

WONG KONG HAR TONG

黃江夏堂 Quarterly Newsletter

EDITOR'S CORNER

Aloha Wong Kong Har Tong! I am excited and honored to take the reigns as the new editor of your quarterly newsletter. Many thanks to trailblazer Harry Wong, who created the bulletin 22 years ago after retiring from the DOE. After its inception, the newsletter evolved into what it is today, with Harry and his team tirelessly producing and distributing it ever since. Mahalo Harry for keeping us all informed, interested and entertained for so many years.

Cultural awareness, keeping traditions alive and participating in community service have always been very important to me, and never more so than now as my many roles converge. I am a mother, teacher, writer, lifelong learner, and now your newsletter editor. I have been a member of WKHT since I was a child, and have served in several capacities including assistant secretary, Christmas party co-chair, columnist, and historian. I look forward to interacting with you all in this space and ask you to bear with me as I try to fill Harry's shoes the best I possibly can.



A Monumental Legacy

By Alvin Wong



After much anticipation, Wong Kong Har Tong celebrated the 2019 Ching Ming observance with a new Legacy Monument. On April 13, 2019, President Arthur Wong initiated the WKHT Ching Ming ritual by first recognizing and blessing the newly constructed Legacy Monument. Harvey M.H.

Wong and Alvin Wong were credited for their leadership in successfully completing the project in one year, despite unique challenges. Harvey stated, "It was a long, complicated effort, but this new cultural icon in Manoa Valley will be our generation's remembrance to honor our ancestors."

The new Legacy Monument, which was fabricated in Xiamen, China, consists of nine massive 8-inch-thick black granite panels with the "Wong" character in the center panel flanked by traditional mythical Chinese animals, including the dragon, tiger, phoenix, turtle with serpent, kirins, and lions. In the center granite panel, the "Hall of Wongs" is proclaimed and engraved in gold Chinese characters and English letters. The right panel, facing inward, lists the WKHT founders, including Wong Chow, Wong Leong, Wong How, Wong Min Hoong, Wong Lum, and Wong Wing, as well as the monetary supporters of the project. On the left panel, which faces inward, an ancient Chinese poem, which WKHT has adopted as its inspiration, reminds every generation of its



Life Lessons

by Emily Wong

"Every year should teach you something valuable; whether you get the lesson is up to you. Every year brings you closer to expressing your whole healed self." - Oprah Winfrey

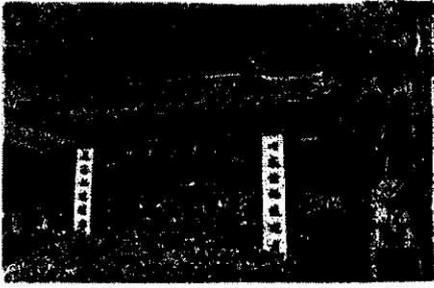
Teaching at a new school and a different grade level has well reminded me of something: how human beings change. Teaching kindergartners is like watching a time-lapse video of a plant sprouting and then turning into what it was meant to be. In the beginning, they are slowly getting used to routines, learning how to interact with classmates appropriately, and trying to understand what is being taught. As the months go by, they start growing a little more - they now know more or less what is expected of them and try to show you what they've learned. It's amazing to see that growth in such small human beings. As I reflect on myself, I noticed I have changed as well. I have learned to not put as much pressure on myself as their teacher. I just try to mold them into decent human beings.

(Legacy, cont'd) memorial obligation of filial piety. All of the exquisite and intricate artwork that was carved into the granite panels were fabricated by Chinese stone masons using mostly hand tools. Charles Wong, the



project's consultant and great-grandson of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, said that the WKHT Legacy Monument is currently the "most beautiful monument in Manoa Chinese Cemetery."

In a brochure distributed at this year's ceremony, Douglas Chong reported that Manoa Chinese Cemetery founder Lum Ching once remarked, "We are at an extraordinary spot. It is the pulse of the watchful dragon of the valley. People from all directions will come across the seas and gather here to pay homage. Birds too will come to sing and roost. It is suitable for the living as well as the dead. The Chinese people must buy this area and keep it as sacred ground." Thus, in 1851, the Lin Yee Chung Association acquired the property of 27 acres and



(Legacy, cont'd) and established the Manoa Chinese Cemetery. Harry C.Y. Wong explains, "Ching Ming is a practice dating back to ancient Chinese beliefs, but today, it has become a cultural tradition that is followed by Chinese of all religions and faiths throughout the world. Closely aligned to Ching Ming is the concept of filial piety or honoring one's ancestors. It is a time for Chinese families to reaffirm their commitment to family traditions and a time for younger people to learn the practice, so they too can carry on the tradition with their own children."

THE COLOR OF A CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE

By Alvin Wong

Firecrackers. Beauty Queens. Lisee. Mayor Kirk Caldwell. What do these things have in common? For the Chinese, it can only be the color red, the traditional hue symbolizing joy and happiness. On February 2, 2019, six dozen WKHT members participated in the annual Chinatown New Year Parade. While thousands lined Hotel Street, Chinatown was peppered with minute pieces of red paper, remnants of the firecrackers that ward off evil spirits. Beauty queens, wearing red cheongsam, waved to their friends and family and received red lisee from shop owners for good luck. Mayor Kirk Caldwell, dressed in a red aloha shirt, wished everyone "Gung Hee Fat Choy."



While fans enjoyed the mesmerizing Chinese lion dances, the US Navy band marched to its own beat. WKHT President Arthur Wong led the Wong brigade riding in a Corvette. Half of the members rode in a trolley; the others walked and waved while proudly displaying our society banner. Kudos to President Arthur and Chad Wong for co-chairing the event, and special mahalo to Harvey for arranging a delicious 9-course dinner at Won Kee Restaurant for all of the WKHT parade participants. It was a wonderful way to end the day and to start the Chinese New Year of the Boar.

Yan Can Cook!

by Arthur Wong

On Sunday, January 20, fourteen members of WKHT attended the Yan Can Cook Show at the Ala Moana Hotel. AARP and Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii were the major sponsors and organizers of the event. WKHT also donated as well.

The lively program started with Chinese Dragon Dance followed by the introduction of the 2019 Narcissus Queen, Tiana Ai Lin Wong, and her Court. Music from the Chinese Erhu by Tsun-Hui Hung, 2018 Na Hoku Hanohano Award winner, followed. Alan Lum, Feng Shui consultant then gave a short explanation of the Ideal Feng Shui Site, the Five Elements and the 2019 Flying Stars.



Finally, Martin Yan, entered the stage. An amazing cook that has written many books, and he also has his own cooking show. His first dish was a shrimp salad. Although his salad was made up of mixture of green bell peppers, mango, and other ingredients, he stunned the audience with his mastery of the

Chinese cleaver knife. He deseeded a large green pepper by slipping the clever between the skin and the seeds and in one swift rolling motion separated the two. Then he julienned the bell peppers so thinly, they were close to paper thin.



But his most amazing demonstration was how to debone a chicken in 18 seconds. Always witty, he first relaxed the dead chicken by moving the legs of the bird up and down as you would in an exercise class, and flapping both chicken wings as if flying. Then after the bird was relaxed, he used several well placed hits first to the back and then to the chest of the bird, quickly severed the drumstick, and wings off, and finally ripped off the remaining meaty sections of the chicken. Voila - the chicken was ready to be cooked!

The meaty section was chopped into chunks, and stir – fried as part of a dish.

Yan can, indeed, cook!

Music Man Stars in WKHT Spring Banquet

by Alvin Wong

While the typical society banquet customarily starts with long speeches and introductions, President Arthur Wong unconventionally opened the annual 2019 Spring Banquet with a dazzling display of musical bravado. Almost 300 members and guests attended the sold out event, held at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant on March 2, 2019.

Representatives from prominent Chinese societies and organizations, including Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, United Chinese Society, Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, See Dai Doo, Lung Doo, and Lum Sai Ho Tong, attended the event. In addition, 2019 Narcissus Queen Tiana Wong and her court made a special appearance.



Dennis Wong, master of ceremony for the evening, commenced the gala festivities by welcoming a lion dance blessing by the Wah Ngai Lion Dance Association. If you noticed the lack of smoke and odor of sulfur, it is because a string of "electronic firecrackers" was used in lieu of the traditional gunpowder firecrackers. When asked if the use of "e-firecrackers" is for climate change and

environmental reasons, co-chair Harvey Wong said "Of course, but it also saves us money while chasing away evil electronic spirits."

The joyous evening was filled with the sound of music. Warming up the audience during the registration and social hour, the WKHT Ukulele Ensemble played a variety of English and Asian classics. But they were ultimately upstaged by President Arthur Wong, WKHT's shining star. His Sinatra-like performance brought forth endless cheers and applause. During intermission, the audience was treated to a special performance by the Na Koa Saxophone Quartet, four undergraduate music major students from the University of Hawaii. Their repertoire featured new and classic Chinese music, plus a medley of Disney movie themes. Vice President Wayne Wong thanked the co-chairs, Dennis Wong, Annette Wong, and Harvey Wong, for doing yeoman's work in organizing the successful event.

Education Awards

Congratulations to the following students!

Bachelor's (\$800)

Alexander Wong - Finance/Philosophy
Tingxuan Huang - Computer Science
Leia Lau - Biology
Alex Dipasupil - Computer Science
Caleb Balisacan - Aviation Technology
Maile Pang - Kinesiology
Mitchell Wong - Biochemistry
Jade Wong - Biology
Yiju Wong - Political Science

Doctorate (\$1,000)

Shelley Wong - Medicine

FIVE COOL THINGS - UKULELE ENSEMBLE EDITION

Have you ever wanted to join the WKHT Ukulele Ensemble? Here's all you need to know!

1. No experience is needed. Even if the only thing you've ever played is the radio, you can join. Reading music is also not a requirement.
2. Ukuleles are relatively cheap. The cost of a beginner's ukulele starts from less than \$20.
3. The ukulele is easier to learn than guitar. There are only 4 strings and a few chords.
4. Don't worry about stage fright. Because you're part of a group, no one will notice a mistake or two. Unless you're a seasoned pro, there are no solo performances. In

addition, most of the performances are before fellow WKHT members. Of course, if you're really frightened, you can sit in the back row and wear dark glasses.

5. It is not competitive! All the members are friendly and supportive. There is a group practice once a month, and individual practice is up to you.



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