

LANTERN

May 2011

2011 Narcissus Fund-raiser at Stage

by Stacey Lam (Baba)

Come celebrate with the 2011 Narcissus Court and **Kimberly Leong** at Stage Restaurant on Friday, May 13, from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.! The six of us are hosting a “Club Night” fund-raiser themed “East Meets West” to raise money for the upcoming 2011 Narcissus Goodwill Tour. The critically acclaimed Stage Restaurant is located on the second floor of the Honolulu Design Center, 1250 Kapiolani Boulevard. Parking is available in the Design Center’s parking structure (main entrance on Piikoi Street and another entrance on Pensacola Street) and valet parking will also be available.



Once you arrive, we will have a live DJ, many fabulous door prizes, and an exciting fashion show, featuring contemporary clothes from Fashionista’s Market, Bliss, and Noteworthy.

We will likely have a silent auction, so bring extra cash. There will also be \$4.00 drink specials all night long! Anyone 21 and over is cordially invited to attend! You can purchase pre-sale tickets for \$10.00 now or pay \$15.00 at the door. Please contact the Chinese Chamber at 533-3181 or **Erica Lee** at leee3187@gmail.com for pre-sale tickets not later than Tuesday, May 10. We look forward to seeing you there.



Qing Ming ceremony up at Manoa Chinese Cemetery with Jeannette Young (next to Queen Ningjin Miao), widow of founder George Young of this ceremony.

CENTENNIAL BOOK ADVERTISERS

Preparations have begun for a hard-cover Chinese Chamber centennial anniversary book of up to 250 pages. Advertisements are being accepted for the full-color book. This is an opportunity that may not come again for another 25 or 50 years. For more information, contact the Chamber at 533-3181.

CHAMBER Installation Dinner

The installation of Chamber officers will take place as part of the dinner program on Friday, May 20, at the Empress Restaurant. **John Hui** will be inaugurated, and President-Elect **Leonard Kam**, First Vice President **Betty Brow**, Second Vice President **Gerald Chang**, Third Vice President **Sylvia Louie**, English Secretary **Tina Au**, Chinese Secretary **John Zhang**, Treasurer **Michael Ching**, Assistant Treasurer **Michele Choy**, and Immediate Past President **Jeffrey Lau** will be sworn in. The evening begins with check-in and networking (accompanied by wine or soft drinks) at 5:30 p.m., and dinner and the program start at 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$350.00 for a table of ten. Deadline for reservations and the final headcount is Tuesday, May 10. If you plan to attend, call the Chamber at 533-3181 right away.

Where's My Copy of the Lantern?

Some of you may be wondering what happened to your hard copy of the *Lantern*, which for most Chamber members is no longer delivered once a month by an agent of the U.S. government. As you were informed by a front-page, black-bordered notice in the January *Lantern*, starting in February 2011, all Chamber members with an e-mail address (more than 80% of you) would be notified each month that the latest *Lantern* is available online. (Previous editions of the *Lantern* are archived and also available online). You were also notified in January that if you still wanted to receive the printed *Lantern* through the U.S. Postal Service, you should call the Chamber. So this is a final reminder: If you still want to get the *Lantern* by “snail mail,” call the Chamber and let Wen or Grace know. Otherwise, you’ll be getting only the online *Lantern* with all-color photos (which started with the February 2011 online *Lantern*).



夏威夷中華總商會



President
Jeffrey D. Lau

April is the month when the Chinese honor their ancestors, and we in Hawaii have followed that tradition with our own *Qing Ming* or *Bai San* celebration, primarily at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery. This year, on behalf of the Chinese Chamber, I was honored to represent the entire community of Chinese societies and organizations at the April 6 rituals at the Great Ancestor's (**Lum Ching**) Tomb. I believe it is the first time in recent history that the United Chinese Society has bestowed this honor upon the Chinese Chamber, and we humbly thank them for allowing us to participate. We were fortunate to be covered by the local media and even drew nationwide coverage from one of the U.S. mainland Chinese broadcast stations out of New York. In watching this national news program, we came on right after stories on **Donald Trump** and **Hillary Clinton**! What fun!



On April 8, at the Ward Warehouse conference rooms, **Wes Fong**, **John Hui**, and I had the opportunity to listen to DBEDT's Dr. **Eugene Tian** lecture on marketing to Chinese tourists. Also present were members of the Chengdu Retail Industry Association, escorted by U.S. Commercial Service personnel from the U.S. consulate in Chengdu. After visiting Boston, New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles, this touring group gave Honolulu a big thumbs up as the best place to visit on their tour! Special thanks go out to **Milton Kwock** and his gang at DBEDT and the Hawaii Tourism Authority for their support.

I want to thank member **James Schaefer**, **Harry Winston** Jewelers' managing director at Ala Moana Center, for inviting Past President **Ted Li** and I to have lunch with his China marketing manager, who was in town to discuss their wonderful plans to expand into China. Best of luck, James!

Past President **Wes Fong** recently treated several Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies students from Shanghai and Beijing and I to *pupu* in honor of their completion of their program at Fort DeRussy.

The following Wednesday, at our general membership meeting, we were fortunate to have an opportunity to get a first-hand impression from Hawaii International Real Estate Council President and Realtor® **Laisin Li** about the real estate markets in Hawaii, and to gain insights from **Betty Brow**, Executive Vice President of Bank of Hawaii's International Banking Division, about moving funds and investing in real estate in Hawaii for Chinese investors and buyers. What a treat this was, which made it one of our longest general membership meetings ever. *Mahalo* for enlightening us.

It was great to see so many familiar faces and China hands among the 150 attendees at the Think Tech Hawaii and Hawaii Venture Capitalist Association program, "Reciprocal China," at the Plaza Club last Thursday. Though each speaker had only five minutes to speak, I hope those of you in attendance got some helpful information for your next China transaction. Be sure to look out for my one-hour presentation with Think Tech's **Bill Sharpe**, to be broadcast some time this summer on *Olelo* Television Station.

Thank you, Lung Kong Kung Shaw Society, Lung Doo Chung Sin Tong Benevolent Society, and Luk Tung Kuen Worldwide Association for inviting the Chamber to your wonderful spring banquets. May you all be blessed with a prosperous new year!

Don't forget that the Narcissus Goodwill Tour is getting organized and had a won-



derfully successful private dinner fund-raiser at **Michele Choy**'s aunt's home in Kahala. What a perfect evening with wonderful company and delicious food provided by the young ladies and their parents! Thank you, Michele, for another great idea, and please thank your aunt for opening up her home to these well deserving young women.

Don't forget, however, their second fund-raiser, which will take place at the Stage restaurant in the Honolulu Design Center on Friday, May 13. Be sure to come and enjoy the festivities, "East Meets West," in a night club venue atmosphere! More details are provided in this issue. Some of the proceeds will go to assist other contestants and associate members, who will also travel with the Narcissus Court throughout China in June.



Speaking of associate members, they just had a great meeting with Past President **Vernon Ching**'s assistance at their favorite meeting place, Zippy's Vineyard, and are planning their activities for the summer, which will include a soon-to-be announced car wash. Associate Member Chair **Dan Yuan** announced that **Catherine Jayne** is Vice Chair, **Lani Soon** and **Kristine Duong** will serve as Secretaries, **Jasmine Nip** and **Cat** will handle events, and **Kimmy Leong** will be Director of Communications.

Congratulations go out Dan for being selected to escort Mayor **Peter Carlisle** on his goodwill tour to four of Honolulu's sister cities in China and Taiwan. The Hawaii Mainland Overseas Association supported her cause with a birthday party for her at Capitol Place with over 60 people in attendance, including **John Hui**, **Leonard Kam**, **Betty Brow**, **Mike Ching**, **Tina Au**, **James**

General Membership Meeting

At the general membership meeting on April 20, two Chamber members, Realtor® and Hawaii International Real Estate Council President **Laisin Lee** and **Betty Brow**, Executive Vice President and head of Bank of Hawaii's International Banking Division spoke on "The Chinese and Hawaii Real Estate: The Broker and Banker Viewpoint." Laisin and Betty graciously shared their knowledge, training, and experience with almost 50 Chamber members and guests. Their joint presentation was so interesting that the audience stayed until around 2:00 p.m., perhaps one of the longest general membership meetings ever. Thank you again, Laisin and Betty!

Schaefer, Catherine Jayne, **Ningjin Miao**, **Karen Chang**, and many other Chamber members and escorts (hi, Galen!). Government representatives included Milton Kwock from DBEDT and **Ann Chung** and **John Chang** from the City's Office of Economic Development and International Relations. Rumor has it that even a future Narcissus contestant was in attendance!

As an aside, I was fortunate to meet with four-star General **Gary North**, Pacific Air Forces commander, a week ago at Hickam



while touring the F-22 Raptors on the tarmac. I was advised that PACAF was very proud of its disaster relief services for Sendai, Japan, as well as in the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, being nearly first to provide humanitarian aid with its C-17 Globemaster IIIs stationed right here at Hickam AFB.

Our last event for the Narcissus Festival was held in Kailua, thanks to our gracious hosts, **Vera** and **Reuben Wong**. We appreciate the great effort you went through to procure the venue for us. A nice gathering culminating in the presentation of the *mahalo* plaques, which were given to the chairs of the various events which were all so successful this year. Thank you to John Hui, Narcissus Festival Chair, and to all of you – chairs and volunteers alike – for all of your hard work and perseverance in making this year's festival such a memorable one!

As I get close to the end of my term in office, please help me celebrate at the Chamber's installation banquet on Friday, May 20, starting at 5:30 p.m., as we hope to have a little special entertainment by some of our past Narcissus Court members. The PRC Consul General in Los Angeles will also be sending a delegation to attend the dinner at the Empress Restaurant.



KCC Online Chinese Classes

Intensive online Mandarin Chinese courses are being offered this summer by Kapiolani Community College. Elementary Chinese I (CHNS 101) will run from May 23 to July 1 and Elementary Chinese II (CHNS 102) will run from July 5 to August 12. After taking these two courses, students will gain basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Mandarin Chinese. According to the announcement, "Students are expected to spend about three hours every day to go over the materials, participate in online discussion, finish assignments and tests, and have weekly speaking practices via Skype video conference call with the instructor." For more information, contact the instructor, **Shu-Ling Wu**, at slwu@hawaii.edu.



Left: Studies students hosted by Past President Wesley Fong at the Elks Club.

Middle: Mun Lun School event in State Capitol.

Bottom: Merchantile Association group from Chengdu to arrange visit by State and City at Ward Warehouse Conference rooms.



According to the April 4 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, Governor **Neil Abercrombie** has appointed attorney **Richard Turbin** to the East-West Center Board of Governors, and reappointed its current chair, economist, businessman, and East West Center alumnus **Puongpun Sananikone**.

In the April 6 *Honolulu Weekly* "Weekly Digest," Pah Ke's owner and chef **Raymond Siu**, who is known for "never using MSG," was having an "all-local [ingredient] meal" of unique Chinese-Hawaiian dishes for customers on Saturday, April 9. Oddly, the short item failed to mention the name of Raymond's Kaneohe restaurant and also gave an invalid URL for online reservations.

Among the "Island Images" in the April 7 *Star-Advertiser* was a color photo of Chamber President **Jeff Lau** at Manoa Chinese Cemetery as one of the two celebrants in the annual Qing Ming ceremonies, flanked by two ritual attendants. For once, Jeff was on the other side of the camera.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 8 Sun **Mother's Day**

May 20 Fri **Installation Banquet**
Empress Restaurant – 5:30 p.m.

May 23 Mon **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber Office – 5:30 p.m.

May 31 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

On the April 13 *Star-Advertiser* editorial page, lawyer, disaster expert, and Immediate Past President **Dennis Hwang** had an op-ed piece, "It's always a good time to prepare for the worst." If you missed reading it, the article is available on the *Star-Advertiser* Web site.

According to the April 22 *Star-Advertiser*, state Senator **Suzanne Chun Oakland** will be one of five women honored at the YWCA of Oahu's 34th annual LeaderLuncheon on June 8. (One of the other honorees is former Chamber member **Vicky Tiu Cayetano**). The luncheon will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$125.00 for YWCA members, \$175.00 for non-members, and tables for ten are available at prices ranging from \$2,500.00 to \$10,000.00. Vegetarian meals are also available. For reservations, contact the YWCA development office at 538-7061, extension 675. According to the online reservation page, company or individual names will be listed in the printed program, "if reserved and received by May 25, 2011."

According to KITV-4 News on April 28 and the April 29 *Star-Advertiser*, after 51 years in business, Crack Seed Center will be closing on Saturday, May 28. Owners **Ted** and **Patricia Li** will no longer have to drive to Ala Moana Center seven days a week to open their store. Instead of a "brick-and-mortar" store, Crack Seed Center will become strictly a "virtual" store, doing business online at www.crackseedcenter.com and taking orders through the Internet. In the meantime, until Crack Seed Center's Ala Moana doors are closed forever, there is a 20% off offer on all seeds.



Happy Birthday! Sung to Past President Ted Li at Narcissus Classic Fashion Show.

Also on April 29, Councilman **Stanley Chang** took time from his busy schedule to take note of the Crack Seed Center article in a Facebook entry. He has two bills moving through the Council: Bill 28 (2011) regarding an Oahu fireworks storage facility and Bill 47 (2011) which would end the decade-old 80% "tipping fee" discount for private recycling companies, originally enacted to encourage metal recycling.

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