

# United Chinese Society 中華總會館

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*Mission:* The UCS serves Hawaii's Chinese community as a whole, to meet needs unfulfilled by Chinese organizations with specific objectives or interests such as maintaining kinship, village, or professional ties. It is an umbrella organization maintaining linkages among all other existing Chinese societies, to promote friendly relations and goodwill among all.

*History:* A Chinese man was among members of a shipping crew that disembarked in Honolulu in 1796. His settling marked the beginning of Chinese immigration to Hawaii. By 1852, with the sugar industry growing, contract laborers from southern China began to reach Hawaii in consecutive waves. These early settlers, generally single men, organized the Wah Yun Lin Hop Hui (*Huaren lianhe hui* 華人聯合會) in 1880, to afford each other strength, protection, and companionship. A temporary clubhouse was installed at the Chinese No. 5 Fire House.

In 1881, the Qing (Manchu) imperial ambassador Chun Lan Bun, on a stopover in Honolulu, donated \$1,000 to the Wah Yun Lin Hop Hui to start a building fund. In 1884, the organization was granted charter under the name of Chun Wa hui Quon (*Zhonghua Huiguan* 中華會館). On July 25, 1884, the organization purchased two parcels of land on North King Street for \$2,500, resold them several weeks later for the original purchase price, and purchased two adjacent, better situated lots for \$2,800 instead. Ground-breaking for the new United Chinese Society building took place on May 13, 1885. When the grand opening of the completed building was held on February 3, 1886, King David Kalakaua was in attendance.

A scant ten weeks later, on April 19, 1886, disaster struck—the first Chinatown fire destroyed the clubhouse, and since the Society had not purchased insurance for it, all that remained was ruins. A new fundraising drive, combined with a loan from the Bishop Bank in January, 1887, underwrote the building of a new, reinforced structure, at a cost of an estimated eight to nine thousand dollars. A charter for the group was also completed, classifying the UCS as eleemosynary. The building loan from the bank was repaid by 1896.

With membership steadily increasing, the Society decided by 1945 that the clubhouse needed to be rebuilt. After a two-year fundraising drive, a new building was erected, based on a design by the architect Lono Heen. In 1953, the trustees proposed remodeling the building. Following another fundraising drive, work was begun; the grand opening of what is the current building was held on November 21, 1954.

Currently, the UCS is funded primarily from interest on investments made over the years.

*Activities* Since filial piety is central to Chinese culture, every year since 1956, the UCS has honored a Model Father and Model Mother of the Year. The honorees are nominated by one of Hawaii's Chinese societies, and selected by a United Chinese Society panel, based on the following three criteria: 1) successful parenting as evidenced by the character, deportment, and achievement of the children; 2) civic pride as demonstrated by active support of community improvement; and 3) Chinese ancestry as indicated by a Chinese last name. Beginning in 1995, the UCS also instituted the annual "Chinese Citizen of the Year Award," that recognizes and honors a living person of Chinese ancestry. Criteria include 1) recognition by business, professional or community organizations; 2) contribution to the Chinese community in Hawaii; 3) contribution to the Hawaii community generally, and 4) philanthropic contributions to community organizations. The award is made on the basis of a single instance of outstanding service or on the sum of service activities over the years. Nominations are due on October 1, and awards are made at the annual UCS installation banquet in December.

If there are disputes to be settled between or among other societies, the UCS serves as a mediator. When floods or famine strike in China, UCS raises relief funding. It makes contributions to school and hospital programs, assists individuals settle legal problems, and intercedes with government agencies on behalf of smaller Chinese organizations. It serves as the point of contact between the Chinese community and the consulate of the People's Republic of China, assisting with applications for Chinese visas, and with hosting visiting Chinese delegations.

In 1920, it was instrumental in founding the Palolo Chinese Home for the elderly. Every year since, members have hosted a dinner with entertainment at the home. Its efforts in 1926 helped establish the Ping Mun School, which in 1934 was sold to the Chung Shan School. The UCS continues to award scholarships to the Chinese language schools to encourage study of the heritage language.

The Society maintains a database of the 100+ Chinese organizations in Hawaii, and each year publishes and distributes free of charge a directory of these organizations.

*Keith Lim (left; president 2003) and Yuk Guy Yee (right; president 2004) greet the Narcissus Queen*



*Past presidents:*

1882 Ching Lee  
1888 Loo Nyok  
1891 Wong Wah Hui  
1894 Goo Kim Fai  
1902 C.K. Ai  
1906 Chu Kem  
1909 Yee Chin  
1912 Chun Ming  
1913 Wong Leong,  
    Young Kwong Tat  
1914 Yee Yap  
1922 Wong How  
1926 Pang Lum Mow  
1927 Ho Fon  
1928 Tong Kau  
1929 W.W. Ahana  
1931 Fong Hing  
1933 Chun Kow  
1937 Leong Chew  
1938 Doo Wai Sing  
1940 Samuel K. Young  
1942 Y. Wa Chinn  
1944 Hoon Wo Wong  
1946 Kim Ak Ching  
1948 Calvin K.C. Lum  
1949 Henry Awa Wong  
1950 Kee Fook Zane  
1951 C.T. Wong

1952 Buck Hung Wong  
1953 Young Kong Chin  
1954 Abraham Ng Kamsat  
1955 Wah Duck Young  
1956 M.Q. Ho  
1957 Q.C. Lum  
1958 Given Tang  
1959 Wilfred H.S. Young  
1960 Lin Sun Lai  
1961 Katt Chiu Wong  
1962 Nee Sun Chang  
1963 Leonard D.Y. Wong  
1964 Wah Lee Young  
1965 Hung Lum Chun  
1966 David L. Pang  
1967 H. Bun Chong  
1968 Richard W.C. Chow  
1969 Bing Fai Lau  
1970 Francis T.L. Yim  
1971 Peter J. Chun  
1972 Ronald Y.C. Lee  
1973 Bernard W.D. Fong  
1974 Kam On Lum  
1975 Wallace W.Y. Wong  
1976 Tin Hop Pang  
1977 Henry H.K. Young  
1978 Park Liu Chong

1979 Howard M.K. Chun  
1980 Larry F.C. Ching  
1981 Anthony D.K. Ching  
1982 William Y.C. Lee  
1983 Norman K.Y. Ching  
1984 Edward S.T. Ching  
1985 Tai Yau Chung  
1986 George A.I. Yuen  
1987 Paul C.P. Lau  
1988 Kendall C.S. Wong  
1989 Edward G.H. Au  
1990 Clinton K.L. Ching  
1991 David T.H. Dang  
1992 Walter T.Y. Lau  
1993 Henry H.W. Lee  
1994 Wallace S.J. Ching  
1995 Thomas T.P. Yim  
1996 Charles T.C. Lum  
1997 Rod H.C. Tam  
1998 Richard W.K. Lum  
1999 Ernest J.T. Loo  
2000–01 Danny S.M.  
    Young  
2002 Lawrence W.J. Siu  
2003 Keith W.F. Lim  
2004 Yuk Guy Yee  
2005 Ernest J.T. Loo

*Right: UCS officers and members hosting a visitor from Zhongshan.*

*Sources: UCS publications and correspondence with Henry Lee.*



*Model Chinese Fathers and Mothers of the Year:*

- 1957 Mr. Kam Fat Jim 詹金佛; Mrs. Yuet Fu Lo 勞日富夫人  
1958 Mr. Buck Hung Wong 詹金佛; Mrs. Sze Yick Char 謝泗益夫人  
1959 Mr. Ming Sen 孫明; Mrs. Foo Sau Lee 李火秀夫人  
1960 Mr. King Chau Mui 梅景周; Mrs. How Wo Chong 張效和夫人  
1961 *no Model Mothers or Fathers recorded this year*  
1962 Mr. Kim Ak Ching; Mrs. Buck Hoy Wong  
1963 Mr. Yum Sinn Chang; Mrs. Kam Oi Yee Wong  
1964 Mr. Patrick J. Wong; Mrs. Richard H.P. Sia  
1965 Mr. Leonard K. Fong 鄭榕廣; Mrs. Man Kwong Loo 盧文光夫人  
1966 Mr. Koon Keong Kam 甘官強; Mrs. York Moi Wong Chang 鄭王玉梅夫人  
1967 Mr. Kwock Moy Chun 陳國梅; Mrs. Gin Moi Hee 許娟梅夫人  
1968 Mr. Poy Chee 徐培; Mrs. Chan Poo Nip 聶春甫夫人  
1969 Mr. Kwan Leong Young 楊關亮; Mrs. Lin Wong 王蓮夫人  
1970 Mr. Daniel Cheong Lau 劉長; Mrs. Wing Sing Chang 鄭程金全夫人  
1971 Mr. York Hon Hu 胡玉漢; Mrs. Hing Fong 鄭延夫人  
1972 Mr. Yan Quang Ching 程潤光; Mrs. Annie Ching Char 謝牡穩夫人  
1973 Mr. Tai Tong Tom 譚帝桐; Mrs. Annie T.K. Kwock 郭丁貴夫人  
1974 Mr. Samuel K. Young 楊星樞; Mrs. Wah Chan Thom 譚華燦夫人  
1975 Mr. Bung Ghin Leong 梁炳堅; Mrs. Margaret Kwat Sim Lum 林聶夫人  
1976 Mr. Kee Fook Zane 曾記福; Mrs. Mun Sheong Wat 屈文湘夫人  
1977 Mr. Inn Wong 黃燕; Mrs. Fook Yang Chuk 瞿福英  
1978 Mr. Charles Char 謝牡穩; Mrs. Lum Watt 屈林夫人  
1979 Mr. William H.C. Young 楊獻墀; Mrs. Yan Chin Ching 程潤全夫人  
1980 Mr. Chung Kin Wong 黃仲乾; Mrs. Ding Kyau Ching Chee 徐陳丁嬌  
1981 Dr. Hong Quon Pang 彭鳳昆; Mrs. Bernice C. Yee 余陳月彩  
1982 Mr. Tin Yuke Char 謝廷玉; Mrs. Yun Soong Jim 詹潤崧  
1983 Mr. Wah Chan Thom 譚華燦; Mrs. Violet Zane Look 陸帝燦夫人  
1984 Mr. Richard W.C. Chow 周華昌; Mrs. Kwai Ching Siu 蕭余卓珍  
1985 Mr. Yet Kui Ho 何益貴; Mrs. Eunice Young Fung 洪楊林三  
1986 Mr. Wallace W.Y. Wong 黃允殷; Mrs. Nancy Wong Yee 余黃金樹  
1987 Mr. Bing Fai Lau 劉炳輝; Mrs. Rose Hoong Tsun Loui Ching 程雷鳳珍  
1988 Dr. Herbert Y.H. Chinn 錢有開; Mrs. Florence Yin Tsin Lum 林潤仙  
1989 Mr. Henry C.F. Lau 劉崧火; Mrs. Dorothy S.P. Tom Ching 程譚秀萍  
1990 Mr. Kenneth K.C. Wong 黃觀贊; Mrs. Bernice K.J. Char Loui 雷謝群珍  
1991 Mr. Leonard D.Y. Wong 黃棣榮; Mrs. Pearl H.C. Au Chong 張歐鳳錢  
1992 Mr. Neuman Y.W. Pei 貝韋文; Mrs. Amy L.H. Chee Yim 嚴徐蓮香  
1993 Dr. Clarence Y.L. Chinn 錢有利; Mrs. Mo Ching Lum Chang 鄭林墓真  
1994 Mr. Edward G.H. Au 歐錦鴻; Mrs. Yet Au Pang Chun 陳彭月顏

- 1995 Dr. Gilbert S.N. Hong 馮士顏; Mrs. San Ung Loo Chan 陳盧秀英  
 1996 Sen. Hiram L. Fong 鄺友良; Mrs. Winifred Choy Hung Lum Ching 程林彩鳳  
 1997 Dr. David L. Pang 彭官利; Mrs. Rose B.N. Au Tom 譚歐寶顏  
 1998 Dr. Joseph W.C. Young 楊華洲; Mrs. Faye Chou F.P. Shei 謝周慧寶  
 1999 Mr. Daniel B.T. Lau 劉寶檀; Mrs. Bertha F.K. Leong 梁鳳金  
 2000 Mr. George C.K. Young 楊兆佳; Mrs. Susan L. Foo 胡陳秀玲  
 2001 Dr. K.S. Tom 譚金成; Mrs. Minnie Ho Pang 彭何金銀  
 2002 Dr. Vernon K.S. Jim 詹關勝; Mrs. Dorothy Kam Lum 林甘金蘭  
 2003 Mr. Albert Q.Y. Tom 譚關酉; Mrs. Mabel M.Y. Lau 劉美英

*Chinese Citizen of the Year:*

- 1995 Mr. Wah Duck Young  
 1996 Mr. Wah Chan Thom  
 1997 Mr. George C. K. Young  
 1998 Mr. Larry C. W. Ing  
 1999 Mr. Arthur K. Y. Wong  
 2000 Mr. Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senator  
 2001 Mrs. Yun Soong Chock Jim  
 2002 Mr. Hiram L. Fong 鄺友良  
 2003 Mr. Wallace W. Y. Wong  
 2004 Mr. Daniel B. T. Lau  
 2005 Dr. Joseph W. C. Young 楊華洲

**Membership:** Anyone of Chinese ancestry of good moral character may join the UCS for a lifetime membership fee of \$5.00. Applications must be approved by the Board of Trustees. UCS currently lists 100 active members. Members pay a one-time lifetime fee of \$20.

*Sources: UCS publications and correspondence with Henry Lee*