

United Chinese
Society of Hawai‘i
2021 Quarter 2



Parasol



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

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Greetings from President Leonard Kam



It's already June and it's hard to believe that the year is half over. This is an ever-changing world. Now more than ever we must continue to be flexible and innovative in how we approach life and the community in which we live.

As the State begins to open up, we are ready to hit the ground running to continue offering programs and events to benefit the community. We continue to collaborate with other organizations in order to accomplish this goal.

The majority of this year's programs have been cancelled, but we are planning to hold our annual installation banquet on Saturday, December 4th. Stay tuned for more details. More information will be provided on the Citizen and Parent of the Year Award programs in the coming months.

We have taken this pause in events to reflect on the mission of UCS and how each program fits into our overall goal. Moving forward, you will notice that some events will be changing. This is all for the better and we look forward to your participation in future events.

As we work to begin holding in person gatherings, please do your part and get vaccinated if you haven't done so already. We must all work together to bring back a sense of normalcy to our community.

Ching Ming 2021

Some of the officers of the United Chinese Society commemorated the annual Ching Ming observance on Monday, April 5th. Douglas Chong assisted us in conducting a traditional service. Due to the limitations on gatherings, 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. We were also fortunate that Wendy Mow folded and prepared the gold and silver ingots for the offering. Do jie to Douglas Chong for conducting the service and reading the eulogy. See pictures on next page...



Calendar of Events

We look forward to being able to connect again!

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

August/September UCS Family & Friends Picnic - CANCELLED

December 4, 2021 Installation Banquet – Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant

Spotlight on

Constance Fong Mitchell '71

By Baldwin Au



Did You Know? Connie Mitchell, Executive Director of the Institute of Human Services (IHS) is a Mun Lun School alumna. Yes, she was known as Constance Kau Yee Fong at the time before she came into prominence in a position that few would want to attempt, but it is one job that the community appreciates and respects. After finishing at Mun Lun School and McKinley High School, she went on to the University of Hawaii to pursue a nursing education, earning a Masters Degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. Afterwards, through a series of leadership positions, she was selected to be the Executive Director of IHS in 2006 and has successfully developed an operational team of workers that deals with administering to the homeless people's needs and seeking public support for their programs. Connie, her staff, and volunteers handle about 10,000 homeless annually, with complex funding sources totaling about \$20 million. Her duties have her engaging with a broad spectrum of society, from the homeless to public officials, news media and corporate supporters. There is no shortage of crisis each day at the IHS. Connie has to be caring and hardworking to do this for so long.

But how did Mun Lun School help her succeed in her career? She was asked some questions about her memories at the school and here are her replies:

Can you tell us what in your MLS education helped you in your career?

Learning to read, write and speak Chinese has always been a source of pride in my life. As a nurse, I could converse with Cantonese speaking patients to allow me to serve them better.

The speech contests MLS held every year helped me grow in confidence with public speaking from a very early age. It certainly prepared me for public speaking which has been an important part of my professional life to this day.

Are there any fond memories or bad memories about the school that you remember?

I actually attended the school when it was at its original location. Also, before the new school was built, classes were held at Kaiulani Elementary School. When we were at the original site, I really felt like I was part of an academy of some kind. We even had recess where we played dodgeball.

But I always remembered how the school encouraged us to excel in all ways. Memorizing whole lessons, learning traditional calligraphy, and writing in general. Winning a red ribbon or even a blue one for my efforts at times was quite gratifying! It probably helped developed this competitive streak in me (ha-ha) to always excel at what I undertake.

I also treasure some of the friendships I developed with classmates, some which continue to this day. We used to enjoy picnic days in the park too. Most of all, graduation day was the best! To complete nine years of Chinese School has always been a source of pride for me and has instilled confidence in my ability to persevere.

Any advice for the current students at MLS?

You won't regret the time and effort you put into learning Chinese. With the position China has in this world, bring bilingual will open doors of opportunity for you in ways you might not even guess today.

Connie certainly considers her Mun Lun School education as a factor in helping her be successful in her career. We wish her continued success, and we are proud to know she is an alumna.

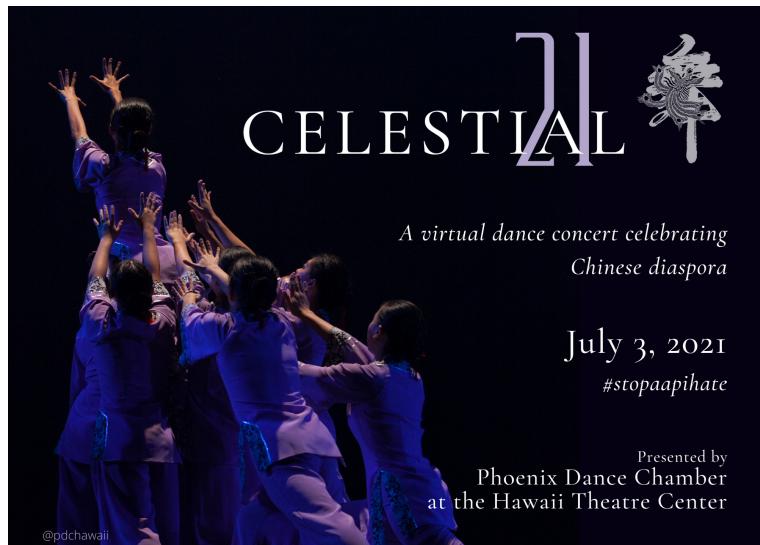
Now you know....



MLS Class 1971

Constance Fong, sitting, extreme left, with long hair

UCS is deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Ho-Ming Cheung, 2015 Model Chinese Father of the Year. He passed away on April 16th, 2021, and services were held on May 6, 2021, at the Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu on Liliha Street. There were Chinese and English presentations from people giving their remembrances. Burial was held at Mililani Memorial Park in Waipahu. Attending from UCS were: Victor Lim, Henry Ou and Teddy Chong. Marsha Au-Maxwell represented UCS and spoke about how Mr. Cheung & his wife Susanna had always been so generous giving to Helemano, the community and UCS.



Phoenix Dance Chamber

“Celestial” was a term used often in 19th Century American media to describe China and Chinese people. Based on the “Celestial Empire,” an old name for imperial China, the word became adopted as a slur used ironically to describe the newly-emigrated Chinese who worked in laundries and other menial jobs. Phoenix Dance Chamber presents Celestial 21 in response to the current and recent climate of racial tension in the United States. As an Asian settler organization in Hawai‘i, we stand in solidarity with those who have suffered or continue to live in fear of being targeted due to their heritage or skin color.

We offer this concert as a celebration of Chinese identity with performances by Phoenix Dance Chamber, along with guest performers SheenRu Yong, Dancers Unlimited, Saam Fu Chinese Cultural Arts, and Tau Dance Theater. We have forged new celestial identities but we have not forgotten how we got here.

Tickets (available at <https://www.hawaiitheatre.com/upcoming-events/>)

\$100.00 for Two-Month On-Demand Access

\$50.00 for One-Month On-Demand Access

\$21.00 for One-Time Livestream Access on July 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to supporting Asian American and Pacific Islander Artists, the Hawaii Theatre Center and the theatre production crew, 20% of ticket sales will be donated to the AAPI Community Fund. Learn more about the fund at <https://gofund.me/1764f72f>.

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 96813

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

Member Society Updates

Lum Sai Ho Tong Celebrates Tin Hau's 1,061st Birthday

May 4, 2021



Taiwan held a rain worshipping ceremony asking for Tin Hau's (Mazu) help to quell the nation's severe drought (see below). Happy to say Taiwan News on 5/30/2021 reported "Extremely heavy rain for central Taiwan".

Our temple is open to everyone and



open everyday from 8:30am to 2:00pm. We have special events throughout the year and we welcome you to view our calendar on our website:



<https://www.lumsaihotonghawaii.com>

The Chinese Lion Dance Association has been teaching martial arts for over 30 years. The last 2 years we have been offering free classes in women's self-defense giving women a realistic view of what it takes for women to defend themselves. Classes are free but limited to 10 per session. Please call 531-2287 for more information on scheduled classes

Member Society Updates

Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association (SMT) held an intimate Ching Ming service at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery on April 25, 2021. While the society has been unable to get together with its full membership due to the pandemic, it hopes to do so in the near future. The group (*pictured below*) felt it was important to thank the ancestors on behalf of all SMT members.

Mahalo to Robert Wong and Lin Yee Chung for your support in making this possible.



Organization of Chinese American Women

The Organization of Chinese American Women - Hawaii Chapter (OCAW - Hawaii) announces its third general members meeting for 2021.

It will be held on Sunday, August 8, 2021 via Zoom.

The guest speaker for that day is a former chapter president, Queenie Mow Chee, “Telling the Story and Legend of OCAW and The Hawaii Chapter.”

The invitation to attend via Zoom is open to all those interested. Email President Roberta Wong Leung before July 30, 2021: robertawongleung@gmail.com

The previous two member meetings featured award-winning females, an author and a film producer:

Author Claire Chao, winner of over 28 literary and design awards for her mother’s memoir “Remembering Shanghai, A Memoir of Socialites, Scholars and Scoundrels.” (This book is in the process of being made into a television mini-series.) and

Actor, Film Producer and International Talk Show Host Crystal Kwok, a PhD. candidate at the UH-Manoa, spoke about her film in production “Blurring the Color Line.”

(A timely topic addressing her family’s experiences and of those living in the segregated South in the 20th century.)

The Organization of Chinese American Women was established in Washington D.C. and Hawaii is a chapter.

Its Mission:

To advance and advocate for the needs and concerns of Chinese and other Asian Pacific American women by helping to improve their educational, economic, social and political opportunities; by recognizing their excellence, leadership and contributions to the quality of life.

Membership is open to all US citizens and permanent residents of the United States who will support the organization.

This year, President Roberta chose the Motto: “Kulia I Ka Nu’u” from Queen Emma Rooke, wife of Kamehameha IV. Translated from Hawaiian, it says “Strive For the Highest”.

If you have anything you would like to share for this e-newsletter, please email Communications Chair, Ivy Yeung at ucshicom@gmail.com. Quarter 3 of the Parasol will be out around September 2021.

Ching Ming Observance at Manoa Cemetery

The observance of Ching Ming is one of our Chinese culture's most time-honored and revered traditions that pays tribute, respect and gratitude to our ancestors. This year's month-long observance of Ching Ming started with officers and directors of Lin Yee Chung Association gathering at the Tomb of the Grand Ancestor on the morning of Sunday, April 4th. Traditional services were held with the offering of incense along with a feast of roast pig, fish, chicken, duck, shrimp, stuffed tofu, along w/ oranges, black sugar bao, hot tea and wine.

The ceremony was held under the leadership and direction of Lin Yee Chung director & superintendent Robert Wong. Celebrants were Lin Yee Chung President Charles Wong assisted by 2nd Vice President Howard Luke and Director Steven Chow.

While observing the current county and state restrictions on outdoor gatherings, many Societies, organizations and families made their annual pilgrimage to the Manoa Cemetery to pay their respects.

It is our sincere hope that next year will see a return to the level of observance of past years in which an over-flow of various society members would gather for a time of reflection and gratitude for all that our ancestors have done to assure that the generations which have followed would have a better life.



Feast of Bounty before the Grand Ancestor



Robert Wong, Howard Luke, Charles Wong & Steve Chow