

WONG KONG HART TONG



黃江夏堂 Quarterly Newsletter

EDITOR'S CORNER



Aloha Wong Kong Har Tong 'ohana, and let's see a virtual show of hands for everyone who is ready for a new year and a fresh, healthy beginning.



2020 has been many things - most of all, for better *and* for worse, it has been **eventful**.

COVID-19 and all the changes that it has brought to the islands, the nation, and the world, has tested every single one of us and shown us that we can withstand so much more than we ever thought.

(cont'd inside)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear WKHT Members,

In this season of Christmas, it is my hope that everyone will be safe by following the general guidelines of mask wearing, social distancing, and gathering only in small groups. With the anticipated vaccine soon to be distributed, it is only a matter of time before we all can be immunized.

Because of the Mayor's Tiered Honolulu Reopening Strategy Directive and the continuing surge in the cases of Covid-19 here on Oahu, we had to cancel our annual Christmas Party and other activities in December. However, the WKHT Board and its Committees have continued to function. Our final WKHT Board meeting for the year was on Thursday, October 15, 2020, on Zoom. The highlights:

1) WKHT is financially sound. While all WKHT activities have been cancelled due to the pandemic, the Real Estate Assets Management Committee reported that the apartments have continued to be fully rented and have provided income for the association on a monthly basis. In addition, our Investment Assets Management Committee has reported that our investment portfolio has increased about 4% this year.

(cont'd inside)



President's Message, cont'd

- 2) The Real Estate Assets Management Committee reported that all necessary electrical upgrades to the University apartments have been completed.
- 3) Membership and Welfare: As of 11/25/2020, we have 351 active members and 8 new applicants. President Arthur Wong has extended the 2020 WKHT activity fee until December 2021.
- 4) The Social and Cultural Committee will be giving a special Christmas surprise to active WKHT members this year.
- 5) Due to the cancellation of the fourth quarter General Membership meeting, nominations and elections were held via mail
- 6) Installation of 2021 Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs will be held virtually on Saturday, January 9, 2021, on Zoom.
- 7) The Board extends condolences and well wishes to the families of these beloved members who have passed this year: Janet Wong Char, Florence S.L. Wong Pang, Paul Shigeru Tanaka, Alfred Koon Inn Wong, Margaret Louie Wong, Lena Wong, and Sun Yet Wong.

Finally, this will be my last newsletter as President. I have enjoyed serving you these past two terms. I truly enjoyed hosting the open houses at the Hauoli Street Clubhouse; meeting the Narcissus Queen and her court; singing at the Spring Banquet; honoring our ancestors at the newly built Wong Monument at the Manoa Chinese Cemetery; the Lion King movie and the Oahu Railway outing; attending the many society banquets where I met so many Presidents of other Chinese Associations, as well as other dignitaries; and the many WKHT banquets, luncheons, and activities, such as playing with the WKHT Ukulele Ensemble.

Although we had an abbreviated year, I look forward to next year and future years where our Wong ohana will serve our membership.

Stay safe, be healthy.



Aloha,

Arthur K. C. Wong,
President

*Wong Kong Har Tong
of Hawaii*



Notes from Membership

We accepted the following applicants, listed below with their sponsors:

Douglas Dai Lunn Chong (Harvey Wong/Friend)
Libby Hunglan Lew (Dennis Wong/Cousin)
Pamela Senlan Young Kurose (Dennis Wong/Cousin)
Amanda Rumi Meilan Kurose (Dennis Wong Cousin)
Ashley Tsurue Kurose (Dennis Wong/Cousin)
Elizabeth Fung Yau Wong Young (Dennis Wong/Cousin)
Linda Wai Lan Starr (Dennis Wong/Cousin)
Margaret Y.Y. Wong (Jeff Wong/friend)

These applicants have been given provisional membership status pending presentation to the general membership for approval at the next general meeting.

WKHT now has 359 active members (including 8 provisional members)

Please update your membership information using the form included in this newsletter. Your paid 2020 activity fee has been extended through 2021.

HAPPY
new
year
2021

(Editor's Corner Cont'd)

Jameson is now five and a half years old, and he started his first year of elementary school online, progressing to two face-to-face days a week when things got better. His teacher is phenomenal both in her organization and her unending store of patience. The learning curve with teaching in the era of COVID is steep. By the way, If a five-year-old can mask up all day at school, we ALL can do it!

The most important thing I've learned this year is that we cannot take a single person, moment, or experience for granted. How many of us knew that our last pre-COVID meal in a restaurant was really our last (for awhile anyway)? Who knew that certain traditions that we have come to count on every year would be ended by the loss of beloved family members? Could anyone have guessed that a chore like going to school would become our children's greatest wish?

To get things as close to "the old normal" as we can, we need to keep everyone else in mind when we make our day-to-day choices. Wash up, mask up, stay home when you can. Call your loved ones, remind them how important they are to you. Write a letter, send a text. Enjoy a walk in the sunshine. Put aside old grievances, and nourish old friendships. Sow hope, diminish fears.

We're all in this together.

Christy

MOVIE REVIEW: Disney's MULAN

By Alvin Wong

Not even the deadly COVID 19 could stop the public from viewing Disney's live-action adaptation of the animated classic "Mulan." While the big screen movie release was scheduled for January 2020, the virus quickly put a stop to those plans. Instead, Disney decided to cleverly release the movie through the internet to bypass current social distancing regulations.

Thus, the wait is over. From September 3, 2020, the much-anticipated live classic was available to all Disney movie subscribers with a \$30 surcharge. The movie has a stunning cast of international Asian stars, including Gong Li, Jet Li, Donnie Yen, Jason Scott Lee, and its newest star Liu Yifei, who plays the titular character in an amazing Disney debut.



The legend of Mulan goes back to China's Tang Dynasty 620 century. The Emperor sends out an edict conscripting one son from each family to fight invaders from the North, led by the evil Bori Khan, the antagonist who is skillfully played by Jason Scott Lee. Although Mulan's father, a past war hero, has only two daughters, he bravely volunteers to uphold the honor of his family. Mulan, who inherited the warrior "chi" from her father, steals his sword and armor, and sneaks away to join the Emperor's army at the dead of night. That is where the legend begins.

Which version is better? The animated classic or the new movie version? The simple answer is both. While the animated version is entertaining and filled with catchy songs, a wise cricket, and a wise-cracking dragon (Eddie Murphy), the producers of the movie version had other things in mind. I believe that the director made an honest attempt to explain and bring to life the legend of Mulan. There are no catchy tunes or songs in the movie. Instead, the director uses dialog to introduce the viewer to traditional Chinese values of honor, truth, family, and loyalty. While the only mythical animal in the movie is the phoenix, the ancient philosophy of "chi" is a concept not mentioned in the animated version.

I disagree with the viewpoint that the legend of Mulan is really about an early feminist movement. They use Mulan as an example that women are equally capable of succeeding in any endeavor if they are given the right opportunity. However true that is, that is not the message of the movie, which in my opinion is about Chinese values. The director uses the reflection of Mulan in her father's shiny sword to reminder her of three primary virtues – "loyal, brave, and true." Throughout the movie, Mulan is constantly reminded of these values. Yet, she constantly struggles with her fear that she has knowingly compromised one of these values. While Mulan does not fear death in battle, her fear is being discovered that she is a woman, and that she does not bring honor to the family.

Would I recommend this movie? Yes! This new version deserves a rating of:

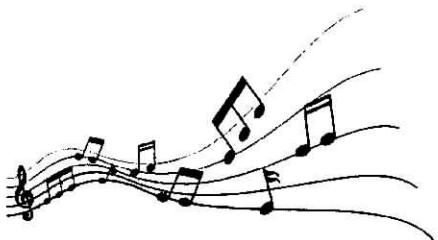


MERRY CHRISTMAS

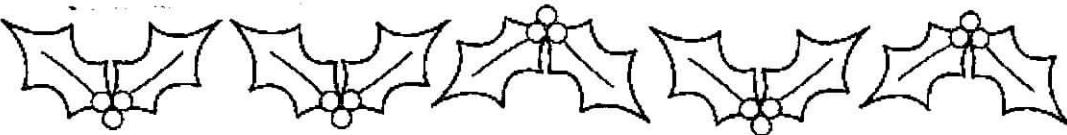
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The best way to spread Christmas cheer
Is singing loud for all to hear



BOW	FAMILY	NORTH POLE	SNOW
CANDY CANE	GIVING	PRESENTS	STAR
CAROLS	JINGLE	REINDEER	STOCKINGS
CHRISTMAS	JOY	SANTA	TREES
ELF	LIGHTS	SLEIGH	



Riddle Me This!

- 1) Where does Frosty keep his money?
- 2) Where does Santa go swimming?
- 3) What did the orthopedist give Santa to help him walk?

2 2

Will Go Down In
History



Life Lessons

by Emily Wong

Emily is a first-grade teacher coping with the new normal in the Hawaii public school system.

When school went virtual late in August, I was overwhelmed and anxious about teaching students online. I had taught online during the summer for about 3 weeks - but only as an ungraded review of skills.

This school year is very challenging in that we have to use digital platforms we didn't get much training on, teach parents how to download and use the platforms, create digital homework, show students how to navigate class websites, and somehow collect student work so we can give grades for the report card.

As the first quarter started, it was hard to get into a groove without being able to really see how the kids were doing their work. We can only see so much through the little camera of a computer/tablet/laptop. It has been a mental and emotional roller coaster ride. There are some things we can't control, such as the students' home environments, and trying to provide intervention for kids who really need it. Sometimes those kids may not come back online or there isn't enough time in the school day to carve out a block of time for them. It's also a challenge to get all the materials to do certain projects. I feel as time goes on, the students are getting tired of online-only school, and I am tired of it too. We're all trying our best to get through each day - students, parents, and teachers.



The Learning Curve

by Christy Yee

Christy is a mother and a newly-minted kindergarten teacher living, working and raising a five-year-old in pandemic Hawaii.

Here is how the Yee household has been keeping busy, staying healthy, and remaining (relatively) sane in the era of COVID-19:

Cooking! We made laulau from scratch, including farm-fresh kalo leaf, backyard ti leaf, and locally-sourced boar meat. I learned 4 new Korean recipes and learned how to make a French salad, too!

Zooming! Our family has a standing Friday afternoon Zoom appointment with each other, and we are connected from Hawaii to LA to Oklahoma to Pennsylvania! Often, over 20 of us are Zooming at once.

Fishing! Freshwater fishing, ocean fishing, and DIY fly-tying. Jameson caught a 2-lb papio in October - his personal best!

Teleworking! See Ms. Emily Wong's adjacent column for how well that works when teaching young ones.

Distance Learning! Jameson has only recently started learning in-person twice a week. Other days, he meets his peers and his marvelous teacher on Google Classroom. It's a whole new world, but some things never change: if you ask him what his favorite subject is, Jameson will tell you, "Recess!"

Animal wrangling! Quarantine brought two more dogs (a puppy and an older rescue) plus a goat (you read that right) into our household.

How have you been keeping busy? Email us at kreeesty@gmail.com with stories and pictures so we can feature you in our next issue.

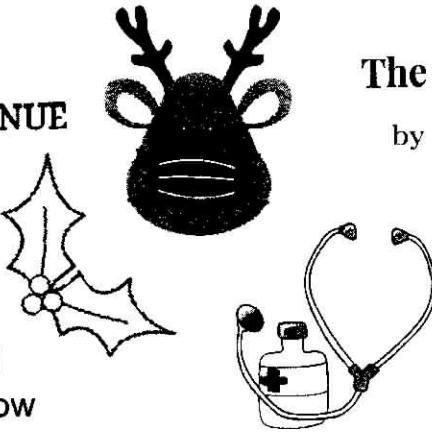
BOARD ZOOMS TO NEW MEETING VENUE

By Alvin Wong

When government and health officials banned public gatherings because of COVID-19, the tenacious WKHT Board continued its quarterly meetings. But how do you conduct a business meeting without having everyone in the same room? The answer is Zoom!

Zoom is a videoconferencing software that enables videophone and online chat services through a Cloud-based peer-to-peer platform. In other words, it is a virtual conference room where everyone can see and hear each other via the computer. You can join the meeting from any location with internet. One person serves as the meeting host. An invitation is then sent to all attendees. It is possible to have over 100 participants in a Zoom meeting, but an interactive meeting, such as a board meeting, becomes difficult to manage when more than one person speaks at the same time. That is the only drawback. Other than that, a Zoom meeting is just like any other meeting.

Kudos to our computer-savvy WKHT Board for their Zoom meetings on July 16 and October 15. Their creative determination to conduct business on behalf of WKHT despite the COVID-19 crisis is commendable. When asked if he found it an easy and useful tool for future meetings, past president Harvey Wong gave it a thumbs up and said, "It is easy .. but I still miss the food."



The Doctor Is In

by Jeffrey Wong

An update from Dr. Jeff and some sound advice on how to stay safe!

Yvonne and I are doing fine, trying to limit our outside contacts to try to avoid exposure to the

virus. 2020 was a frustrating year; we couldn't socialize with all of you, WKHT had to cancel all its activities, and we didn't want to travel (especially cruise ships). We hope all of you are safe and healthy.

While we wait for the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccination, we hope all of you are practicing preventative measures such as mask-wearing, handwashing, and social distancing, and avoiding bars and restaurants (takeout is ok). The more OCD you can be, the better. Remember, mask wearing protects OTHERS from YOU, not the other way around; so to be effective, **EVERYONE** needs to wear a mask.

As far as I can see, all of the vaccines seem safe. If you are worried about the MRna technology in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines (you shouldn't be), you may want to wait for the Astra Zeneca product, which is a more traditional design. WKHT is an older society with many high-risk members, so **I would get the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you**. Astra Zeneca probably won't be out until the spring. Just DON'T be an antivaxxer - you'll just put yours and everybody else's health at risk.

Until we can socialize with all of you again (which I hope is soon), Yvonne and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2021. Stay Safe!!



FIVE COOL THINGS - COVID-19 EDITION

What's cool about the year that brought us wildfires, Coronavirus, and worldwide lockdowns? Nothing! Well, except these five things:

1. Despite raging wildfires in Australia and the US, according to the EPA, while humans were taking a break from most of their normal activities, global air quality improved significantly.
2. While we hunkered down indoors, the animals came back out! Macaque monkeys took over the streets of Thailand, and goats roamed the neighborhoods of Wales in the UK. In the US, fatal car collisions with wild animals fell by almost 60% since, well, no one's really going anywhere.
3. A lot of people discovered that they could have been doing their jobs from home all this time. Traffic was a breeze, at least for awhile!

4. New food trends: Dalgona coffee, homemade sourdough bread, curbside pickup, and restaurants using inner tubes to keep their patrons socially distanced during al fresco dining. All winning ideas!

5. The lockdown and quarantine orders gave every single one of us the gift of time. Whether you've used it to add a few new dishes to your cooking repertoire, to FaceTime with friends and family, or to create funky art like this masked, gloved and shielded Mona Lisa, we hope you stayed safe and healthy. See you all in 2021!



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