

Kung Sheong Doo Society

恭常都會館

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Mission: To perpetuate Chinese culture and traditions; to educate the younger generation as to their heritage; to render benevolent and charitable services to the needy and distressed; to provide monetary aid to members who are seeking educational degrees.

History: Members are descendant from emigrants from the sixth and seventh precincts, Kung Doo (恭都 Gongdu) and Sheong Doo (常都 Changdu), of Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China.

The Society was established in 1930, during an economic depression, by founders Loo Mung Ying, Hu See Leong, Hong In Ping, Loo Yuke and Chock Lun. The first meetings were in Aala Park, under a spreading poinciana tree. Through the exertions of this initial group and their kinfolk, who fundraised door-to-door, particularly in the Chinese community, the Society was able in only five years to erect a two-storey commercial structure at the foot of the former Hall Street. The upper storey served as a clubhouse, and the two units on the ground floor were rented out to businesses. Two additional houses to the rear of the property were also rented.

In 1943, the Society was granted a 50-year charter of incorporation, which was renewed in perpetuity a year before it was due to expire.

The Society's Hall Street property was on of the last parcels of land of what has been described as the "Chinese settlement" to be razed, in 1964, by the city's Kukui Redevelopment Agency for the Honolulu Urban Development Project. Furnishings from the clubhouse were stored in a room at the Nuuanu Chinese Buddhist Church, for a monthly rental of \$75. Eventually this room had to be vacated as well, so the items were moved to space within the Palolo Chinese Home. In 1967, revenue from the forced sale of the Hall Street property was reinvested in a commercial parcel at 1465 North King Street, which subsequently increased many times in value. Income from this property continues to support the charitable work of the Society.

Membership: Currently, there are 430 card-carrying members in the Society. However, only about 120 are active. Members must have ancestors who lived in the Kung Sheong Doo Region, Kwangtung, and be of good moral character.

Right: A lion dance at the spring annual banquet



Activities

In its initial years, the Society held luncheon and dinner meetings at the clubhouse, with food donated and brought in by members. The Hall Street society hall was equipped with teak wood furniture, a fine assortment of silverware, framed pictures and many valuable artifacts.

The original mission of the Society was conceived in terms of providing basic needs to members and others in the Chinese community. The following is adapted from the mission statement in the original charter: “To provide relief to the poor and indigent, including clothing, shelter, and medical aid; to alleviate human suffering and assist in the burial of the dead; and to receive contributions and gifts from members and from the public to carry on the charitable work of the Society.” In the spirit of these earliest goals, the Society continues to provide support to charities such as the Palolo Chinese Home, the Salvation Army, the American Cancer Society, and the Heart Fund.

These days, the focus of the Society has shifted from immigrant needs to the welfare of the younger generation. A new goal is to perpetuate the Chinese culture, so that descendants of the original members become aware of their heritage. To this end, the Society is conscientious in providing scholarship aid to university and Chinese language school students.

Association presidents

1930 Loo Hon

1931-32 Chock Chong

1933 Young Kun Teong

1934-35 Luke Ginn

1936 Luke Hoon

1937-39 Hong Inn Ping

1940 Loo Mun Ung

1941-42 Lee Mun Yun

1943-46 Hu See Leong

1947 Fu Sing

1948 Hong Inn Ping

1949 Hu See Leong

1950 Luke Wah Ko

1951-52 Fu Sing

1953 Luke Wah Ko

1954-55 Fu Sing

1956 Lum Hong Gee

1957-59 Hee Doong

1960 Fu Sing

1961 Wong Lee But

1962-64 Luke Wah Ko

1965-66 Hu Mun Inn

1967-68 Loo Lin Sung

1969-70 Chock Wah Hoon

1971-73 Luke Wah Gun

1974-76 Hee Yun Duck

1977-79 Young Jun Lum

1980-82 Luke Say Sum

1983-85 Hu Mun Inn

1986-87 Mau Yan Mook

1988-90 Chock Wah Hoon

1991-93 Fu Dai Tim

1994-96 Lum Hu Lin Dai

1997-99 Lum Wah Kit

2000-02 Loo Bau Yuk

2003 Fu, Yick Yuk

2004 Gwendolyn Y.Y. Fu



Member Mrs. Sau Ung Loo Chan holding the United Chinese Society's "Mother of the Year" award in 1995. She was among the first female lawyers practicing in Hawaii, and is a major donor to the Society. With her are 1995 president Lita Hu Lum and VP Gwendolyn Fu.

Sources: UCS publications and correspondence with George Fu