

LANTERN

August 2013



Chamber Past Presidents at the Centennial Book Release Luncheon

Centennial Book Available

by Vernon Ching

As members should know, *Celebrating 100 Years*, the Chamber's centennial book, is now available for purchase at the Chamber office for \$50.00 a copy. What follows are insights from the centennial celebration chair, **Vernon Ching**:

The centennial book is a book that covers the one hundred year history of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. While organizing the book, it was felt that emphasis needed to be put on the former presidents of the Chamber, especially the years 1961 thru 2011. The Golden Jubilee Book, which was printed in 1961, covered the first fifty presidents, so it was only fitting that this book comprehensively covered the last fifty presidents. These were the people responsible for the modern success of the Chamber and who ensured that it could continue its mission of business relations and perpetuation of Chinese culture.

It was also decided that individuals, directly or indirectly involved with the Chinese Chamber, who contributed in their own way to either the business environment or Chinese culture in Hawaii would also be included in the book. After all, these individuals were the ones that will enable the fourth and later generations to retain the identity of their Chinese heritage and to be able to continue to carry it forward. These individuals also succeeded in the business climate and will help serve as role models for the future leaders from the Chinese Chamber.

Though the Narcissus Festival is only part of the Chinese Chamber, this event has helped to give the Chamber recognition in the Hawaii community and also helped propel many young women to successful careers. Therefore, it was felt that the Narcissus Festival deserved a section of its own in the book. Stories about the Narcissus Festival and Pageant are included and most importantly, fifty four of the former Narcissus Queens submitted brief comments about themselves. Also highlighted are the covers of the Narcissus souvenir books that were printed for each festival.

And last, important articles from the Golden Jubilee Book, which featured the founders of the Chinese Chamber had to be included in the centennial book. From the former Narcissus souvenir books, informative articles on health and culture are reprinted so that future generations do not forget the important contributions of the Chinese.

Yes, this is the centennial book, a book that tries to summarize one hundred years within two hundred seventy-one pages of colorful and exciting stories. It is a book that hopefully will serve as a reference for future leaders of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Thursday, August 15, there will be a general membership meeting at the Hukilau Restaurant, 1088 Bishop Street, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (For your information, the Hukilau is located in Executive Centre at the corner of Bishop and South Hotel Street). Chamber President **Betty Brow** will go over what was accomplished this last year (including perhaps a brief recap of the recent Narcissus Goodwill Tour) as well as what is current Chamber projects and future plans. In addition to this session with Betty, this is an opportunity to network with other members and enjoy heavy *pupu*. The cost is \$30.00 for Chamber members and \$25.00 for associate members. Limited on-street parking is available from 5:30 p.m. and validated parking is available at \$1.00 for three hours. If you plan on attending, please call the Chamber at 533-3181 by Tuesday, August 13, so that we can have an accurate headcount for ordering the *pupu*. (For those nit-pickers, the Hawaiians did not have plurals indicated by a separate spelling, instead using "na" as in *na pupu*. So fear not, there will be appetizers or *hors d'oeuvres* at the GMM).





President
Betty Hoang Brow

A momentous event happened on Saturday, June 22, that received what I thought was a somewhat subdued recognition in our July *Lantern* – no doubt due to the modesty of the Chamber members responsible for the event. For that reason, I would like to devote this column to underline that event and discuss why we should consider it to be one of the most significant occasions in our Chamber’s history.

The event that I was referring to was the completion of our Chamber’s centennial book *Celebrating 100 Years*. We marked the occasion by holding a wonderful luncheon at the Empress Restaurant for the unveiling of the book. The luncheon was well attended by over 150 Chamber members and friends. We did not expect that so many would be able to attend, and in truth, it was difficult to find a venue that could accommodate a large crowd, due to the number of graduation parties that were being held during the same period.

The timing of the book launch was set, based on the expected completion of the book’s printing and shipment date. Despite the uncertainty of the timing for the book’s arrival in Hawaii and lack of a larger venue, we did not wish to postpone the launch date to organize an even grander celebration because so many people had been waiting for such a long time to see this wonderful volume.

As it happened, had we not been able to release the centennial book on June 22, one of the pillars of our Chinese community, **George H.T. Chu** (featured on page 94), might not have been able to attend as he was already quite ill, and our book launch was one of George’s last public appearances before he passed away on July 17.

George and his wife, **Bertha**, both of whom contributed so much to the Chamber’s history, came to the luncheon to mark the memorable occasion with his old friends from the Chamber. Bertha told a number of people that George was extremely happy to be able to witness the launch and see the book. The book’s co-editor, **May Lee Chung**, also underwent surgery on June 24, within a couple days of the luncheon. May Lee had delayed taking care of her medical needs in order to ensure the completion of the book and witness its triumphant release.

I think that more than the lucky timing of the release and the enthusiasm with which the book was received, our Chamber members, and notably our Directors and Past Presidents, should reflect on what this really means. The book is our Chamber’s link to our past, present, and future history. Just think of it – how many of our leaders who were featured in our Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) Book are still with us today – and how many of our members in the Centennial Book will still be here in 100 years. The 271 pages of this glossy, colorful, and luxury-bound volume recorded the stories and memories of several generations of Chinese immigrants to Hawaii and their descendants. They recounted, in so many different ways and through diverse experiences, how much the Chinese community has contributed to and influenced the political, cultural, and economic landscape of Hawaii. It is a legacy that the Chinese Chamber can be proud of, and I for one am grateful that I was able to contribute a very small part to the book as that very small part will be remembered well beyond my lifetime.

It took three years and the work of many people, especially the leadership and dedication of **Vernon Ching**, May Lee Chung, and **Angela Wu-Ki**, to make it happen. I don’t believe that even they knew what challenges they had taken on when they first started the project. But as they delved into the task, it became a “labor of love,” and they wanted to make sure that this book would be something that all of us would treasure. And this is what we have done. We thank them for their devotion and commitment and for their perseverance in following up with all the missing stories to ensure that the families and individuals that have made an impact on the Chamber and the Chinese community history would be included. We should also recognize the patience that our Directors and members have shown during the three long years in not pressuring the team to hastily complete the book.

Our centennial book is receiving exposure outside of Hawaii. We are sending copies of the book to a number of Overseas Chinese Affairs Offices in China, to the Guangdong Overseas Chinese Museum, and to other organizations that we have connected with over the years. Let us continue to celebrate the achievements of the Chamber and cherish our history, and encourage all our members to make the centennial book available to all people who are interested in the Chinese community in Hawaii.



Left and above: George Chu and wife with Chamber friends at the Centennial Book Release Luncheon



Left and above: Walter Chang, May Lee Chung and Linda Louie



Below: Former Narcissus Queens

Dragon Boat Races and Festival

by Jasmine Nip

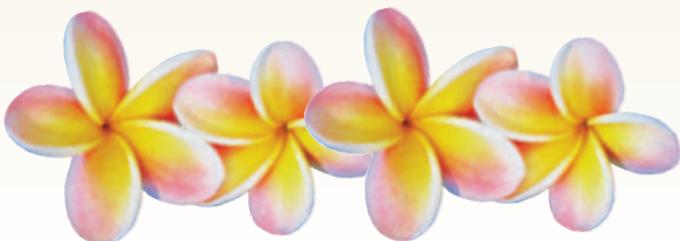
This year, the Dragon Boat Festival and races were held on Saturday, July 27, and Sunday, July 28. Over ninety Chamber members, associate members, families, and friends gathered at Ala Moana Beach Park for the 2013 Dragon Boat races on Saturday..

We had two boats, CCCH1 and CCCH2, both featuring a mixture of new Chamber members **William Li, Kevin Young, My Do**; a number of Chamber associate members; and some friends from The Bus. CCCH1 was graced by 2013 First Princess **Laurabeth Merritt**, who caught our flag, and 2012 Third Princess **Julianne Cheng**, who kept our team in sync as our drummer. It led our team to come in second place during that heat. In CCCH2 2012, Queen contestant **Courtney Sue-Ako** was our drummer. Team 2 finished fast enough in their first race to compete again in heat 25. It was such a fun day in the sun that we're taking sign-ups for next year.

There were many people involved in making this event successful. A big "Thank you" to **Betty Brow, Leonard Kam, Lucia Liang, and Diana Chao** for help with pre-coordination; **Robert Yu** for help with the tent, coolers, and snacks; **Sherman Wong** for setting up the tent; **Gifford Chang** for help with coordinating where the tent would be and donation of the water; **Michele Choy** for coordinating the food; **Daniel Young** from Young's Fish Market for the food and delivery; **Allen Woo** for the donation of the bananas; **Cathy** from The Bus for help in day of coordinating our dragon boat teams; **Stan Okada, Lance Wong, Thomas Palmer, and Galen Lee** for taking pictures; and the Chinese Chamber for sponsoring this event. And thanks also to everyone who came out to paddle and cheer. See you next year!

Condolences

On July 17, **George Chu** passed away at the venerable age of 91. A longtime employee of HOPACO (or Honolulu Paper Co.), he was the retired owner/founder of GBC Inc. and an Army veteran. George joined the Chinese Chamber in 1970 and served as 1982-83 President. In 1982, he led the second Narcissus Goodwill Tour to China. As a result of some of the contacts he made in China on the tour, he set up and ran the Chamber's China Management Seminars for Chinese business executives for a few days of talks and site visits with their counterparts in Hawaii. Even after the end of the seminar series, George continued to play an active role in Chamber affairs, setting an example for other Chamber presidents once they leave office. He was born in Kapaia, Kauai, and is survived by wife **Bertha**; sons **Sanford, Lester, and Walton**; sister **Elsie Mau**; and five grandchildren. Our deepest condolences and sympathies to the Chu family. George will be greatly missed.



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MEMBER NEWS

Earlier this summer, Panda Express announced that it was switching to brown rice in its fried rice. As a result of an uproar among those favoring white rice, Panda Express is conducting in-store "voting" – to Aug. 31 – to determine which version customers prefer. (The April 10 issue of *Businessweek* weighed in with an article, "Panda Express Adopts Healthier Brown Rice Then Fries It"). Each Friday, those on Facebook can get an update in the voting, and as of Friday, August 3, 66% of Panda Express customers wanted brown rice and 34% wanted white rice. The whole uproar is a bit silly (and perhaps a marketer's dream) since soy sauce is added to the white rice for flavoring. (As a result, the fried rice no longer appears "white"). Stop by a nearby Panda Express and see a side-by-side comparison for yourself and then "vote" with your purchase of one or the other to go along with two or three entrees. (On a culinary voting note, balloting is going on – one printed or online ballot per person – for restaurants in 37 categories, plus write-ins, in *Honolulu* magazine's annual *Hale 'Aina* awards. Deadline is August 31 and you could win \$500.00 in dining gift certificates).

The July 3 issue of *Midweek* had photos from the 23rd annual Palolo Chinese Home invitational golf tournament, which was held on April 19 at the Ala Wai Municipal Golf Course. Among those present for the awards banquet were **Frances Goo, Russell Lau, Daniel Lau, Wesley (and Linda) Fong, Lester Leu, Gordon (and Lana) Au, Alvin (and Donna) Wong, and Jeff Lau.**

The July 10 issue of *Midweek* had a photo of 13 "past presidents" (actually 12 past presidents, plus current Chamber president **Betty Brow**): **Walter Chang, Vernon Ching, Ken Chong, George Chu, Frances Goo, Dennis Hwang, John Hui, Jeff Lau, Victor Lim, Alvin Wong, Reuben Wong, and Ronald Young.** (Apologies from the *Lantern* editor to any Chamber members if he didn't recognize you in the photos).

On July 13, San Francisco-born **Tom Gunn** was honored as first inductee in the "Hawaii Aviation Pioneers" at the Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM). Each quarter, PAM will honor an aviator with an exhibit of his or her artifacts. The rotating exhibit will highlight the personalities who created aviation history in the Pacific region, not just Hawaii. The exhibit also marked the debut of the remodeled Doolittle

Gallery in Hanger 37, which was redesigned to provide flexibility in the exhibit displays and to make use of modern display technology. Gunn, born in San Francisco in 1890, was the first Chinese-American to hold a U.S. pilot's license, and in the summer of 1913, he was in Honolulu. On July 13, 1913, Gunn charged \$25.00 to carry Hawaii's first paying passenger, a Mrs. Newman. Gunn later went to the Neighbor Islands, then on to the Philippines and China. His flying skills so impressed **Sun Yat-sen** that he placed Gunn in charge of China's fledgling air force. Gunn later died under mysterious circumstances in 1925 in a ground accident in Shanghai. (NOTE: due to the vagaries of U.S. immigration officials, the Tom family name of his parents was mistaken, so the aviator was actually Gunn Tom).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug 15 Thu **General Membership Meeting & Networking**
Hukilau Restaurant
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Aug 20 Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
- Aug 27 Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
- Sept 2 Mon **Labor Day**

On July 18, to celebrate 50 years since his arrival in Hawaii from the Philippines on the SS *President Cleveland*, longtime Chamber director and L & L Hawaiian Barbecue president and CEO **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, served 50 plate lunches. Fifty people selected by the Institute for Human Services (IHS) received not only the lunches, but also a gift package, courtesy of Walmart, Pepsi, Love's Bakery, and of course L & L Hawaiian Barbecue. The event, held at the L & L on Keeaumoku Street, also marked 35 years of public service in Hawaii by IHS, a comprehensive social services agency, working to prevent and end homelessness.

Local Republicans and Democrats have been in the news. (We try to be even-handed, but with the Hawaii numbers on the Democrat side, they end up getting somewhat more coverage during the year). Entrepreneur and Hawaii Republican Party chair **David Chang** was part of a Republican National Committee (RNC) delegation invited for a one-week all-expenses visit to Taiwan in early July. (According to David, the ROC government also invites a Democratic National Committee delegation each year as well). David was "very impressed" by Taipei 101, which at one time was the tallest building in the world. He will shortly be leaving for a meeting in Boston and then two weeks temporary duty (TDY) in Croatia, courtesy of the Hawaii Army National Guard. That same month, Governor **Neil Abercrombie** was on the Hawaiian Airlines inaugural flight, HA 807, from Honolulu to Taipei. His return on Hawaiian HA 808 was a bit problematic, due to the approach of Typhoon *Soulik*, which caused a slight delay in his return flight. *Soulik* drenched northern and central Taiwan with torrential rains and killed at least two people, and perhaps as a result of that experience and out of an abundance of caution, Neil issued a disaster proclamation on Jul 28, a day ahead of tropical storm Flossie's arrival in Hawaii.

Local attorney and long-time Chamber member **Marvin Dang** was recently elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the George Washington University Law Alumni Association, starting on May 1, 2013. Marvin is the first Hawaii attorney to serve on the Board, which meets in Washington, D.C. Separately, Marvin was appointed by the President of the American Bar Association to a three-year term on the ABA's 12-member Council of the Fund for Justice and Education, beginning in August, 2013. The Fund supports over 200 ABA public service and educational programs in the areas of access to justice; children and family rights; public education; professionalism and the legal profession; and international justice. Congratulations, Marvin.

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