

United Chinese Society of Hawai'i 2022 Quarter 2



Mission: To further friendly relationsamong the Chinese and various Chinesesocieties in the State of Hawai'i to promote projects of benevolence, charity, and cultural awareness; and to promote the welfare of the Chinesecommunity.

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# **Greetings from President Leonard Kam**



Welcome Summer!

COVID is still around so we have been finding ways to operate as close to normal as possible. One of the ways that we are returning to normal is by holding the annual Family Day Picnic. The picnic will be held on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kapiolani Park. Look for additional information in the Parasol.

Speaking of COVID, we received information from Suzanne Chun-Oakland regarding Lanakila Senior Center holding a

COVID home test kit distribution event. It will be happening in the next few weeks, and she will reach out to you if you sign up to be on the recipient list. Her email address is <a href="mailto:suzanne.oakland@catholiccharitieshawaii.org">suzanne.oakland@catholiccharitieshawaii.org</a>. Please email her with the following information:

- 1. organization name,
- 2. contact person's name,
- 3. email address,
- 4. phone number, and
- 5. how many kits you would like.

We are also looking to start up a talk story hour in our UCS Hall. It would be an informal way for leaders of the various community organizations to gather together to share concerns and ideas with each other. Reach out to us if you have any ideas for topics or guest speakers.

Chinatown continues to be a primary focus of community leaders including the Mayor. All organizations must work together to improve our Chinatown. One of these opportunities will be to work with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for their second Chinatown Clean up event. Be on the lookout for the announcement to volunteer. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we all pull together.

Let's enjoy our summer months and continue to be vigilant in our day-to-day activities. Take care and I hope to see you at the picnic.

#### **Calendar of Events**

July 24, 2022 UCS Family Day Picnic at Kapiolani Park
October 2022 UCS General Membership Meeting

December 3, 2022 Installation Banquet

We're so excited to bring back our Annual Family Day Picnic this year! Everyone is invited. If you haven't purchased your ticket yet, please email <a href="mailto:ucsofhi@gmail.com">ucsofhi@gmail.com</a> by June 29. We hope to see you there!

Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Kapiolani Park between Waikiki Shell and Kapiolani Bandstand Cost: \$5.00 per person (includes 1 hot dog and 1 hamburger)

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# **Ching Ming 2022**

On Wednesday, April 6, UCS Officers Leonard Kam, Marsha Au-Maxwell, Mona Choy, Ivy Yeung, Wendy Mow, and Edna W. McKenna commemorated the annual Ching Ming observance at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery. Due to the pandemic, we were not able to conduct a community wide observance.

Special thanks to Robert Wong for coordinating the food and supplies as well as the logistics at the cemetery. Do jeh to Douglas Chong for conducting the service and reading the eulogy.





# **Pearl Harbor Boat Tour**

On June 2, 2022, UCS Emeritus Trustee Dr. Ming Chen and Trustees Wes Chong, Marvin Mau, Edna W. McKenna, and Robert Wong had the privilege of joining UCS member, Stanford Yuen, on an educational boat tour around Ford Island and Pearl Harbor. Guests Christina Chen, Mei Leung, and Malia Siu also joined the excursion. The tour highlighted major features and ended with a private visit to the USS Arizona Memorial.

Thank you, Stanford and the U.S. Navy National Park Service, for the opportunity of this extended private tour that has allowed many of us to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Pearl Harbor's history.



















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# **Member Society Updates**

# **Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association**

On Sunday, April 24, 2022, a small delegation of Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association Officers, Directors, and members gathered at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery to honor the ancestors in a Ching Ming ceremony on behalf of the society. The group size was limited due to health and safety, but we hope to include all members in due time. In 2021, the society made 75 years. Best wishes to Sun Ming Ting! Looking forward to continuing the legacy of our forefathers.



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# Did you know...

why is Honolulu translated to 檀香山(literal translation: Sandalwood Mountain) in Chinese?

A: In the late 1700s, sandalwood was the first export product from Hawaii to the rest of the world, including China. That's when Chinese people learned about Honolulu and started naming it 檀香山("Sandalwood Mountain").



# **Mun Lun School**

This Time Capsule article was written by our current Treasurer, and former President, Baldwin Au, who chaired the recent Mun Lun School 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of its Maunakea location. We are so grateful for all the time and effort he put into this successful event on March 27, 2022.

On May 20 and 21, 2022, Mun Lun School held its 91<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremonies for its weekday and weekend students.

Thirteen of our Mun Lun School students have distinguished themselves with winning essays in the recent National Composition Contest, sponsored by the Chinese School Association in the U. S. and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles. This graduating class will have the distinction of being the 50<sup>th</sup> class to graduate from our current location, in its now 111-year history.

## **Time Capsule**

On April 2, 2022, the Mun Lun School Time Capsule was snapped shut with all the items that the students of the Class of 2022 wanted to leave for the students of the Class of 2072. Enclosed in the time capsule were the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary yearbooks, along with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our Maunakea Street Campus program, the written speeches, guest list, video, and pictures of the event. In addition, a commemorative pen for that event; a special message from the teachers and students to the Class of 2072; along with a Proclamation by the City & County of Honolulu; and an issue of the March 29, 2022, Star-Advertiser newspaper were put into a weatherproof container.

The Mo Hock Ke Lock Bo Board of Directors took pictures with the time capsule. Students also took pictures with the time capsule. These students will have the best chance to be there 50 years from now and will be able to tell the students how the time capsule was put within the Confucius statue that sits on the ground floor of the school. At 12 noon after pictures were taken, with the use of a pallet jack and wood blocks, the statue of Confucius was elevated high enough to accommodate the time capsule and then lowered back to its original position where it will sit for the next half century.



#### Calendar of Traditional Chinese Festivals

August 4, 2022 Qixi/Qiqiao Festival

September 10, 2022 Mid-Autmn Festival/Mooncake Festival

October 4, 2022 Chung Yeung Festival

December 21, 2022 Winter Solstice

See next page to learn more about each traditional festival.

Qixi/Qiqiao Festival: It falls on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month in the Lunar calendar. It is the one day in the year when cowherd (Niulang) and weaver girl (Zhinu) can meet each other across the Milky Way. Some consider it as the Chinese Valentine's Day.

Mid-Autumn/Mooncake Festival: It falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> day (full moon) of the 8<sup>th</sup> month in the Lunar calendar. It is one of the most important festivals in the Chinese culture. Family members will gather together to eat mooncakes, play with lanterns, and watch the moon. Chinese believe that if you are not able to be with your loved ones on this day, you can share the moment together by looking at the same moon.

Chung Yeung Festival: It falls on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month in the Lunar calendar. On this day, people pay respect to their ancestors at the cemetery, much like Ching Ming. People also go hiking on this day.

Winter Solstice: It usually falls on December 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the shortest day of the year. In Chinese culture, there is a saying "Winter (Solstice) Is Bigger Than (New) Year." On this day, everyone will be off from work and gather with their family with good food. Traditional food includes dumplings, Chinese mochi, hot pot, chicken, etc. This is considered a day of reunion.



# **Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii**

Below are the events we will be holding:

#### 2022 Chinatown Community Foundation Golf Tournament

Friday, November 4, 2022 Hoakalei Country Club Call the Chamber at (808) 533-3181 for more information on entering

#### **Mooncake & Tea Pairing**

Saturday, September 10 9:30AM

Happy Days Restaurant (3553 Waialae Ave)

Enjoy different mooncake flavors, each paired with a complementary tea, in a unique food experience for the Moon Festival

Call the Chamber at (808) 533-3181 for more information.



# **Lum Sai Ho Tong**

Lum Sai Ho Tong Honors Bi Gan, the Great Ancestor of the Lum Family June 4, 2022



Bi Gan (aka Pi Kan) was a member of the ruling family of the Shang Dynasty and served as minister to his nephew King Zhou. King Zhou was a cruel tyrant, notorious for seeking pleasure from beautiful women, drinking, and feasting to excess. His disregard for state affairs led to endless suffering of his subjects. As a political advisor, Bi Gan admonished the King telling him he needed to change his ways for the good of the people. This drew the anger of King Zhou who asked him what gave him the strength to lecture him in such manner. Bi Gan answered that being virtuous gave him that strength. King Zhou said he heard that a sage's heart had seven valves and ordered that Bi Gan's heart be cut out so the court could examine it to prove his virtuousness. News spread quickly of Bi Gan's death and his wife who was heavily pregnant fled into the wilderness. There in the forest next to a spring she gave birth to a son. She named him Lin Chien, Lin meaning "forest" and Chien meaning "spring of water". After the fall of King Zhou, rulers of the following dynasty found Bi Gan's wife and child in the forest and bestowed upon them the surname Lin. The family name Lin is also spelled as Lum, Lam, Lim, and Lem.

On June 4, Lum Sai Ho Tong celebrated Bi Gan's birthday and honored him as the father of the first Lum. In Chinese history, Minister Bi Gan was honored by Confucius as one of the Three Men of Virtue of the Shang. Confucius taught that in order to meet Heaven's approval, a ruler's action must benefit his subjects. This was called *The Mandate of Heaven* and has been the cornerstone of Chinese government for thousands of years.



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# **Palolo Chinese Home**

May 13, 2022 marks Palolo Chinese Home (PCH)'s 30<sup>th</sup> annual Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament. Postponed in 2020 & 2021 due to the pandemic, PCH is proud to finally celebrate this milestone in our history. Started in 1991 by Carolyn Y Kwon and Gordon S K Au as a means to expand the fundraising efforts of the home, the tournament exploded over the years in both players and sponsors and raises nearly \$100,000 annually in revenue for the home. Held at the Ala Wai Golf Course every year, this year's tournament brings together nearly 200 players, 60 corporate sponsors, and 20 volunteers. Besides celebrating 30 years of golf tournaments, this year we honor all the past honorary chairs over the years who have made the tournament such a huge success. Notable among the chairpersons are a who's who in Hawaii such as Daniel B T Lau, Stanley W Hong, George & Mark Fukunaga, Hiram L Fong, Henry B Clarke, Tyler Tokioka, Russell Lau, Dr. Lawrence K W Tseu, and James & Robert Wo.

Palolo Chinese Home is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is one of Hawaii's largest and oldest Adult Residential Care Homes. PCH is the result of the vision and sacrifice of 326 Chinese immigrant families who joined together over 125 years ago to provide a home for laborers too old to work on plantation fields. In 1920, 15 acres in Palolo Valley were purchased thus establishing the Home. PCH is open to all men and women of any race, religion, and ethnicity.

Palolo Chinese Home provides a myriad of services at its 113-bed facility as well as in neighborhoods across Oahu. PCH's core services and programs include skilled nursing and intermediate care, hospice care, rehab services, adult residential care, nutritious meals, short-term respite, adult residential care, and senior day care. In addition, the Palolo Wellness Program offers a variety of non-medical home care services, including home meal deliveries (Mealsto-Go), light housekeeping, personal care services, and other support to help seniors remain independent and age in place. PCH also utilizes our wide interdisciplinary network of service partners as an unmatched referral resource for caregivers and families with needs beyond the scope PCH currently provides. Many of these services are being provided at a subsidized rate.







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## **Financial Support for Manoa Chinese Cemetery**

The Memorial Hall of the Manoa Chinese Cemetery is in need of extensive repairs and renovations. In the past, this once stately structure was the meeting place for many Chinese societies and other organizations. But over time and without the needed funds, the building has slipped into disrepair.

The Manoa Chinese Cemetery is now raising funds to help with these renovations to help renovate the Memorial Hall so that it can once again be viewed with pride by the Chinese community and made available for community use. We are currently seeking proposals to repair the roof, ceiling, interior painting, window repairs, restrooms, kitchen, electrical, and plumbing. All of this will take a considerable amount of funds and we would like to recognize the following Chinese societies and organizations that have contributed \$500 or more to help perpetuate the historical and cultural significance of the Manoa Chinese Cemetery.

- Wong Kong Har Tong
- Lum Sai Ho Tong
- See Yup Society
- Lung Doo Chung Sing Tong Society
- Lung Tow Wan Society

The attached pictures show the current poor condition of the Memorial Hall. With the support of our community we are determined to restore this once beautiful building for the Chinese and the Manoa neighborhood communities to use and enjoy.



Extensive Ceiling Damage Throughout the Inside



Patio Wall has Collapsed and Ceiling Has Fallen



Ceiling Damage and Old Boards to Cover Windows



Windows and Doors Need Repair

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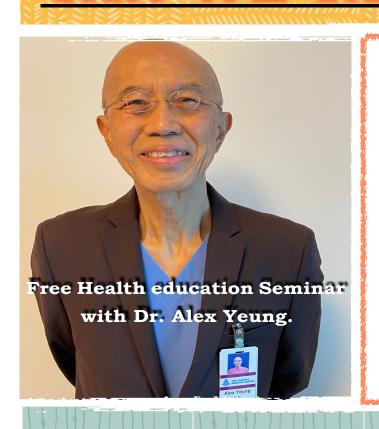


主辦單位:華人聯誼會

SPONSORED BY HAWAII CHINESE ASSOCIATION

# CHINESE "PRE" AND "EARLY" DIABETES:

# CAN WE"REVERSE" IT?





July 9, 2022, Saturday

Time: 2:00 pm-3:30 pm

Registration: 1:30 pm

Location: Chinese Cultural Plaza Room 302

Join us for this very important health seminar on the topic of 'Pre and Early Diabetes in Chinese: Can We Reverse It?' focusing on the impact of diabetes on the Chinese community, sponsored by the <u>Hawaii Chinese Association</u>.

Space is limited to the first 50 people.

Please RSVP to Heidi Chan at (808) 859-2297

# **Organization of Chinese American Women**

#### **Blurring the Color Line**

By Queenie Mow Chee



In other exciting OCAW news, member Crystal Kwok has completed the production of her documentary film, *Blurring the Color Line*, where she explored the attitudes of the Chinese Americans living in Augusta, Georgia over half a century ago. Crystal's grandmother, uncles, aunts, and cousins who still reside in Georgia shared their personal feelings, experiences, and observations.

This film has already won acclaim and was first shown virtually through the Socially Relevant Film Festival of New York in February 2022. Then on March 26, it was shown before a live audience at the Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival in Sonoma County, California.

April 2022, the University of Oregon holds its DisOrient Film Festival and screen it virtually. In mid-April, Hawaii has an in-person screening as a part of the Hawaii International Film Festival at the Kahala Theater.

Congratulations, Crystal!

# My Thoughts

By Crystal Kwok

You never know what to expect once a passion project is released to the public, when a seed of an idea materializes, kind of like giving birth. Only this gestation period was about five years! I'm talking about my documentary film, *Blurring the Color Line*, which OCAW has been so supportive of in my journey. I was both excited and nervous to present it at the Hawai'i International Film Festival on April 12, 2022. What if people didn't clap? This happened when I showed my work in progress to the Chinese community couple of years ago at the Chinese Benevolent Association of Augusta. They viewed it with wary eyes, suspicious of my intent, questioning why I did not focus on the success stories and the Chinese contributions to American society. This was not my story. And I wanted to give focus to the women's stories, the more intimate stories of how Chinese women back then navigated both the patriarchal structure of the strict controlling parenting as well as the racial structure they lived in.



History is produced and recorded by the people in power. This means mostly men. Why are women's stories historically not considered worthy of recording? Or if they are recorded, it is often in relation to their roles as mothers and daughters, or if they have brought honor to the community by being the first woman to go to medical school or law school. Intimate histories, swept away as insignificant aspects of life, are much more interesting and revealing if you ask me.

Take my grandmother's story of sneaking out, for example. Pearl snuck out on a secret date with a White boy who worked at the meat packing company that the family ordered from. Pearl had apparently arranged with her Black neighbor, Jennie, to have a private dinner at her house. Imagine a Chinese girl going to see a White boy in the Black

neighborhood. This reveals so much about the social and racial structure of the time. First of all, Pearl was a Chinese daughter to very strict and controlling parents. She was not allowed to go out. Her duties were to help run the family store until her parents arranged a suitable husband for her. Second, this was the Jim Crow era when neighborhoods were clearly segregated. The Chinese storekeepers mostly lived in the Black neighborhoods even though they went to White schools. I think about many things that this scene makes me question. How did Jennie, her Black neighbor feel about Pearl meeting up with a White boy? How did Russel, the date, feel as a White person about entering the Black neighborhood to see Pearl? If Pearl was Black, she might have been severely punished under the strict miscegenation laws. Back then, White people could lynch Black people for just smiling at a White person. It was an awful time to be Black.

This makes me think about our position as Chinese in between this very black-and-white divide. We were able to slip into White spaces, go to White schools, drink from White water fountains. But we weren't quite treated as White. My grand aunts validated this feeling. Even the Black community recognized that Chinese were part of the system. African American resident James Riles described, "They treated the Chinese a little better than the Blacks and the White a little better than the Chinese." It was a hierarchical system that centered White power. While we Chinese have come a long way under this racial system, there are still many tensions that we deal with today, particularly the increasing violence against Asians.

I hope that by shifting the narrative, giving space to some hidden stories by Chinese women, my film can be a part of social change in altering the way women are heard, how our histories inform the present, and how we need to open up more dialogue around race-relations in order to move forward.

Visit online: www.blurringthecolorline.com

#### Premier at Consolidated Kahala

By Roberta Wong Leong

On April 12, 2022 Edwina, my daughter Robbieana, and I were fortunate to attend the world premiere showing of our member Crystal Kwok's excellent documentary film "Blurring the Color Line" at Kahala Mall Theatres. Other members Kelly Tan Peterson with her husband and Claire Chao were also there. We were all impressed with the quality and well-thought-out events in her PhD program documentary of race relations in Georgia. She conducted numerous interviews with her family members, especially her grandmother, and residents. The script was so masterfully created and the scenarios so well chosen out of thousands. She displayed tremendous thought and detail in how she presented the characters and their interviews in the film. She cleverly asked many thought-provoking questions and viewpoints.

She truly deserved the standing ovation at the end. She conducted an interesting Q&A after the showing which was very stimulating.



Robbieana, Roberta, Crystal, Edwina

We are proud to have her as our member. We wish her the very best in the future of her excellent film.