

WONG KONG HAR TONG QUARTERLY

Volume XXI No. 04

A PUBLICATION OF WONG KONG HAR TONG OF HAWAII

May 25, 2017

WKHT TROLLEY AND UKULELES MAKE HIT AT LUNAR YEAR PARADE

CALENDAR

謹訂於二零一七年六月三日星期六上午十一半于Community Church of Honolulu 禮堂舉行本年度第二次全體會員大會議.懇請諸位堂兄弟姐妹踴躍出席參與! 謝謝.

Apr. 15 (Sat.) - Qing Ming Basiswa
Jun. 03 (Sat.) - 2nd General Mtg. at
Community Church of Honolulu
May 14 (Sun.) Kapahulu Center Activity
Jun. 19 (Sun.) - Kapahulu Center Activity

2017 Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs

Officers: Harvey M.H. Wong, president; Arthur K.C. Wong, VP; Edna Wong McKenna, secretary; Amanda M.L. Wong, corresponding secretary; Wah Lun Wong, treasurer; Annette Wong, assistant treasurer; *board of directors:* Annette Wong; Chadwick Wong; Harry C.Y. Wong; *Special advisors to the president:* Annette Leong Wong; Chadwick W. Wong, Dennis K.W. Wong, Fred C.M. Wong; Harry C.Y. Wong; Henry LiNan Wong; Henry S.P. Wong; Richard J.C. Wong; Wah Lun Wong; William Gee Kong Wong; William K.C. Wong; Jeffrey C.M Wong, Yvonne Wong, membership and welfare; Emily S.Y. Wong, Education Award Grant; Beverly H.K. Wong, Kimberly L.Y. Wong Balisacan, social & cultural; Harry C.Y. Wong, community activities; Arnold K.H. Wong, strategic planning; Christy Wong Yee, historian; Myra Wong Chun, parliamentarian; Scott Yee, sgt.-at-arms; Harry C.Y. Wong, living treasure; Jeffrey C.M. Wong, director 2018; Patricia C.O. Mar, director 2018; Henry LiNan Wong, director 2017; Sherman G.B.

Wong, director 2017; Richard J.C. Wong, director emeritus; (*continued on page 2*)



Jeffrey Wong waves to friendly crowd.

The inclement weather did not dampen the spirited marchers, trolley riders, and our Ukulele Ensemble as the trolley and marchers paraded down Hotel Street, strumming their ukuleles and singing familiar songs that the spectators enthusiastically joined in, clapping to the rhythm. Undaunted, those who marched along the route braved the intermittent showers. The trolley also accommodated those who were elderly and could not walk at a faster pace.



President Harvey led our unit, waving to the spectators.



David Wong displays his gung-fu stance and act.



Alvin and Donna were among those who braved the rainy weather as intrepid marchers.

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William Gee Kong Wong, director emeritus; Henry LiNan Wong, financial committee; Richard J.C. Wong, audit committee; Chadwick W. Wong, investment assets mgt. committee; William K.C. Wong, real estate assets mgt. committee.

Reminder: The second general meeting of the year is scheduled for **June 3**, Saturday at Stephen Mark Hall, Community Church of Honolulu. This is due to the fact that the hall was reserved for the church members for May 27.

OBITUARY

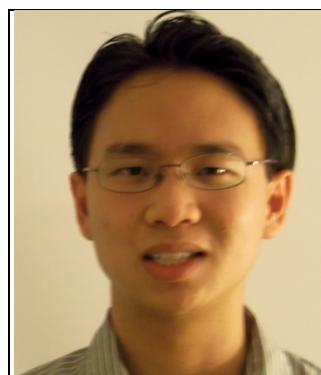
Condolences to the family of Daniel Wong whose demise was in January. He is the husband of Lucille.

Fall Semester Education Awardees

Emily S.Y. Wong, chairman of our Education Awards Committee announces the following Fall Semester Educational Awardees:

Kevin Liu (parents Derrick and Gladys Liu), Mechanical Engineering; *Turner Wong* (parents Danton and Helen), International Relations and Mandarin; *Leia Lau* (parent Lorinda Wong-Lau), Biology; *Kristen McKenna* (parent Edna Wong McKenna), Speech Language Pathology; *Kevin Wong* (parents David and Karie Wong), Computer Science; *Alexander Wong* (parents Arnold and Donna Wong), Finance and IT Management; *Caitlin Pang* (parents Byron and Janice Pang), Elementary Education; *Tingxuan Huang* (parent Heliang Huang), Engineering;

Doctorates: *Christie Wong* (parents Alvin and Donna Wong), Optometry; *Dayna Wong* (parents Jonathan and Georgina), Family Nurse Practitioner.



*Christopher's
Crystals*

I will be completing my contract as an English teacher in Japan this August. It is surprising to realize that 75% of my time here has elapsed. I know the remainder will be gone soon too, as is the nature of time and experience.

I can still remember the morning left; I woke up early and went for one final drive with the girl I was dating at the time. We spent our last hour together watching the sunrise and the rain. She said that Hawaii was crying for me. I cried as well, terrified of the future. I was

about to sever ties, to untether from the world of my last 23 years.

But I was excited too, desperate to find out who exactly I would be in the eyes of those who had never met me. I needed to know who I would become when standing alone thousands of miles from where I began.

I had to leave.

In Hawaii, I was afraid of the feelings of my own mind, the experience of my own body. I designed my life around activities that helped me to hide. In the process, I drained myself of my Self.

My first months in Japan were lonely, but not in a way that was too much for me to handle. I was fueled by the desire to learn and grow.

I did.

I made friends and connections quickly, and I was more social and confident than I had ever been. I have more true friends than I have ever had at any time in my life. I once went to a drinking party where I was the most extroverted; without intending to, I came to dominate the mood of the table, my excitement and enjoyment the emotional contagion of the evening. It was a shocking and exhilarating feeling to have an entire table hanging off my words and actions. I left with the number of the girl who I am currently seeing.

I saw in the mirroring eyes of others that I was okay.

Today, I was walking home while talking to a good friend about this topic. I told her that I had always thought of myself as being fundamentally wrong. I never realized that I was only ever seeing myself from one perspective.

I have found other perspectives in the kindness of others, people who understand who I am and who accept me totally. I have experienced moments of revelatory clarity when traveling, riding motorcycles, teaching, meeting girls, writing, and challenging myself.

Society and culture are not the same everywhere in the world. We do not have to be stagnant all of our lives.

As human beings, we have the capacity for growth. The only truth I know is that everything is always changing.

My friend summed it up best as we arrived at our apartments: If you can find a life that is authentic for you, why not live it?

If I ventured in the slipstream/ between the viaducts of your dreams/ could you find me / would you kiss-a my eyes/ lay me down/ in silence easy/ to be born again- Van Morrison

See the line where the sky meets the sea? /It calls me / An no one knows, how far it goes - Moana.

Community News

The United Chinese Society's community Qing Ming Baisan Celebration is scheduled for April 5 at Manoa Chinese Cemetery. All organizations are invited to participate and/or make donations.

The UCS Father/Mother of 2017 Banquet will be held on June 3, Saturday, at Empress.

UCS will represent the Chinese community at the Kamehameha Day parade, on June 11 with a fleet of convertibles honoring Father and Mother of the Year, Citizen of the Year, etc.

The annual UCS Chinese Community picnic at Kapiolani Park near Waikiki Shell is scheduled for August 13. All societies are encouraged to turn out; donations welcomed. Prizes and lucky numbers. Call UCS to reserve lunch tickets and other information.



Recipients/representatives of fall semester Education Awards, Feb. 18. 2017.

115th WKHT Spring Banquet



Three auspicious lions from Wah Ngai Lion Dance Club at opening ceremonies.

The burst of thunderous electronic firecrackers filled the banquet hall of Royal Garden heralded in the three prancing lions auspicious to the beating of drum, gong, and cymbals. The audience responded to the festive atmosphere by feeding them good-luck money.

Emcee Matthew Wong welcomed the honored guests and fellow clansmen and president Harvey Wong greeted the audience enthusiastically. Protocol introductions of honored guests and speeches by president of United Chinese Society Victor Lim and Chinese Chamber of Commerce president, followed by congratulatory greetings from Wallace Chow, TECO (Taipei Economic Council).



Chinese Chamber of Hawaii president, 2017 Narcissus Queen and Wallace Chow

Added to the festivities were the table favors for each banqueteer were WKHT ball point pens donated by president Harvey Wong and a bottle of Pearl River Bridge Chinese soya sauce, donated by Peter Siu from Roberto's.

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Wrapping the table favors were Beverly C. Wong, Beverly H. Wong, Gayle Wong, Myra Wong Chun, Annette Wong, Dennis Wong, Art Wong, and Harvey Wong.

Registration time entertainment was provided by our well-known Ukulele ensemble under the direction of Charles Yang and hula numbers by Elaine Wong Yang, while manning the registration table were Beverly C. Wong, Stella Kubo, and Myra Wong Chun.



Our fabulous Ukulele Ensemble performing

Sherman B. Wong's Wah Ngai Lion Dance Club of yellow (for Wong) lions prance lively about, seeking to be fed luck money.

Guang Zhong Chinese Music Ensemble provided entertainment during the first 3 courses of the banquet.



Guang Zhong Chinese Music Ensemble

Center pieces (orchids) were provided by Harvey and Winona's Orchids.

Invocation was conducted by Richard J.C. Wong. Distribution of leis was done by Edna McKenna.

Banquet chair committee: Harvey Wong, Annette Wong, Dennis Wong, Wah Lun Wong, Jeffrey and Yvonne Wong, Sherman Wong. Kudos.



Harvey delivers his speech while Emcee Matthew Wong (in white shirt) looks on.



Joseph, Harvey, and May Wong represented WKHT at the March 11th gathering marking the anniversary of the demise of Dr. Sun Yat-sen at the Cultural Plaza in front of his bronze statue, along with other societies.

Thailand Adventure



(From February 1-10, 2017, Arthur and Gwen Wong and son, Charles and Elaine Yang embarked on a journey touring beautiful Thailand. Herewith are edited segments of the wonderful trip.)

From the pen of Arthur Wong, vice president:

After returning from Thailand with the dreaded "runs", I finally got to sit down and reminisce about the adventure that took my family approximately 7,283 miles from Honolulu to Thailand - first to Chiang Mai in the mountainous northwestern part of Thailand and then to Bangkok, an old seaport, in the southern part of Thailand. Also on the tour with my wife Gwen and son, were fellow WKHT members Charles and Elaine Yang.

Chiang Mai - Northern Thailand

The impetus of the trip was to see the Flower Festival in Chiang Mai, the largest festival of the year for the people of this region. At the crack of dawn, streets are blocked and people line the streets to get the most advantageous spot to see the most beautiful floral decorated floats, bands, different Thai minority cultures, and lovely beauty queens displayed in a huge parade that lasts at least two hours.

It is interesting that while the "night markets" are open during the day, it only comes alive at night after 6:00 p.m. or so. Street vendors start setting up in the late afternoon, and occupy part of the sidewalks, so it is very congested during the evening.

Another popular item in the market areas, along main side streets is Thai massage. This is legit Thai massage which is usually done in the open on reclining chairs, or in a room that has a large window so people can look in.

No tour of Thailand can miss all the religious Buddhist temples and shrines.

People are very religious and certain things are sacred, such as images of Buddha and the King - and it is against the law to desecrate a baht bill of the king. You can get arrested for stumping on a 1000 baht bill, for example, because the picture of the King is on it. Certain temples are restricted to only men because of their belief that women are unclean at certain times of the month. Footwear must be removed before entering most temples. Women must cover their shoulders and wear long dresses that cover their knees and down to the ankles. And women must never touch a monk. Most images of Buddha in Thai temples are covered in gold leaf, which make the images so powerful and outstanding.

Chiang Mai is a plateau in a mountainous region of Thailand. In the forested areas are many elephant camps, where elephants are taught to follow man's (mahout) commands to do various tasks related to the harvesting of teak wood for export.



Elaine Yang gets ready for an elephant ride.



Art and Gwen riding on an elephant.

The other exciting experience was a visit to Tiger Kingdom. We actually walked in a caged area with a full grown tiger, pet the tiger, and pulled its tail.



Charles Yang hugging and stroking a live tiger.



Gwen tries out long neck rings with natives.

Bangkok -Southern Thailand

Just about an hour or so by plane to the south of Chiang Mai is Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. As you ride from the airport into the city, you can instantly feel the difference between rural Chiang Mai and the urban Bangkok. Wide four-lane boulevards with pictures of the recently deceased King line the streets, monuments are everywhere, hundreds if not thousands of mourners are coming to the Grand Palace by the busloads in dressed in black. The entire country is in a one year period of mourning for the King as he lies in state at the Grand Palace.

The streets around the Palace looked like a military takeover. Police or active military were everywhere.

Shopping is why many people come to

Thailand. Within walking distance, you can visit Thai food stands and vendors that line the street just outside our hotel.

Bangkok is a city of canals, and waterways. People, who live along these routes, use the canals (klongs) for travel as well as for washing clothes and fishing. Huge catfish come up from the opaque brown muddy waters to feed off of puffed Cheetos fish food thrown by tourists. Sea monitor lizards lie basking on wooden boat landings.

Although I am not Thai, I love the Thai food in Thailand. So if I compare the Thai food at home and in Thailand, Thai food here at most restaurants are comparable to those in Thailand. The spiciness can be set and balanced by stronger flavor of the other ingredients, such as meat, seafood, kaffir leaves, lemon grass, Thai ginger root, curries, etc. This combination makes the taste buds in your mouth explode with taste of intense flavor. You might be sweating a lot, but that's the adventure of traveling.



Arthur the author at a tourist spot.



Son Aaron riding elephants.



Arthur and Gwen agree that both Thai food in Thailand and Hawaii are comparable, full of zest and spicy.

(Kreesty's Kolumn is on vacation.)

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Wong-derful News

Nora Wong Chong's and her family of close friends and relatives celebrated Nora's husband's (*Robert Chong*) 90th birthday on May 11 at The Mandalay Chinese Restaurant. It was a festive gala occasion punctuated with an auspicious dance, guessing (how many in each jar) games of such items as animal crackers, rice grains, etc.). Picture taking of Robert was rampant as was the memory photos of each guest table.

Stephen, Dennis, and Annette coordinated the WKHT team for the annual 6-mile Visitor Industry Charity throughout Waikiki on May 20 (Saturday). There was complimentary breakfast prior to the walk.

What's going on amongst our mah jong players? *Wilfred "Willie" Wong* and *William K.C. Wong* both have a penchant for striving to make a Seven Sisters combination win and have had occasions of being successful in their persistent attempts. Never say "die". It's the final pair tile that is hard to attain.

The Palolo Chinese Home Invitational Dynasty Golf Tournament was held on

Friday, May 12. Chair for our WKHT teams was *Dennis Wong*.



Gwen bravely pets a young tiger in Thailand.

Photo credits this issue: Luther Chong, David M. Wong, Arthur Wong, Fred C.M. Wong, Emily Wong

Sign up for UCS Family Day Picnic to be held at Kapiolani Park, next to the Waikiki Shell via Patricia Mar, 839-4697; cell: 393-5885. WKHT will subsidize lunches/tickets for members who sign up.

Wong Kong Har Tong
c/o Jeffrey C.M Wong
3615 Wa'aloa Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

Time Out for Puns and Lexophilia

(Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep alone.)

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

How does Moses me tea? Hebrews it.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic.

It's syncing now.

Joke about German sausage are the wurst.