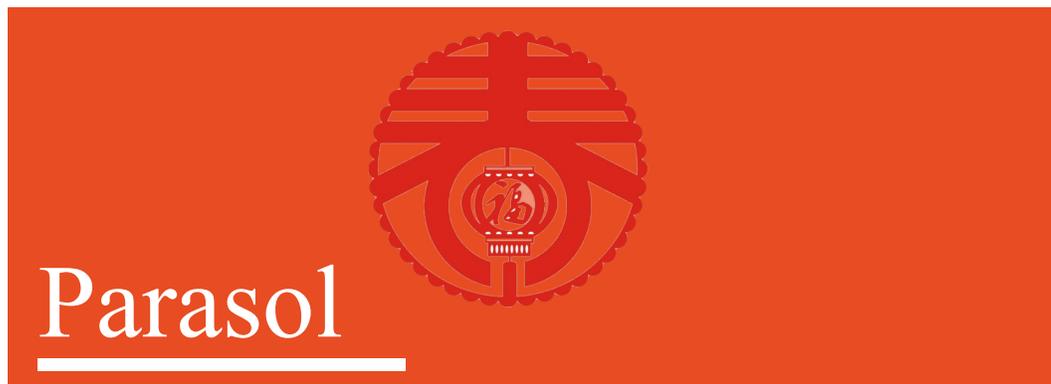


United Chinese
Society of Hawai'i
2021 Quarter 1



*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



Happy Spring! We begin the new year with hope and excitement that we will come out of the pandemic and will soon be able to resume our normal routines. The reality is that there will be a new normal. What that means is left to all of us to define for ourselves.

We have already used the virtual platform to hold our meetings. In fact, many of you joined us for our virtual Installation as well as our virtual Tea Reception. There was no tea this year, but maybe next year. One of the highlights from the virtual Tea Reception was hearing our new Mayor Rick Blangiardi pledging his support for Chinatown. If you've been to Chinatown recently, you would have

noticed the City at work cleaning up graffiti and removing the bulb outs. We are excited to see positive changes in Chinatown in the coming months.

Although we weren't able to physically celebrate the Chinese New Year, we managed to hold an on-line food sale to help the local merchants. It also provided an opportunity for the greater Honolulu community to be able to get their Chinese New Year food fix. Thank you to those who made purchases. Our heartfelt appreciation to Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu, Longevity International Enterprises, Ltd. (Chinatown Cultural Plaza), Jonathan Cook, HomeStreet Bank, and the Honolulu Chinese Jaycees for their support and assistance at this drive through event. We look forward to partnering with these organizations in the coming months.

With the limitations on public gatherings, we will not be hosting the annual Ching Ming commemoration. Stay tuned for news on our annual picnic to be held in the August/September timeframe. We are planning to have one banquet this year in December. It is our hope that we will be able to honor a citizen or parent of the year.

It's been a busy first few months of the year and we will strive to develop programs and activities that will engage our community and continue to serve the mission of the United Chinese Society. We ask for your patience as we work to plan events for this year since we also have to be mindful of the current and future limitations on gatherings.

I would also like to give a shout out to Edna Wong McKenna for coordinating, designing, and printing the Red Book. There may be more pick up dates in the future. Special thanks to Marsha Au-Maxwell for being our resident janitor. She's been cleaning up all sorts of messes due to birds getting into the building and other vagrants that have messed up our building.

In closing, I would like to thank Teddy Chong for his leadership during the 2020 year. It was not an easy task, but he handled it like a champ.

Virtual New Year's Tea Ceremony

January 30, 2021

With the limitations on gatherings due to the COVID pandemic, UCS was not able to host its annual Tea Reception for the Society Presidents. So, on January 30th a Virtual New Year Tea Reception was held via Zoom. Over 30 participants joined in to meet one another and exchange greetings for the New Year.

We had the honor of having our newly elected Mayor, Rick Blangiardi join us to share his goals as well as his specific plans for Chinatown. It was very exciting to hear that he holds Chinatown near and dear to his heart and that he is specifically going to ensure that we get the support from the City in tackling the various issues that plague our community.

Our dynamic Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu, Michael Tseng was also able to join us to share his New Year greetings. Our Chinatown community and organizations are very blessed to have the support of Director General Tseng and his very capable staff.

Also joining us were Senator Karl Rhoads, Representative Daniel Holt, and Councilmember Carol Fukunaga. They also conveyed their well wishes for the New Year and highlighted key topics that are of concern to our Chinatown community. Chinese Chamber of Commerce President Elvira Lo also added her well wishes to the group.

This was an excellent way for us to “see” each other and catch up with all that’s going on in our community. We are fortunate that although we weren’t able to connect with each other physically, we had technology to help us maintain some semblance of normalcy.

We are hopeful that we can enjoy tea and refreshments in person in 2022. Thank you to all who attended.





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

December 4, 2021 Installation Banquet

Chinese New Year Drive Through Event

February 6, 2021

What do you get when you combine the following items in one event?

Black Sugar, Coconut, and Salty Jin Dui

Jai

Tong Goh

Peanut Candy

Gau

20 United Chinese Society members

7 HomeStreet Bank staff

21 Honolulu Chinese Jaycees and friends

A Chinese New Year Drive Through Food pick up event!

A big xie xie to the almost 50 dedicated volunteers for packing, checking, and distributing the orders and keeping the cars moving through the drive through pick up line at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza on Saturday, February 6, 2021. It was quite an undertaking with 115 different orders. And we had the website ordering available for less than a week! Fortunately, both Hawaii News Now(Stephanie Lum) and KITV(Nicole Tam) helped us publicize the event on their newscasts.

The support of Director General Michael Tseng of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu and General Manager Sophie Chu of Longevity International Enterprises Corporation(Chinatown Cultural Plaza) was very much appreciated as they allowed us to use their loading zone area for people to pick up their orders.

The people who bought food were so grateful as they were able to get their favorite Chinese New Year foods without having to find parking in Chinatown and stand in the long lines. The people passing out the orders received many thank you comments. It was very heartwarming.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of Jonathan Cook who created the Chinatown808 website for us. He donated all his time and labor. Thank you, Jon!

This turned out to be a great event with such a short window for ordering. We hope everyone who ordered food enjoyed it.





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

2020 Outgoing President's Report



Aloha and Welcome Everyone back to The Parasol. I am so very proud that the United Chinese Society has chosen to resume and once again support this much needed publication. The Parasol serves as a communication tool to share with the Chinese Community current events, schedules, announcements and other engaging contents.

As immediate past president I offer these remarks during my tenure in 2020. The year began as any other year as we said goodbye to the Year of the Pig and ushered in the Year of the Rat. True to the name, 2020, the Year of the Rat was most memorable as being the most challenging year in our history. Everything started off "business-as-usual" with my most capable 2020 Executive Board and Board of Trustees to take an ambitious year with the focus on capital improvements of our facilities. In 2020, we planned to complete repairs on our roof, and begin other modernization projects such as installation of energy efficient lighting in our society, renovate and upgrade our plumbing in our restrooms and kitchen as well as tenant space improvements in hopes of attracting a long-term client for our downstairs units. But, as you all know, the Sars-CoV-2 (later renamed COVID-19) went viral and spread far and fast. It was only a matter of time before it reaches our shores. When it finally did, our world was turned upside down and everything came to a screeching halt. In compliance with Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, everything including Government offices, schools, businesses, hotels, and restaurants were shut down. UCS, along with everyone else was forced to close its offices and shelter in place. Only essential businesses were allowed to keep in operation. Eventually, restrictions were relaxed and businesses were allowed to re-open in limited capacity. Social gatherings, of which UCS is a part, was very limited and unable to open fully.

However, due to the hard work of the Executive Board and Key Emeritus Directors, UCS was able to achieve its capital improvement goals of installation of energy efficient lighting in our main hall, upgrade plumbing in our restroom and kitchen, and tenant space improvements. With the help of Leonard Kam and other generous monetary donations, UCS was able to help our first-responders by presenting monetary donations and a delicious dim sum lunches to our first responders at local medical facilities at Queens Medical Center, Kuakini Medical Center, and Straub Clinic in Honolulu. UCS was also able to help distribute and deliver much needed masks to all Chinese Societies and UCS members who wanted them. Also, along with the help of Chinese Chamber of Commerce President Michele Choy, we assisted Robert Su of the US Census Bureau from California, by way of its outreach program, we were able to spread the word of the importance in participating in the 2020 US Census and be counted. This helps the Federal Government in a more accurate count of the population and demographics of Hawaii and the Chinese Community for increased funding and appropriations.

It has been a most challenging year and as the pandemic conditions improve UCS will open its doors to more activities and functions and continue to play an integral part in the Chinese community. UCS will continue its mission to assist and provide service for a better quality of life among the citizens of Hawaii. We are committed to improve and promote better relations among the Chinese in Hawaii, in the United States and abroad. I wish you all Good Health and I hope we get through this pandemic safely.

*Aloha,
Teddy Chong*

Member Society Updates

CHING MING OBSERVANCE UPDATE

The annual Ching Ming (Bai San) season of observance will start on Sunday, April 4, 2021. However, given the current orders from the governor's and mayor's offices regarding limiting the size of social gatherings, Lin Yee Chung will be complying with the guidelines of the Tier level that is in effect at the time your society, organization or family is planning to observe Ching Ming (Bai San) at the Manoa Cemetery. Oahu is currently in Tier 3 which allows gatherings of no more than ten (10) people at a time. If the level should improve to Tier 4 at the time of your observance, then gatherings of no more than 25 can be held. Our goal is to make the cemetery available to as many people as possible while still complying with the State's and City's orders.

The cemetery will be open for society observances during these hours:

Saturdays & Sundays: 7:30 am to 3:00 pm

If your society plans to use the Pavilion area, please contact Robert Wong at (808) 778-5395 to reserve your society's use of the Pavilion area. In order to allow other societies the use of the Pavilion, observances will be limited to no more than one (1) hour.

Normal weekday (Monday to Friday) cemetery hours are: 8 am to 12 noon.

For updates on the cemetery visiting hours, please call (808) 988-5543.

Kung Sheong Doo Society continues to function to provide it's ohana support to its members.

The Board of Directors meet regularly on zoom to conduct Society business.

Membership meetings, such as the election of Board Members and their Installation Ceremony, and etc. have also been on zoom. Instead of providing lunch for all attendees, gift cards to various Chinese Restaurants are mailed to the attendees, in support of those restaurants. Our Cultural Education Program for college scholars, school age children, and the general membership is also been developed utilizing zoom technology.

Our annual summer picnic was a drive-through lunch pickup, serving the exact same Young's Fish Market lau lau bento that would have been served at the event. We are busy planning our Spring Banquet to be similar in nature if the Emergency Orders remain the same.

If you have anything you would like to share for this e-newsletter, please email Ivy Yeung at thinkyeung@gmail.com. The next newsletter will be out in June/July.

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