

Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association 申明亭同鄉會

clo Barbara Young, 317 Nenu Street, Honolulu 96821; Tel: 373-2541; Email: Glotrex@aol.com

Mission: To promote fellowship among its members, be involved in the community, observe Chinese and local events, and promote Chinese traditions and culture.

History: Sun Ming Ting (*Shenmingting* 申明亭) is the name of one of seventy villages in the Lung Doo District of Guangzhou, located about 80 miles from Canton City. It was formed around 600 years ago, and attained some fame for having produced a number of scholars and educators. Most of the villagers have the surname Yang or Young (楊). The first group of them arrived in Hawaii around 1900, and became educators, merchants, herbal doctors, and laborers.

In 1946, the Hawaii descendants of Sun Ming Ting villagers saw a need for a family-based organization, and established the Sun Ming Ting Club. Later the name was changed to the Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association. The founders included Sam K. Young, H.I. Young, Hin Sum Young, Kee Nam Young, Koon Lock Young and Ah Lum Young.

Many of the descendants have since become prominent in Hawaii's community in various occupations and professions.

Activities: The club undertakes two major activities annually. In April, members observe the Ching Ming festival with luncheon and a ceremony, and in December there is an annual Christmas party, for which participants pay a small fee.

Members have donated funds to provide furniture for the new school in Sun Ming Ting village in China, and to provide ongoing support to several classrooms there. The Association also takes an active part in fundraising for the Palolo Chinese Home, and other civic drives.



Dr. & Mrs. Joseph W.C. Young at Ching Ming Festival with Sun Ming Ting Village Benevolent Society, at Manoa Cemetery.

Association presidents

1970–75 Samuel K. Young
1976–78 William H.C. Young
1979–80 Cecil M. Young
1981 Francis S. Young
1982–83 George C.K. Young
1984–87 Harry W.C. Young
1988–89 Joseph W.C. Young
1990–91 James C.M. Young
1992–93 Ronald T.C. Young
1994–95 Joseph W.C. Young
1996–97 James C.M. Young
1998–99 Wesley K.K. Young
2000–01 Sylvia S.E. Young
2002–03 Sandra Young

Membership: There are about 350 members in the Association, all of whom can trace their ancestry back to the Sun Ming Ting village. Members do not pay dues; activities are funded by on-going donations.

Sources: UCS 2003 Directory of Chinese Organizations; personal communication with Joseph and Barbara Young



2004 Officers. Back row: Harry W.C. Young (past president & director); Barbara Young (secretary & director); Joseph Young (past president & director); Douglas Young (vice president); Ronald Young (past president & director); Clifford Young (chairman of the board); Donald Young (treasurer); Jane Young (director). Front row: James C.M. Young (past president & director); Irene Young (director); Patricia Lee Young (president); Laura Young (director); Theresa Young (director); Jeanette Young (director).