

## Wong Leong Doo Benevolent Society

### 黃梁都會館

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#### ***Mission:***

To provide humanitarian aid  
to members in need.

**History:** Formed in 1902, this Society went by a series of names until the current name was adopted on July 31, 1983. It was first called the Jack Sing Tong Society, and then successively the Chuck Sing Tong Society, the Wong Leong Doo Chuck Sing Tong Society, and the Wong Leong Doo Society. Its original mission was to assist the single men brought to the islands from Wong Leong Doo (*Huangliangdu* 黃梁都) in Zhongshan province, in the PRC. A dormitory served as temporary quarters for transients, and for those who died without immediate local relatives, burial plots were provided.

An effort to provide a meeting hall for the membership twice met only shortlived success. After leasing property on North King Street, the society was forced to vacate the building when the Palama Theatre was constructed in 1906. Since its lease had not yet expired, the Society was recompensed with a payment of \$1,000, which became the down payment on a parcel of land at 244 Kamakela Lane. An existing home was converted to a dormitory, and a two-storey structure housing three rental units was constructed. These units were let out for \$18 per month each, providing monthly income for the Society's activities.

By 1955, the Society's old-timers were passing on, and it decided to hold its final annual banquet at the Kamakela Lane site. Seven years later the city condemned the property for urban redevelopment. To date the Society is still without a home.



*100th Anniversary Dinner in 2002, at the China House Restaurant. L to r: Wesley Fong, Terrill Chock, two visiting dignitaries, president Chow, master-of-ceremonies Bernard Fong*

*Activities* The Society calls together its membership in meetings held two or three times a year, in the past generally at Yong Sing Restaurant in downtown Honolulu, and nowadays at various available locations.

*Membership:*

There is a lifetime membership fee of \$10. Benefits include the following:

- 1) Fellowship with fellow Society members;
- 2) When a society member dies, the Society will give \$100 (funeral offering) to the family of the deceased;
- 3) If a family member of a society member dies, the Society gives \$25 (the family member must live in the same household to qualify for this benefit).

*Association presidents*

- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1902      | See Loong Lock     |
| mid-1930s | Leonard Y.K. Fong  |
| 1965-75   | Richard S.W. Young |
| 1976-98   | Alfred K.Y. Mun    |
| 1999-04   | Zhao Wang Chow     |

*Sources: UCS publications and correspondence with Bernard W.D. Fong*



*Left: A gathering at Royal Garden Restaurant, summer 2003. L to r: president Chow, treasurer Edward Chow, secretary Kenneth Mun, vice president William Leong, adviser Bernard Fong, auditor Gerald Hee. Below: Tomb-sweeping get-together at the Ocean View Cemetery pavilion, on April 14, 2002.*

