

United Chinese Society 中華總會館

42 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817; Telephone: (808) 536-4621; Fax: (808) 536-7848
contact person: executive director Henry Lee. E-mail: <ucs@lava.net>. Website:
<www.ucshawaii.org>.

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