All Chamber members are cordially invited to participate on the standing committees. Some of these committees involve more of an annual time commitment than others. If you're interested in serving and sharing your training and experience, please contact the Chamber at 533-3181.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Year of the Rabbit



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 3	Thu	Chinese New Year Day
Feb 15	Tue	Executive Board Meeting Chamber Office – 5:30 p.m.
Feb 22	Tue	Board of Directors Meeting Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Mar 4	Fri	Chamber Election Day Chamber Office 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mar 13	Sun	62 Narcissus Fashion Show Hilton Hawaiian Village Silent Auction & Vendors Market – 9:30 a.m. Luncheon & Fashion Show – 11:30 a.m.

A number of Chamber members were in the news in January. On January 6, long-time Chamber member **Neil Abercrombie** was inaugurated as governor of the State of Hawaii. 1992 Narcissus Queen and Chamber board member **Maile Loo** was featured in an article in the January 11 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, “Hula baby on board,” about four-week hula classes for mothers with their infants in front or back carriers. A photo of **Marsha Rose Joyner** appeared in the January 14 *Star-Advertiser* while attending the Dr. **Martin Luther King Jr.** Candlelight Bell Ringing Ceremony at Honolulu Hale. The January 30 *Star-Advertiser* article “Chang’s one-stop remodeling shop” was about **David Chang** and one of his businesses, The Cabinet & Stone Factory in Kalihi. Finally, the February 2 *Midweek* had photos of **James Schaefer** and wife **Winnie** attending the Sony Open and post-Pageant photos of President-Elect **John Hui**, 2010 Narcissus Queen **Angie Zhang**, and 2011 Narcissus Queen **Ningjin Miao**.

NEW MEMBERS

At its January 25 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the applications for **Fran Kramer**, a life coach and owner of Healing Dream Garden (recommended by Dr. **Lei Ahu Isa**); **Catherine Lin**, a Realtor-Associate® and China sales director at Choi International (recommended by **Edward Hu**); **Derek Tamura**, director of marketing and promotions for Pacific Expos (recommended by **Marsha Rose Joyner** and **Alvin Wong**); and **Lance Wong**, Department of Health Food and Drug Branch supervisor (recommended by **Alvin Wong**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next Chamber membership event.



Kung Hei Fat Choy!

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of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
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