

United Chinese Society
of Hawai'i

2024 Quarter 4

@unitedchinesesocietyhi



Mission: To further friendly relations among the Chinese and various Chinese societies in the State of Hawai'i to promote projects of benevolence, charity, and cultural awareness; and to promote the welfare of the Chinese community.

2025 Officers & Trustees
President: Ivy Yeung
President-Elect: Robert Yu
First Vice President: Peter Ma
Second Vice President: Cy Feng
Treasurer: Wendy Mow
Assistant Treasurer: Edna Wong
Secretary: Lori Kam
Immediate Past President: Mona Choy

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Greetings from President Ivy Yeung



Aloha UCS Ohana,

It is an honor to serve as the 98th President of the United Chinese Society of Hawaii, an organization that has united and uplifted our community for over 140 years. Yet, the story of the Chinese in Hawaii began long before the founding of UCS, when our ancestors arrived on these shores with hopes of building a better future.

Through perseverance and a deep sense of community, they not only preserved their heritage

but also embraced the spirit of aloha, creating a unique identity that honors both Chinese traditions and the Hawaiian culture. This special connection is what makes the Chinese community in Hawaii truly remarkable—a community rooted in resilience, collaboration, and cultural pride.

As we embark on 2025, the Year of the Wood Snake, we are reminded of the qualities it represents: renewal, wisdom, and transformation. These values resonate deeply with our mission this year, as we strive to sustain our culture while building a brighter future.

Our theme, "Sustaining Our Culture, Building Our Future," serves as a guiding principle. We remain dedicated to preserving the legacy of those who came before us while fostering opportunities for future generations. Whether through beloved traditions like the Family Day Picnic or innovative programs such as UCS NextGen, we aim to celebrate our shared history and inspire the next chapter of our journey.

To our member societies, presidents, and volunteers: your dedication keeps our culture alive and thriving. To our leadership team: thank you for your vision and hard work. Together, we honor our ancestors, embrace our present, and prepare for a vibrant future. Let us continue to celebrate and strengthen the bonds that make our community so special. Thank you for your support of UCS and your commitment to our shared legacy.

Xie Xie and Mahalo Nui Loa.

Ivy Yeung

Aloha from Outgoing President Mona M. Choy



Aloha,

It was an honor to serve the United Chinese Society, representing UCS at many society events, business gatherings and meetings during the year of 2024. Together with this year's UCS officers, we completed our duties and accomplished many goals.

These goals included adding additional cultural & informational workshops to the yearly schedule, holding the Members Meet & Greet as well as the Society President's Round Table, and creating the NexGen leadership & mentoring program to help our future local leaders grow.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the executive board and committee chairs: Ivy Yeung, Robert Yu, Peter Ma, Cy

Feng, Wendy Mow, Lena Wong, Jill Fukumoto, Lori Kam, Victor Lim and advisor Leonard Kam, as well as to the trustees who volunteered their time supporting UCS in 2024.

Congratulations to the 2024 Hall of Honor recipient Mr. Eddie Flores, Jr. A big mahalo for your contributions to the United Chinese Society, the Chinese community, and the people of Hawai'i. Aloha and best wishes to the 2025 Executive board and trustees. I look forward continuing my partnership with you in the coming years.

Mona Choy

Immediate Past President (2024)

Preliminary Calendar of Events

February 22 Member's Educational Seminar

10:00am Topic: Community Update on 'A'ala Park

March 22 NexGen Presents Member's Cultural Workshop afternoon Topic: An Afternoon of Poetry with Wing Tek Lum

April 26 Member's Cultural Workshop

10:00am Topic: Calligraphy

July/Aug Family Day Picnic at Kapiolani Park

August Leaders' Roundtable Summit

September Mid-Autumn Festival

October NexGen: Speed Networking Event

November Member's Educational Workshop/ Seminar

Topic: Exploring Taxation: Updates

December 5 Installation Banquet

Events and dates are subject to change and additions. For more information about any of these events, please visit the website, www.ucsofhawaii.com. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our office. Mahalo!

2024 Installation and Hall of Honor Banquet



On Sunday, December 1, 2024, UCS hosted its annual banquet, welcoming nearly 300 guests to celebrate the installation of the 2025 Officers and Trustees, with the ceremony conducted by the Honorable Brian A. Costa, Circuit Court Judge. Eddie Flores, Jr. was recognized as this year's Hall of Honor award recipient. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to President Mona Choy for her visionary leadership and the impactful initiatives she introduced during the Year of the Dragon. New President Ivy Yeung highlighted the importance of deepening connections and ensuring the sustainability of the Chinese community in Hawaii.

A special thank you to all the society presidents for their continued support, as well as to Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke and Deputy Director Jeff Lee of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office for their attendance and remarks. We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and donors, including Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu and the Tseu Medical Institute as our Title Sponsor, along with the Dragon Sponsors, Mr. Peter Shi of the Hawaii Fujian Business Association and Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Flores of L&L Hawaiian Barbecue. Our Phoenix Sponsors, Ms. Mona Choy of HomeStreet Bank and Dr. Bradford Lee of Oculofacial Plastic Surgery of Hawaii, as well as our Double Happiness Sponsors, Mr. Wesley Wu of Ala Wai L&L, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and Ms. Ivy Yeung and Mr. Dallas Walker, Esq., have also been instrumental in supporting UCS. We are deeply grateful to our donors, Dr. Wendell and Susan Foo and Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant, for their continued generosity.



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.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS









(L-R) (Picture 1) Hocking Building Grand Opening and Affordable Housing Launch On November 15, 2024, UCS was invited to the blessing and grand opening of the newly renovated Hocking Building, with Ivy in attendance. Located at the corner of N. King Street and Nu'uanu Avenue, the historic building has been transformed into an affordable housing project, offering 40 apartments for families earning 30 to 50 percent of the area median income. This project is a significant step in preserving Honolulu's history while addressing the critical need for affordable housing in Chinatown.

(**Pictures 2-3)** President Ivy extended her congratulations to President Brenda Young Matsui and the ACUW leadership team during their Installation on December 7, 2024, at the Kahala Hotel, where their theme, "Phoenix Returns," was celebrated. Immediate Past President Mona Choy had the honor of installing the new officers.

(Picture 4) President Ivy and newly installed Chinese Women's Club President Robert Wong Leung at the Oahu Country Club.

Member Society Updates

Ching Clan Benevolent Society

The Ching Clan Benevolent Society of Hawaii held it's Holiday Party and Elections with a buffet lunch at the Pagoda Floating Restaurant on Saturday November 9, 2024 with Christmas games, singing Christmas Carols, & Winning lucky number prizes. We had the Narcissus contests helping with the door prizes. Newly elected Ching Clan Officers for 2025 is President Michele Ching Choy. Vice President Dr. Juanita Liu. Secretary Sharlene Y. Chun. Treasurer Pearl K.M. Ching. Auditor Robert K.C. Ching. Sadly the Pagoda closed its forts on December 31, 2024 to renovate to commercial space.







The Ching Clan Benevolent Society will be having their annual Installation Banquet on Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 11:00 am at the Hawaii Dim Sum and Seafood Restaurant located on King Street. Ticket prices has not been set yet.

Officers to be installed include:
President - Michele Ching Choy
Vice-President - Dr. Juanita Ching Liu
Secretary - Sharlene Chun
Treasurer - Pearl Ching
Auditor - Robert Ching

We hope you can come out to support these, Officers.

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Hawaii Chinese Civic Association (HCCA)

100th Anniversary Mandarin Jacket Exhibition at Honolulu Hale 8/14-8/28/2025, cost is Free Opening Reception on 8/13/2025 100th Anniversary Mandarin Ball on 11/8/2025

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Phoenix Dance Chamber

Phoenix Dance Chamber Classes, Located in Chinatown near Hawaii Theatre Center

Focus on Chinese classical/folk basics for women and girls, all ages and levels

Email Hawaii.pdc@gmail.com or call 808-398-3597

Chinese Women's Club of Honolulu



2024 Chinese Women's Club of Honolulu



2025 Chinese Women's Club of Honolulu

Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association

The Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association hosted its annual Christmas party on December 1, 2024, at Au's Garden, with over 120 members and guests gathering for a festive lunch. Ivy Yeung officiated the installation of the 2024-2025 officers: President Haven Young Rafto, First Vice President Jarrett Pang, Secretary Dr. Sandy Young, and Treasurer Terrence Young (pictured below). Guests enjoyed delicious food, homemade desserts prepared by Lorna Rothstein, door prizes, cheerful songs, and a special visit from Santa Claus!



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### Oo Syak Gee Lu Society



On January 12, 2025, Oo Syak Gee Lu Society installed their new 2025 Officers and Directors at Mini Garden Orient Cuisine. Outgoing 2024 President Jamie Chang passed the gavel to 2025 President Debbie Chun.



2025 OSGL Officers: Debbie Chun (President), Kendrick Chang (1st Vice President), Bradley Chang (2nd Vice President), Daryl Hu (Treasurer), Jamie Chang (English Secretary), Alicia Sakamoto (Chinese Secretary. 2025 OSGL Directors: Chelsea Chang, Eric Chang, Ernest Chang, Hubert K.H. Chang, Hubert W.N. Chang, Kelfred Chang, Diane Chang-Liu, Justin Mau, Kiara Sakamoto, Susan Woo, Carlton Wong, Lori Yuh

Also recognized 2025 Posthumous Honorary Director to **Clayton Kwock Lun Chang.** 

An Honorary Director is a member who has been recognized as a benefactor to the Society through outstanding services, such as serving an officer or director. This award is the highest that Society bestows. It was voted by members in the November General Membership & Election meeting that a special Posthumous Honorary Director be recognized as someone who has truly carried out the mission of Oo Syak Gee Lu Society by "developing, promoting, and maintaining harmony amongst members of OSGL and their descendants. Clayton served as a Director of Oo Syak Gee



Lu Society since 2007, and became Membership Chairperson in 2015. With his committee, he allowed persons in the female lineage to become members of our society. His Presidency in 2018 and 2019 brought in the educational aspect in our meetings. He wanted to encourage our members to know what the society is about, and not just a "free lunch" society. Since his passing in February last year, and with all of his efforts dedicated to OSGL Society, President Debbie Chun and BOD Alicia Sakamoto presented the special 2025 Posthumous Honorary Director to his family – daughter Jamie Chang (with husband Raymond Lam), and his son Brandon Chang (with wife Betty).

Follow us on Instagram! @oosyakgeelu

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### **Associated Chinese University Women (ACUW)**



On October 23rd, we helped the River of Life Mission once again. Thank you to ACUW members Cappy Sin, Lola Fu, Elizabeth Lum, Rosalind Chun, Ann Pang and Laurie Broderick who wrapped forks, bagged snacks, scooped cereal, and wrapped pastries to be distributed through their mobile hub program. We also were treated to a very interesting tour of the facility where we learned much more about the River of Life's programs to lead the homeless to a future beyond the streets.









We got in one last community service event for the year on November 3rd. ACUW members entertained the residents at Palolo Chinese Home with song and dance! President **Brenda Young Matsui** performed a beautiful Chinese fan dance, **Michela Hammond** performed a lovely hula and a fun Bollywood dance, **Paula Fukuda** elegantly played the piano, **Karen Wong** sang songs in Chinese and Japanese, and **Roberta Wong Leung** played the lap harp dulcimer while Michela led a sing along with the residents. Roberta also led an interactive sit down

hula to Pearly Shells that the residents really enjoyed! Thank you to these members for sharing their special talents and also to members Frances Goo, Allison Eberly, Lisa Osurman, Ruby Jung, and Edwina Lee for coming to support!





### ACUW CHRISTMAS INSTALLATION EVENT - THE PHOENIX RETURNS!!

On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we installed **Brenda Young-Matsui** for a second term and her Board members and Committee Chairs at The Kahala Hotel and Resort. It was a beautiful day in paradise.

We started half an hour later than scheduled as we were waiting for the VIPs to show up and they finally came straggling in. However, we managed to get back on schedule. We started with lion dances by Lung Kong Physical Culture Club. **Brenda** was previously a member of that troupe, and she gave them the lisee with the long bamboo pole.

Our Master of Ceremonies was **Michael Young**, a past President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and he opened with the opening remarks and also introduced the special guests who were there.

**Debra Lew Wong** and **Jennifer Tseu** started by giving out the door prizes and they had a unique system where they would have each table count off and whoever had the number that they called out got the door prize on each of the tables. They also used several runners who were **Jade Penn**, **Darlene Robertson**, **Stanford Lee**, **Aldrinana Leung**, and **Robbieana Leung**. Each runner took care of getting the door prizes to each table and they each had two tables to take care of as we had 10 tables of people in attendance which was about 95 members and guests.

**Brenda** did her President's Aloha as the 2024 President and also her Inaugural Address as the incoming President for 2025 and she gave her outgoing Board members and Committee Chairs various personal thank you gifts.

After that **Mona** Choy, past President of United Chinese Society swore all the new Board members and Committee Chairs.

**Frances Goo**, our Chair of the Elected Directors, presented Brenda with a gift from ACUW as the outgoing President.

Invocation was done by Jenny Lee, Co-Chair of this installation.

Then we had our buffet luncheon which was three entrees and lots of salads and desserts with drinks of hot tea or coffee.

The highlight of the day was our entertainment by our own talented members.

Thanks to **Johnny Ng** of Rising Tide, we were able to hear all the music as he brought all his equipment to help us with the music and sound.

First up was **Michela Hammond** who did a beautiful and graceful hula dance to the "The Prayer". Next was **Frances Goo** who conducted the ACUW Chorus who sang "Mo Li Hua," a Chinese song about the jasmine flowers while **Brenda** danced to it. The ACUW Chorus was **Betty Brow, Emily Ko, Jenny Lee, Jade Penn, Jennifer Tseu, Roberta Wong-Leung** and myself.

After that, **Frances Goo** and the **ACUW Chorus** sang another Chinese song which was "The Moon Represents My Heart" and again **Brenda** danced to it.

Since this was a Christmas installation, we felt we should sing some Christmas songs which the lyrics were written on the back of the beautifully and professionally done program brochure by **Michela Hammond.** 

Frances Goo again conducted the ACUW Chorus to sing some Christmas songs, and we wanted audience participation at this time.

Door prizes continued and everyone was happy as everyone who attended got a door prize.

Acknowledgements were done by me to thank all my hard working committee chairs and their committee members.

**Michael Young** ended the installation by giving the closing remarks and wishing everyone a safe Holiday season.





### "New Collection of Poetry Conjures Honolulu Chinatown Circa 1900"

Wing Tek Lum's newly published third collection of poetry, The Oldtimers, imagines life in Honolulu Chinatown circa 1900, Lum gives voice to the forgotten pioneer generation of sojourners and settlers, detailing the trials and temptations of this bachelor society living far from their homeland—their hard work, their diversions, their challenges, and, even amidst the

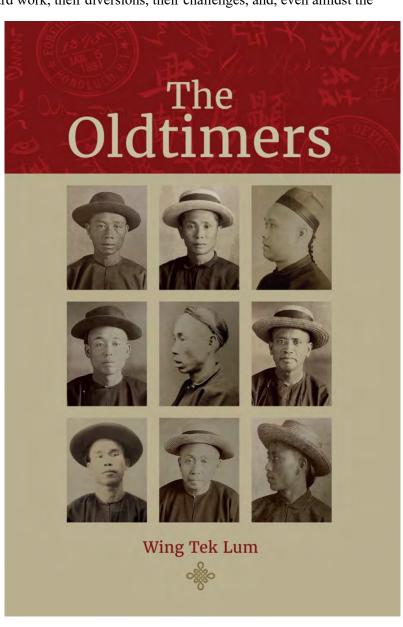
notorious plague and fire, their perseverance. Wing Tek Lum's poetry, renowned for its vivid imagery, emotional depth, and historical consciousness, revives archival voices with insight and empathy. Verses in The Oldtimers reflect on themes of displacement, labor, isolation, familial bonds and obligations, cultural heritage and adaptation, and the preservation of traditions and values amidst the islands' rapid growth.

### Excerpt from "At Dusk"

The cook inside fires up his wok, deeply patinaed, stir frying slices of pork belly and vegetables then adding a dollop of his secret shrimp paste, this tiny seed quickly blossoming into a bouquet permeating the courtyard as the light recedes. The oldtimer hanging his threadbare wash revels in the savory aroma of this serendipity. In the gloaming he breaks out into song, his taut line of bleach-white clothes pegs paddling in unison into the gathering wind.

For more information, call 808-626-1481, e-mail read@bambooridge.org or visit www.bambooridge.org.

Mr. Lum will also be doing a poetry reading at the UCS Hall in the afternoon of Saturday, March 22, 2025. Please mark your calendars as the flyer and further details will be forthcoming.





### United Chinese Society of Hawai'i Seminar Series Presents



# Trust for Public Land: Community Update on 'A'ala Park

Join representatives from The Trust for Public Land in an engaging session to discuss the latest developments at 'A'ala Park. This update will cover recent progress, future plans, and how the community can get involved in revitalizing this important public space.

Saturday, February 22, 2025 10:00am

> UCS Hall, 42 N. King St ———FREE

**RSVP** by February 15 to: <a href="mailto:shorturl.at/8QRgS">shorturl.at/8QRgS</a>

Mahalo to our UCS sponsors!











Hawaii Fujian Business
Association

For more information:

Trust for Public Land website:

https://www.tpl.org/our-work/aala-park

## All the Best for a Successful Year 2025

Ivy Yeung, Esq. UCS President Congratulations

To

Eddie Flores, Hall of Honor Award, 2025 from

## Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence (Bo Hing Chan) Tseu

The Tseu Medical Institute

Member of the Board of Regents and a Fellow of University of Oxford, UK England



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Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu *Chairman* 



Mrs. Bo Hing Chan Tseu

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\$100,000 to the University of Hawaii Medical School (2024)

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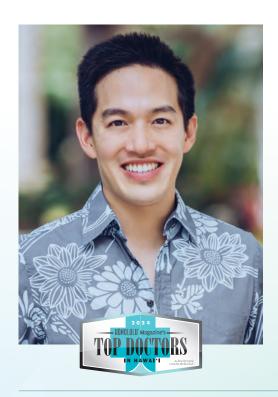
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### BRADFORD W. LEE, MD, MSC





# OCULOFACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY HAWAII

B ORN AND RAISED IN HAWAII, Dr. Bradford Lee is an internationally recognized oculofacial plastic surgeon and board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery of the eyelids and face.

A graduate of Iolani School, Harvard University, and Stanford Medical School, he was a professor of oculofacial plastic surgery from 2015 to 2021 at the University of Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, ranked the #1 eye hospital in the U.S. for the past 20 years. He was elected as one of only 800 members of the prestigious American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and serves as Associate Clinical Professor and Chief of Oculoplastic Surgery at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Dr. Lee has given more than 200 lectures and presentations at national and international meetings, taught and performed surgery on five continents, published numerous textbook chapters and scientific publications, and served as an editor for leading journals in ophthalmology and oculofacial surgery. He has trained ophthalmology and plastic surgery residents, oculoplastics fellows, and visiting professors from the U.S., Korea, Brazil, and Middle East.

Dr. Lee is committed to compassionate, patient-centered care and uses leading-edge surgical techniques and technology to achieve the most aesthetic and natural-looking results.

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- RF Microneedling
- Reconstructive oculofacial surgery
- Thyroid eye disease
- Orbital tumors, trauma & diseases



## 河原玲青杯第二届 夏威夷国际书画大展

The 2nd Hawaii International Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition of Kawainra Reisei Cup

翰墨怡情一河原玲青书艺 夏威夷展

> 翰墨风采一中国女书画家 十人夏威夷联展

丹青新境—中国画家 十人夏威夷联展

河原玲青(何玲青)先生:日籍华人著名硕士 活动支持: 黄平熙先生:「夏威夷熊貓電影展」名譽董事長 曾任聯合國人口基金會影視設備專家。

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\*向中美文化交流优秀使者颁发奖章;