

# LANTERN

April 2011

## “THE CHINESE AND HAWAII REAL ESTATE”

On Wednesday, April 20, at the Empress Restaurant, we will hold our second general membership meeting for 2011. “The Chinese and Hawaii Real Estate: The Realtor and Banker View” will feature two Chamber directors: Realtor® **Laisin Lee** and **Betty Brow**, Bank of Hawaii Executive Vice President and head of the International Banking Division. From their respective vantage points, Laisin and Betty will look at the attractiveness of Hawaii real estate to Chinese buyers, whether investors or would-be residents, what they’re looking for, and what kind of assistance Hawaii real estate and banking professionals can provide. Check-in starts at 11:30 a.m, lunch starts at noon, and the program starts at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 for Chamber members and \$35.00 for non-members. Deadline for reservations is Friday, April 15. Reservations made after the deadline will be charged an additional \$5.00 per person, so if you plan to attend this informative program, call the Chamber right away at 533-3181.

## CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR BOOK

Work is progressing on the Chamber centennial souvenir book, guided by editor **Vernon Ching**. Former Chamber presidents are invited to submit a brief write-up (100 words or less) describing their experience as president or updating us. Nominations of individuals who have made significant contributions to the Hawaii Chinese community during the last 100 years are also invited. The names and a short paragraph describing their contribution should be submitted to the Chamber. The souvenir book committee will soon be reviewing the nominations for inclusion in the book. The deadline for the presidential articles and nominations of individuals is Friday, April 15. (Remember that this year, the deadline for federal income tax returns is Monday, April 18).



Narcissus Queen Ningjin Miao at International Day Parade.

Jake Shimabukuru, Jasmine Nip, and Christina Soo Hoo.



Chamber President Jeffrey Lau. Photo by Barbara Li.



62nd Narcissus Queen and Court, General Manger of Hiroshima Tourism Department, and Hiroshima Courtesy Greeters.



## 1971 Narcissus Court Reunion

by *Queenie Chee*

The 1971 Narcissus Court had a special 40th “class reunion” at this year’s Narcissus Festival Fashion Show. Queen **Queenie Mary Mow Chee**, Princesses **Carol Kon Leong**, **Susie Lau Ing**, **Genevieve Lum Loo**, and **Rosa Chen Iao** had not been together as a group since their reign ended in 1972!

After that, Carol moved to San Diego, and Genevieve and Rosa were Pan American airline flight attendants and were stationed in Tehran and Tokyo. Susie and Queenie briefly shared the same employer (First Insurance Company). Both are still in the financial services industry today. Carol and Genevieve finally returned to Hawaii, the former in the field of law and the latter is living on Kauai to be with her husband and family.

**Stan Okada**, our steady photographer, remembered Genevieve. That was how he got his start taking pictures at the Narcissus Festival that year of 1971, doing informal shots for her. He too, has a milestone year to celebrate!



Susan Lau, 3rd Narcissus Princess Karen Chang MC for Torch of Peach Ceremony, and John Chang, City Director of International Relations.



President  
Jeffrey D. Lau

Happy Easter, everyone!

March was a very busy month for the Chamber, first greeting Madame **Tang Cuiying**, Director General of the Department of Culture, which is part of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council. While she was here, she was able to witness the beautiful program put on by the Chinese Cultural Center at the City's theater center next to City Hall.

From there, we went right into our signature event for the month, the revival of the Narcissus Fashion Show after a hiatus of five years, held at the Coral Ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, thanks to the tremendous effort put forth by the Hawaii Chinese Women's Club, **Vera Wong**, **Blossom Tyau**, and benefactor Dr. **Larry Tseu**. The Chamber really appreciates all of your special efforts on our behalf. The show highlighted offerings from **John** and **Jenny Hui's** Avanti Fashions, Inc. and the creations of Blue Buddha, all produced under the direction of 2 Couture's very own **Takeo Kobayashi** and **Eric Chandler**, added their very own special touch of class and designs. Highlights of the show included beautiful community volunteer **Charlyn Masini** as well as first ever modeling appearances of **Royce Hui** and **Timothy Fong**, sons of Chamber members, and our very own "Black Swan," 2009 Narcissus Second Princess **Dan Yuan**. What a beautiful day it was, made especially sweet when Blossom recognized Past President **Ted Li's** birthday. (Ted returned the favor by thanking many of the volunteers and Chamber friends at his home the following weekend).

I did notice that our associate members used the event to hold their monthly meeting at the Coral Ballroom. Our Narcissus Queen and Court went straight from the Fashion Show to Kalakaua Avenue to participate in

the International Day Parade. It was great to meet the general manager of the Hiroshima tourism department, along with the Hiroshima contingent.

The Chamber and Narcissus Court wish to thank the Goo Association in particular for inviting the Queen and Court to its Spring Banquet. Thanks also go out to the many Chinese societies, among them the Wong Kong Har Tong, the Kwangtung Community Honolulu, the Tsung Tsin Association, the Lung Doo Benevolent Society, the See Yup Association, and the Ching Clan Benevolent Society, among many others, for hosting Chamber officers at their banquets. Special *kudos* to the newest and youngest Ching Clan President, 2008 Narcissus Fourth Princess **Chantel Katahara Ching**.

Congratulations to our newly elected Chamber officers and directors, in particular, First Vice President **Betty Brow** who has brought the strength of Bank of Hawaii to stimulate Splendor of China this year. She has already held several meetings to start this year's event, scheduled for the last weekend of October, on the right foot. Directors and fellow members, please be aware that our good friend, photographer **Stan Okada**, will soon start to take color photos of you at upcoming events. These will be placed in our online Chamber directory, along with the year you became a member and the name of your spouse. If you wish to submit your own recent color photo, please send it to **Grace Chan** at the Chamber.

Congratulations also to the new 59th Cherry Blossom Queen, **Jennifer Lauren Aiko Sur**, and her Court. We wish them as wonderful a year as this year's 58th Cherry Blossom Queen, **Marissa Machida**, and her Court. "*Okage sama de*" or "I am who I am because of you."

Please note that the Zhongshan Overseas Chinese Affairs office and the *Zhongshan Daily* sent a team of six to conduct interviews with descendants of the original founders of the *Xingzhonghui* or "Revive China Society" and other supporters of **Sun Yat-sen**. If you have information to provide to them, please contact the United Chinese Society or the Chinese Historical Society. There is still so much to be learned about the involvement of many of Hawaii's Chinese in the overthrow of the Qing dynasty in 1911. Most recently, on April 2, **Douglas Chong** lectured on behalf of the Chinese Historical Society about these sup-

porters of Dr. Sun at the **Tseu** Multipurpose Room at the Chinese Chamber building.

Special mention goes to **Gerald Chang** for organizing not only our special evening wine tasting mixer at Grand Café & Bakery, but also for coordinating our very special and highly informative University of Hawaii Cancer Center seminar in conjunction with our third general membership meeting. Look for an article on the Center and its director, Dr. **Michele Carbone**, elsewhere in this *Lantern*. Many of Dr. Carbone's researchers are of Chinese descent from the U.S. and China.

Please look forward to the April 6 *Ching Ming* rituals, which will take place this Wednesday at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery. The Chamber and the Narcissus Court will have the opportunity to participate in the United Chinese Society's event at the Grand Ancestor's Tomb, commencing at 9:30 a.m. The public is welcome, but please call the United Chinese Society at 536-4621 if you plan to attend as seating is limited.

Special congratulations to the Board of Governors of the United Chinese of Hawaii, a new organization which intends to assist in the production of Chinese cultural acts as they come to Hawaii.

Special thanks to **Reuben** and **Vera Wong** for opening their Windward Oahu vacation home for our Narcissus Festival *mahalo* party, coming up on Saturday, April 23. Our Narcissus volunteers worked very hard this past year, and were quite successful in spite of the poor state of the economy. Thank you, one and all!

I also want to thank the Honolulu TECO office for giving me the opportunity to co-emcee their centennial anniversary Torch of Peace Welcome Banquet at the Tapa Ballroom on March 28. This was on the eve of their beautiful Torch of Peace lighting ceremony, held at Aloha Tower the next day. Congratulations to the TECO staff for flawlessly executing their historical program with over 400 visitors from around the globe.

And finally, like all good rabbits, please keep a sharp lookout for some upcoming fund-raising opportunities for this year's Narcissus Queen and Court as they work to supplement their funds to assist them on their way to China. Your *kokua* would be much appreciated by these well deserving young women."

Again, Happy Easter in this Year of the Rabbit!

## “The Conquest of Cancer in Hawaii”

The first general membership meeting of 2011 was held on Thursday, March 17, at the Empress Restaurant. “The Conquest of Cancer in Hawaii” featured an excellent, expert panel presentation by Dr. **Michele Carbone**, director of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center; Dr. **Clayton Chong**, and **Iona Cheng**, Ph.D. Dr. Carbone gave an overview of the Center, including current construction of a new building adjacent to the **John A. Burns** School of Medicine, which will allow consolidation of the research staff now spread over three locations. According to Dr. Carbone, quite a few of his researchers are Chinese, either from the U.S. or China, and he also mentioned that Hawaii has the highest incidence of liver cancer, especially among Chinese. Dr. Chong discussed breast cancer: While the incidence is similar in Hawaii and the rest of the U.S., the death rate here is higher. At the same time, the five-year survival rate for Chinese and Japanese is very high. Dr. Cheng talked about prostate cancer, most of which grow slowly. This is the most common cancer among Chinese men in Hawaii, but the survival rate for them is higher than other racial or ethnic groups. There were a number of free handouts, including packets of SPF-30 sunscreen towelette samples. The panelists later commented that those in attendance asked smart questions and appeared to be very interested in the presentation. It was certainly informative, and we hope to have another UHCC panel early next year, perhaps at a dinner-time general membership meeting so that the presentation can be longer.



The Zhongshan Chinese Overseas Affairs delegation with Zhongshan Daily Crew visit the Chamber office.

## NARCISSUS FASHION SHOW

After a five-year hiatus, the Narcissus Fashion Show was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on Sunday, March 13. Early arrivals had a chance to choose from the wares of vendors and make competing bids on the silent auction. The luncheon for some 460 Chamber members and guests began around noon, then came the fashion show, “Inspiration,” featuring fashions from Avanti Fashion, Inc. (**John and Jenny Hui**), Blue Buddha, and 2 Couture (**Takeo Kobayashi and Eric Chandler**). Once again, **Mahealani Richardson** very capably handled her role as mistress of ceremonies also appeared as a guest model. The models, including a number of local beauty queens as well as community volunteers like **Kitty Wo** and **April Masini**, were gorgeous while the male models, including John and Jenny’s son **Royce**, were handsome. The Chinese Chamber would like to thank sponsors **Susanna Cheung** of Helemano Plantation, **Douglas Ho** of the **Beatrice Young** Foundation, and **Reuben Wong** of the **Lin and Ella Wong** Foundation as well as Honorary Event Chair Dr. **Lawrence Tseu** for their generous support. And *xiexie* to the event chair and vice chair, **Vera Wong** and **Blossom Tyau**, for their successful efforts as well as to the Chinese Women’s Club of Honolulu and a host of volunteers.



Jenny Hui, Mahealani Richardson, and John Hui, Narcissus Festival General Chairman.



Event Chair Vera Wong and Imperial Sponsor Dr. Larry Tseu.



Festival Chairman John Hui, Past president Reuben Wong, Event Vice chair Blossom Tyau, and Imperial Sponsor Dr. Larry Tseu.



The February issue of *Hawaii Business* announced award recipients in its annual SmallBiz Success Awards program. The Lifetime Achievement award went to Opportunities and Resources Inc. (formerly Opportunities for the Retarded Inc.) and its founder, president, and CEO, **Susanna Cheung**. An interesting, full-page article profiled Susanna and her efforts on behalf of the developmentally disabled for over thirty years.

Attorney **Marvin Dang** does a great deal of the legal collection work in Honolulu, something that has increased in volume with the turndown in the national and Hawaiian economy. According to the February 14 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* article, he may run the largest debt-collection law firm in

Hawaii, with more than half of the 21,000 pending collection lawsuits in Honolulu District Court. According to the article, Marvin prefers to resolve claims instead of filing suit, which only adds court costs to the amount sought from the debtor.

In the February 23 *Midweek's* Business Roundtable section, **Bryan Luke** wrote about "Hawaii's Family Bank," Hawaii National Bank. Bryan's grandfather, **K. J. Luke**, started HNB in 1960, and it remains "a community bank that specializes in serving locally owned, closely held businesses and individual account holders." The "warm-hearted bankers" continue to emphasize building strong and close relationships with their customers, continually offering innovative new products and services. The Luke family's involvement continues with Bryan as executive vice president and his father **Warren** as president and CEO. (If you're interested in reading Bryan's article, it's archived on the *Midweek* Web site, [www.midweek.com](http://www.midweek.com). Additional information can be found in Wikipedia). And if you've seen the March issue of *Hawaii Business*, Bryan is on the "20 For the Next 20" cover, and in the write-up inside, **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, comments about his long-time friend.

Congratulations are in order for one of the "warm-hearted bankers" at Hawaii National Bank. According to the "Business briefs" in the March 16 *Star-Bulletin*, **Joe Yit** has been promoted to vice president and manager of the main branch.

Governor **Neil Abercrombie** was pictured in the March 30 "Hawaii Paina" section of *Midweek* while attending the VIP Preview Night of First Hawaiian Bank's International Auto Show at Hawaii Convention Center.

This being a non-leap year, the thirty-day observance of Qing Ming (or Ching Ming in Cantonese) begins on April 5. The traditional opening ceremony by the Hawaii Chinese Qing Ming Celebration Committee and the United Chinese Society at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery, which is open to the public, will be held on Wednesday, April 6. (A private ceremony will be held by the Lin Yee Chung Association on Tuesday). In preparation for the ceremonies, architect **James Young** was pictured in the April 2 *Star-Advertiser* while painting the enclosure at the tomb of the Grand Ancestor, **Lum Ching**.

In late breaking news, former Chamber president **Wesley Fong** has been appointed and confirmed as a commissioner for the Honolulu Liquor Commission.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 19	Tue	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> Chamber Office – 5:30 p.m.
Apr 20	Wed	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> Empress Restaurant – 11:20 a.m.
Apr 22	Fri	<b>Good Friday</b>
Apr 24	Sun	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
Apr 26	Tue	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
May 8	Sun	<b>Mother's Day</b>

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