

LANTERN

March 2011

NARCISSUS FASHION SHOW

This year's Fashion Show will again be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on Sunday, March 13. There will be a silent auction and vendors' market starting at 9:30 a.m. and the luncheon and fashion show will begin at 11:30 a.m. According to Fashion Show Chair **Vera Wong**, things are going well, with many great items for the silent auction, twenty vendors (with room for about nine more), and about 50 tables reserved so far. The award-winning, internationally acclaimed designers, **Eric Chandler** and **Takeo Kobayashi** of 2-Couture, are working hard and will have many splendid items on show. **Mahealani Richardson** of KITV-4 will be both co-emcee and a guest model, and other models include internationally renowned singer **Kristian Lei**, community volunteers **Kitty Wo** and **April Masini**, Avanti male model **Royce Hui**, 2011 Miss Hawaii USA **Angela Byrd**, 2011 Miss Hawaii Teen USA **Courtney Coleman**, and **Ningjin Miao**, 2011 Narcissus Queen. Tickets are \$65.00 per person or \$650.00 for a table of ten, and Diamond (\$5,000.00), Emerald (\$3,000.00), and Jade (\$1,000.00) table sponsorships are also available. For reservations or more information, contact the Chamber at 533-3181 or **Violet Tam** at 737-9046.

Wine Tasting Mixer

The first membership event for 2011 was held on Friday, February 25. Some two dozen Chamber members gathered initially at the courtyard of HASR Wine Co. at 5:30 p.m., for the opportunity to sample half a dozen red and white wines. Then around 6:30 p.m., the gathering moved to a nice, cozy room at Grand Café & Bakery next door. A selection of *pupu* were served, including chili ranch chicken wings, meatballs, spring rolls with chili sauce, an out-of-the-ordinary veggie *yaki-tori*, and the hit of the evening, the crab artichoke dip. Co-owner **Mona Chang Vierra** briefly outlined the history of Grand Café as well as the room we were in, which nicely accommodated the group. After sampling the *pupu* prepared by chef **Anthony Vierra**, introductions of everyone present kept the group constantly laughing, due to Chamber president **Jeff Lau** allowing each person to be asked "two questions" by others present. Everyone had so much fun that the mixer went on until 8:30 p.m. and some resumed the wine tasting in the courtyard. All in all, it was a great evening, enjoyed by everyone present.

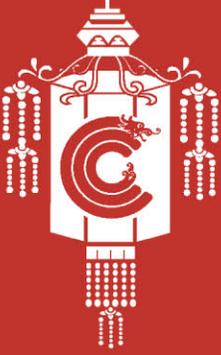


UH Cancer Center: The Conquest of Cancer in Hawaii

The Chamber general membership meeting on Thursday, March 17, at the Empress Restaurant will deal with a pressing medical concern, cancer. This year, some 6,000 Hawaii residents will be diagnosed with cancer, the state's second leading cause of death. The researchers at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center are working every day to find cures and treatments to combat cancer in our communities. The meeting will feature a presentation illuminating the latest innovations in cancer research and care from three nationally-renowned experts at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. Dr. **Michele Carbone**, M.D., Ph.D., Director, UH Cancer Center; Dr. **Clayton Chong**, M.D., Clinical Faculty and Chief, Department of Oncology, Queen's Medical Center; and Dr. **Iona Cheng**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, will share their groundbreaking work in breast and prostate cancer research. Also come and learn about the progress of the new state-of-the-art facility now under construction in Kakaako and what lies ahead in the quest for cures.

Check-in and networking starting at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will begin at noon and the panel will start at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 for Chamber members and \$35.00 for non-members. Deadline for the final headcount is Tuesday, March 15. Seating, if available, after that date will cost \$35.00 for Chamber members and \$40.00 for non-members. So if you plan to attend and learn more about cancer research in Hawaii, please call the Chinese Chamber at 533-3181 right away!

Left: Winners of the Wine tasting drawing at the Grand Café, prospective member Ping Zhang, Associate member Emily Moore, member CPA, Jan Leu, and Past president Alvin Wong with officers Jeff Lau and Gerald Chang.



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII



President
Jeffrey D. Lau

What a great February, with Chinese New Year activities in full swing during this Year of the Rabbit! February 1 started off with a great celebration by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Governor **Neil Abercrombie** inviting many Chamber members to welcome China Youth Travel Service and China Eastern Airlines' first-ever direct charter flight from Beijing. At the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, they were welcomed by former DBEDT tourism liaison **Marsha Wienert**, now regional public relations director for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, and **Li Mei Kimura**, the Sheraton's China tour coordinator, who previously hosted our Qinhuangdao banquet. Chamber Director **Yen Chun** served as one of the emcees for the event, which everyone seemed to enjoy and focused their attention on the possibilities of welcoming more Chinese tourists to Hawaii. After all, though now small in number (30,000 last year and 60,000 or more this year), Chinese tourists actually outspend Japanese tourists by approximately \$100 more per day per capita at nearly \$340 per day.

By Thursday, February 3, Narcissus Queen **Ningjin Miao** and I were back at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant with its manager, **Ave Kwok**, and KITV-4's **Lisa Kubota** and Ala Moana Center's **Jasmine Tso** to talk about the recent activities of the Chamber, the meaning of the Year of the Rabbit, the Chinese New Year delicacies on the table, and the Center

welcoming its signature fine dining Chinese restaurant, in that order. While getting up at 4:00 a.m. was tough on us, eating all of the delicacies on the table afterwards was not!

I would like to thank the University of Hawaii and its Center for Chinese Studies and the Confucius Institute for inviting us to their Spring Banquet at Royal Garden, especially as we hope to kick off a business Mandarin program with them later this spring in our Chamber offices. Thanks also the Chang Wing Yong Tong for allowing us to swear in their officers again at a wonderful Spring Banquet at Hee Hing. Thank you also to **Paul Chang**, TECO Director General, for welcoming us to their Chinese New Year reception in Sun Yat-Sen Hall for all of their friends here in Honolulu and the State of Hawaii on Saturday, February 12. Many of us had to leave right afterward to attend the great Teo Chew Society banquet hosted by our very own **John** and **Jenny Hui** next door at the Empress Restaurant.

More international affairs followed as we welcomed Ambassador and Consul General **Qiu Shaofang** of the People's Republic of China consulate in Los Angeles on his first official visit to Honolulu, again at the Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant. The Ambassador held a thank-you dinner at Chin's Harbor View Restaurant to thank us for the wonderful hospitality and to report on his visits with the Mayor and the Governor. He also expressed his interest in bringing cultural art troupes here from China for our fall centennial celebration. To complement his interest, Madam **Tang Cuiying**, Director General, department of Culture of the State Council's Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, was welcomed by the Hawaii Chinese Cultural Center also at the Jade Dynasty last Saturday, February 26. She advised us that the selection of performers would be on-going through this summer to make sure that the very best ones would be chosen to represent China.

I was pleased to write on behalf of the Chamber and to have Yen Chun present our letter to the Honolulu City Council, supporting Resolution 10-335, declaring 2011

The Centennial Year of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in Honolulu, which was passed unanimously. I am also pleased and honored to congratulate **Warren Luke**, who was presented with the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council's Paul Bachman Award at its annual banquet on February 10.

Thanks also go to the Association of Chinese from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos for hosting us at their talent-filled Spring Banquet on the 19th. Nonetheless, for an enjoyable evening, nothing could beat the camaraderie experienced by all at our wine tasting mixer at HSAR Wine Co. and Grand Café this past Friday evening where we could all relax, taste some premium wines and enjoy each others' company. We even learned a little Chinatown history, courtesy of co-owner **Mona Chang Vierra**, who provided us with the background of the Grand Café & Bakery and her family's part in the history of the Chinese in Hawaii. Thank you, **Gerald Chang** for your quick work in putting this wonderful and relaxing program together and **Dennis Hwang** for supplying four bottles of premium wine as door prizes.

Don't forget, we have three programs coming up soon, starting with our Narcissus Classic Fashion Show on Sunday, March 13, at the Coral Ballroom, which already has reservations for more than 50 tables, so clearly, this will be our signature event for this spring. But not to be outdone, on Thursday, March 17, we will have Dr. **Michele Carbone** of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii and several of his colleagues discuss cancers that afflict some of our Hawaii residents; it promises to be a very interesting health-oriented program. Then in April, we will have another GMM with a discussion on investing in real estate in China and for Chinese to invest in Hawaii, with Realtor **Laisin Lee** and Bank of Hawaii's **Betty Brow**, which is not to be missed.

Do also look out for events to support our Narcissus Queen and Court on their Narcissus Goodwill Tour and also another to support our growing associate membership. These promise to be hip, fun-filled events that



Jill Kuramoto, Ave Kwok Manager, Jeff Lau Pres., Ningjin Miao, Narcissus Queen, Jasmine Tso Ala Moana Marketing and Sales on KITV Feb 5th.



At the Feb. 15 welcoming dinner at Jade Dynasty, Ambassador Qiu Shaofang, PRC Consul General in Los Angeles (in red, third from right), with his wife Han Laixiang, Russell Lau, Vice Chair of Finance Factors, and his wife, Connie Hee Lau, President of Hawaiian Electric Industries and American Savings Bank; Jeff Lau, Chamber President; and Ted Li, Chamber Past President.



Top: Pictured at the Feb. 26 Hawaii Chinese Cultural Center welcome dinner for Madam Tang Cuiying, Director General, Department of Culture, Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the PRC State Council (in white on the right), are Chamber President Jeff Lau; Dan Yuan, Chair of Chamber Associate Members; and Daily Zhang, President of Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association.

Bottom: Madam Tang Cuiying's visit to the Chamber office.

deserve your support. Along those lines, kudos and congratulations go out to Miss Chinese Hawaii **Lorrie Chong** on her award as Miss Congeniality at this year's Miss Chinatown USA Pageant in San Francisco where she represented all of us so well. Please also keep an eye out to support Miss Chinatown Hawaii **Shannon Wong** in the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant this June.

Last, a big *mahalo* to **Vernon Ching**, who has taken on the task of chairing our centennial celebration, including agreeing to be the editor in chief of our centennial anniversary book, which will be quite an ambitious undertaking in reaching out to our members and the rest of the Chinese community. Articles will be due early this spring and we expect delivery in time to celebrate May 1, 2012 during our Centennial Year.

As everyone will note, the Chamber keeps growing and taking on new projects, so we continue to look for volunteers who wish to get involved and to make a difference in the Chinese community. If you are interested in joining our standing committees or eventually becoming a director or officer, please just drop us a line and we will see where we might be able to get you involved.

Happy Chinese New Year in this Year of the Rabbit and also in Honolulu's Year of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen!

Mahalo,

Jeff Lau



Pictured at the end of the Feb. 25 wine tasting mixer are some of those who attended.



Above Left: At a recent dinner at the Empress Restaurant are (front row) John Chang, City & County Economic Development Office; and TECO Director General Paul Chang and his wife; (back row) Jenny Hui; House Speaker Calvin Say; and Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock.

Above Right: Celebrating Pre-Valentine's Day at Harry Winston Jewelers. (L-R) Chamber Associate Members Dan Yuan, Karen Chang and Krystal Lin; Chamber President Jeff Lau; Winnie and James Schaefer, General Manager of Harry Winston Jewelers; and Susan Lau.



Attending the first associate member meeting Crystal Lin, Cat Wong Jayne, Selena Qiu, Karen Chang, "Uncle" Vernon Ching, Dan Yuan, Kimmy Leong, and Megan Chun.

MEMBER NEWS

Prudential Locations LLC had a two-page ad in the February 13 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, recognizing its agents for their accomplishments in 2010. Realtor® **Brandon Lau** was announced as "Salesperson of the Year." He was also named to the Chairman's Circle – Gold and a Top 100 Oahu Realtor® as well as receiving a Client Service Award and a Honolulu Board of Realtors® "Aloha Aina" nomination. Congratulations to Brandon and the members of his Choice Homes Hawaii team.

Harry Winston Salon Director **James Schaefer** and his lovely wife **Winnie** were pictured in the February 16 *Midweek* and February 20 *Star-Advertiser*. In **Yu Shing Ting's** "Exposure" gallery in *Midweek*, James (and Winnie) were pictured twice: once showing off their Harry Winston watches and twice wearing a baseball cap and pullover polo shirt. (That "priceless" product placement photo is probably a collector's item since James is almost invariably seen in a coat and tie).

In the February 18 issue of *Ho'okele*, the weekly newspaper for Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, **Stanford Yuen** was pictured with RADM and Mrs. **Dixon Smith** after

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receiving a framed certificate of appreciation from the Hawaii legislature for his many years of dedicated community service. Over the years, Stanford has served as a member of the Downtown Neighborhood Board as well as holding positions in over a dozen Chinese community organizations, including as a member of the Chinese Chamber board of directors. Stanford started as a mechanical engineer at Hickam in 1975, shifted to Commander Navy Region Hawaii in 1993, and then became special assistant to the admiral in 2000. The plaque was presented by state Representatives **Corinne Ching** and **Rida Cabanilla**.

According to the February 17 *Star-Advertiser*, the Honolulu Board of Realtors® recently held elections for offi-

cers and directors. **Patrick Graham** has been reelected as director for the North Shore/Windward region.

On January 19, TV “entertainer” Rush Limbaugh marked Chinese President **Hu Jintao**’s state visit to Washington, D.C., by running a video clip without subtitles or translation. Limbaugh did two impressions of “Chinese” – first for about 30 seconds, then another ten seconds or so later in his show, the latter including his stated lack of understanding of spoken Chinese OR Japanese. (If Limbaugh knew as much about the U.S.’ creditors as he thinks he does about everything else, he might appreciate that as of last December, China held \$1.060 trillion in Treasuries while the Japanese hold another \$882.3 billion). In any event, according to the February 24 *Star-Advertiser*, Honolulu Councilman **Stanley Chang**’s resolution requesting an apology from Rush Limbaugh to U.S. citizens of Asian ancestry, President Hu Jintao, and citizens of the People’s Republic of China was passed 8-1 the previous day. Don’t hold your breath for a Limbaugh apology his insults. His *faux* Chinese didn’t include the names of any Chinese dishes, so presumably he never eats “Chinese.” And Russians would probably dismiss him as “*nekulturny amerikanec*.”

In the February 23 *Midweek Pa’ina*, Governor **Neil Abercrombie** was pictured at the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights fourth annual Martin Luther King, Jr., awards banquet. Since then, he’s met with constituents, some of them irate, at a town hall meeting at Pearl Ridge Elementary and been busy wrestling with the biennial budget (Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013) and a projected \$700 million two-year budget deficit. Neil may take some comfort from **E. J. Dionne**’s March 3 column in the *Washington Post*, “No glory for governors trying to do the right fiscal thing,” in which Neil is cited by name as one of only a handful of governors who is willing to cut programs and increase taxes. (As USC management guru **Warren Bennis** wrote two decades ago, “Managers do things right, leaders do the right thing.”).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|--------|-----|--|
| Mar 4 | Fri | Chamber 2011
General Election Day
Chamber Office
– 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 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. |
| Mar 22 | Tue | Executive Board Meeting
Chamber Office – 5:30 p.m. |
| Mar 25 | Fri | Board of Directors Meeting
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m. |

NEW MEMBERS

At its February 22 meeting, the Chamber board of directors approved the application for **Elaine Chow**, a Realtor-Associate® with Prudential Locations (recommended by **Reuben Wong**).

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