

United Chinese
Society of Hawai'i
2021 Quarter 4

Parasol



*Mission: To further friendly
relations among the Chinese and
various Chinese societies in the
State of Hawai'i...*

Greetings from President Leonard Kam



And just like that...we are closing the year 2021.

It's hard to believe that the year has gone by so quickly even though it might seem like it's lasted forever for some of us. One thing that we can be proud of is the dedication of our Officers, Trustees, and Members for pulling together and helping to carry out events to benefit our community as well as improve the UCS facilities.

I would like to thank Marsha Au-Maxwell for successfully coordinating the first ever UCS building clean up day. There were many volunteers who came out to help clean, sweep, mop, dust, and organize. It was so nice to be dust free!

A special thank you to Past President Victor Lim for spearheading the grant to change our air conditioning units in the Hall and Hospitality Room. Not only did he apply for the grant, but he also helped make up the difference in the out-of-pocket costs so that UCS would not have to pay anything for the new air conditioning units. We would also like to acknowledge Past President Alan Ho and HomeStreet Bank for contributing to the a/c project.

Holding one of the first in person banquets to install our 2022 officers and honor our Past Presidents was the perfect way to transition from 2021 to 2022. Although the new variants are continuing to bring more challenges to resuming a normal routine, we will continue to work on events to benefit our community.

Thank you to all who participated in our events and helped us to make 2021 a successful year. We look forward to seeing all of you in person in 2022.

Stay safe and be well.

2022 Officers & Trustees

President: Leonard J.K.H. Kam
President-Elect: Marsha Au-Maxwell
First Vice President: Mona Choy
Second Vice President: Ivy Yeung
Treasurer: Wendy M.N. Mow
Asst Treasurer: Edna Wong-McKenna
Secretary: Lena Wong
Immediate Past President:
Theodore S.U. Chong
Gifford K.F. Chang
Jeffrey Chang
Brandon K.M. Chong
Wesley W.H. Chong
Randy N.T. Chu
Suzanne Chun Oakland
Lori S.C. Kam
Lani Kwong
Maj. Gen. Calvin Lau (ret)
Michael H.Q.L. Lau
Marvin Mau
Dr. Glenn M.L. Pang
Robert W.C. Wong
Robert P.S. Yu

Emeritus Trustees

Sister Davilyn Ah Chick
Dr. Ming Chen
Theodore S.U. Chong
Dr. Wendell K.S. Foo
Alan H.L. Ho
Victor W.D. Lim
Henry H. Ou
Calvin K.Y. Say
Col. Lawrence W.J. Siu (ret)
Thomas Sum
Jeanette M.H. Young

Excerpt from: Chinese Pioneers Change Life Styles for Today's Island Chinese

Written by Kee Fun Wong Lee

Who were the Chinese pioneers who decided to band together to improve the life styles of their fellow countryman in early Hawaii? How did they affect the social and business life in the days of the Hawaiian Kingdom and period before statehood? How did they adapt social customs in their personal lives and become molders of a new society of Americanized Chinese?

Thousands of Chinese immigrants entered Hawaii between 1789 and 1900 to work on the plantations. Natives were disinterested in the backbreaking labor and long hours required of plantation life. Many hardships faced the immigrant because of language problems, cruel treatment and misunderstanding. Thus, the merchants who arrived in Hawaii as labor importation increased, took on the task of improving the conditions of their fellow countrymen.

The first organization was the United Chinese Society, founded by a group of thirty merchants seen in the formal group picture. In 1882 this group elected Ching Nee Yup, also called China Alee, as its first president. By studying the identification key of the photograph written in Chinese characters, four founders were discovered who have been mentioned in historical documents and materials researched in preparing this paper...Ching Alee...Chu Kem...Goo Kim Fui...Wong Wah Foy. These four played significant roles in early Hawaiian history in relation to the Chinese community.

Calendar of Events

We look forward to being able to connect again in 2022.

Please see below and save the **tentative** dates for upcoming events.

January 9, 2022 UCS New Year's Tea Ceremony

April 2022 UCS Ching Ming Ceremony

June 2022 UCS Family Picnic

December 3, 2022 Installation Banquet – Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant

Other activities TBD



UCS Office is Closed

The UCS office is still closed and the best way to reach us is through **email**. Phone messages will be checked intermittently.

Email: ucsofhi@gmail.com

Phone: 808-536-4621

Street Address: 42 N. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

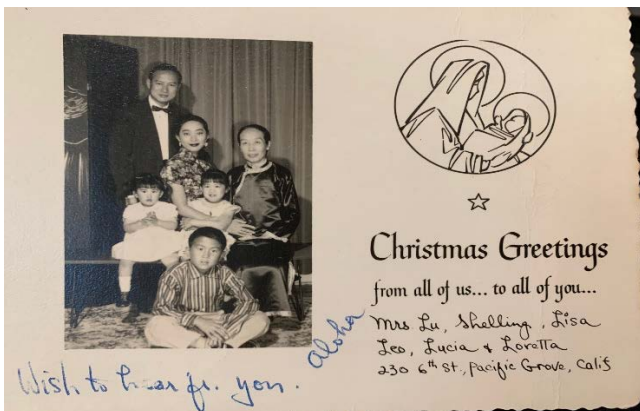
Mun Lun School Spotlight on Actress Lisa Lu

By Baldwin Au



Did you know... that actress Lisa Lu has ties to our Mun Lun School? Yes. She most recently starred as the grandmother in the 2018 film “Crazy Rich Asians”. Her film career has spanned many decades and she has also starred in the movies, the “Joy Luck Club” and “The Last Emperor” along with many other films and television series.

When her husband was a diplomat in Honolulu, she was a teacher at our school. When an alumni showed me a picture of her and her family during their stay in Hawaii, I was curious to see if she would remember us, given that her career had more important events than the everyday teaching at our Chinese school. With the assistance of my daughter, Valerie, I prepared a letter to Madam Lu to see if she would respond. After some effort, Valerie was able to deliver my letter to her and to my surprise, she replied!



Here is my letter:

Madam Lisa Lu,

Hi, I am Baldwin Au, President of Mun Lun School in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was recently informed that you were once a teacher at our school in the 1950's when your husband was a diplomat here. Everyone was excited to know this fact and one of our Director's had a Christmas card from you to her mother which I have attached.

If you can recall this experience, I would like to ask you a few questions about your tenure at our school

1. Do you recall when and how long you taught at the school?
2. Do you recall any fellow teachers you worked with at the time?

3. Was there any student that stood out that you can remember?
4. Was there any event that you can recall that was special in your memory of the school?
5. What advice would you give to the students of Mun Lun School today regarding learning the Chinese language and arts?
6. If there are any other thoughts you would like to convey to our students, please feel free to add to your reply.

And here is Madam Lisa Lu's reply:

Dear President Au and Valerie,

I am delighted to hear from you. Teaching Chinese Mandarin and singing in the Mun Lun School is among my fondest memories of my ten year stay in Hawaii. Mr. Cheng Ren Xian was president at that time. He was an exceptional scholar who devoted his life to the education of young Chinese citizens and was passionate about having them learn the Chinese language and culture. He had, and always will have, my deepest admiration.

The students were sincere in their desire to learn. I shared mutual enjoyment with them in taking and teaching my singing class. We had a great time together. One of the students, William Au, came to my home to see us and to improve his language skills. We became good friends and we have kept our association, even today! Another student, L'au, became a physician and entertained me royally when I last visited Hawaii.

I have such fond memories of Mun Lun School, President 郑任先, and the obedient, eager students in my classes. As I recall, Ms. 李少珍 took over these classes when I left Hawaii.

It is more important than ever for young students to learn our Chinese language. It is one way that we preserve our culture and enrich the lives of the next generation of leaders, artists, educators and citizens. The United Nations has even recently announced that Chinese will be the official language for their international meetings!

Thank you, again, for reaching out to me. Teaching at Mun Lun is a pleasant memory. I will look forward to visiting the Mun Lun school of today and to meeting you in person. Thank you for carrying forward the values and mission of the school and to your dedication to education.

With best wishes,

Lisa Lu

PS Please let me know if there are any other questions I can answer.

We are so honored to be remembered by such a famous person who has good and vivid memories of our school. Her words of encouragement to learn the Chinese language and the arts is something that Mun Lun School strives to provide our students. We wish her continued film success and hope that Madam Lisa Lu can pay us a visit sometime in the future. Now you know...

2021 Installation Banquet Honoring Past Presidents

Our first in-person banquet since 2019 was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Jade Dynasty with over 130 guests in attendance. The program consisted of an installation of the 2022 officers and trustees and a special honoring of the past presidents of the United Chinese Society. President Leonard Kam, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu, and the 10 following past presidents in attendance welcomed a lion dance blessing performed by the Hsing Chung Lion Dance Troupe:

Keith Lim (2003)
Harvey H. B. Young (2006)
Dr. Ming Chen (2007)
Ginny H. L. Young (2010)
Alan H. L. Ho (2011)
Thomas Sum (2012)
Calvin K. Y. Say (2015)
Dr. Wendell K. S. Foo (2016)
Victor W. D. Lim (2017 & 2018)
Theodore S. U. Chong (2020)



It was nice to be able to highlight those that have given their time and resources to contributing to UCS' mission of service to Hawaii and the Chinese community. In its 137 year legacy, there have been 94 past presidents.

The Honorable Edward H. Kubo, Jr., retired judge installed the 2022 officers and trustees as follows:

President: Leonard J. K. H. Kam
President-Elect: Marsha Au-Maxwell
1st Vice-President: Mona Choy
2nd Vice-President: Ivy Yeung
Treasurer: Wendy Mow
Assistant Treasurer: Edna Wong-McKenna
Secretary: Lena Wong
Immediate Past President: Theodore S. U. Chong

And the Trustees elected for the 2022-2024 term are:

- Marsha Au-Maxwell
- Jeffrey Chang
- Mona Choy
- Marvin Mau
- Lena Wong
- Robert W. C. Wong
- Robert Yu



A sumptuous 9-course banquet was prepared by Jade Dynasty and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who made this event a success, including the banquet committee and sponsors, Helemano Plantation, Inc., HomeStreet Bank, Emeritus Trustee/Past President Victor Lim and Emeritus Trustee/Past President Dr. Ming Chen.







...to promote projects of benevolence, charity, and cultural awareness; and to promote the welfare of the Chinese community.

Hawaii Chinese Association (HCA)

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year to All! It's been a crazy 2 years with the pandemic but we have all pulled together (while standing apart) and found a way to make it work. Huge thank you to all the essential workers, Doctors, Nurses and teachers who helped us make it through. Hawaii Chinese Association (HCA) is keeping it safe and by next year we will start meeting in small groups, first with the Board of Directors only then membership.

During the pandemic, we found ways to assist and contribute when Lt Governor Josh Green reached out and asked for help. HCA together with a few other Taiwanese organizations donated PPE, gloves, disposable masks, alcohol and wipes. One of our directors Heidi Chan donated 500 cloth masks for our front liners and hospital staff. HCA also donated to St Francis and Kuakini hospital.

Member Society Updates



Member Society Updates

Lum Sai Ho Tong

Celebration of Dee Mu

November 22, 2021

Outside of Lum Sai Ho Tong building is the massive construction of the 17-story Halewai'olu Senior Housing. But inside we celebrated the goddess Dee Mu, or Earth Mother. Dee Mu is an important deity who takes care of all earthly and material matters. When the ancient Chinese moved from hunting to farming, they looked to Dee Mu to take care of the crops and protect the harvest.



The building of the Halewai'olu Senior Housing, which is next door to LSHT Tin Hau Temple, is well on its way. Many of us have concerns on the impact of the construction on our building.



We honored the Earth Mother, Dee Mu, with food, flowers, tea, wine, joss paper and fireworks. A traditional Taoist ceremony was conducted by Rev. Duane Pang.



LSHT Secretary Phoebe Lum and Vice President-elect EvaGold Yip worked the kitchen to help distribute the food.

**TSUNG TSIN ASSOCIATION OF HONOLULU ANNOUNCES
2022 OFFICERS**

The Tsung Tsin Association of Honolulu has announced their Officers for the 2022 coming year.

President Edwina Lee
1st Vice President Michele Choy
2nd Vice President Ghary Won
English Secretary Becky Ho
Assistant English Secretary Swee Berkey
Chinese Secretary Jade Penn
Assistant Chinese Secretary Michael Tsang
Treasurer Patricia Foo Paton
Assistant Treasurer Nancy Whitman
Auditor Keith Lim
Assistant Auditor Jade Penn
Sargent-at-Arms Gary Wong

If you have anything you would like to share for this e-newsletter, please email ucshicom@gmail.com. UCS reserves the right to review, edit, and reject any submissions for publication. No solicitations of any kind are allowed.