



WONG KONG HAR TONG

Quarterly Newsletter

www.wkhtofhawaii.com

EDITOR'S CORNER

by Christy Wong Yee

Along with a whirlwind of celebrations ushering in 2023, the Year of the Water Rabbit, there has been lots of time to reflect on the meaning of the Scottish phrase “auld lang syne” (days long past) and how it relates to us Chinese people in Hawaii, far from Scotland in both physical distance and cultural practices.

Traditionally, the song is sung to bridge the end of the old and the start of the new, and we can certainly apply this thought to the way 21st century Chinese

Americans honor and preserve the traditions and family relationships of old, while looking toward the future. Combining our ancestors' wisdom with up-to-date *(cont'd on page 2)*



A Message From President Chad Wong

Kung Hee Fat Choy - I am honored to be your president again this Year of the Rabbit. I am excited to report that Wong Kong Har Tong has a lot of new volunteers as Officers,

Directors and Committee chairs. Please take the time to meet them at our many upcoming functions. One new committee of note is our Communications Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Jeff Wong and Christy Wong Yee. Our goal is to be able to share information with you quickly and easily via our new website, and we will also be testing contact by email. We ask for your assistance in maintaining contact with you, our valuable members. We will do mail and phone calls for those that we cannot contact otherwise.

We see things opening up in 2023 but Hawaii, and all of us, are still affected by Covid. For those members who want to participate in person, we are starting up some of our old activities. We participated in the Chinese New Year parade on January 14. The street was

(cont'd from page 1)

technologies in the fields of medicine, architecture, and agriculture, are prime examples of how Asian American students, among others, look to the future while embracing the past. There is great value in ancient voices. So, if you happen to hear a few bars of "Auld Lang Syne" anytime this year, stop for a minute and think about the bridge that all of us stand on, between the past and the future, and how fortunate we are to be able to look in both directions.

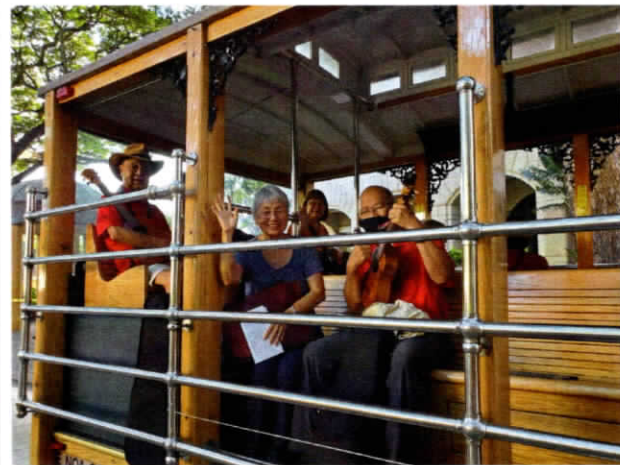
2023 Narcissus Queen

Punahou School graduate
Laura Mei Lan Ho
 was crowned 2023
 Narcissus Queen by the
 Chinese Chamber of
 Commerce on January 6.
 Read Alvin Wong's account
 of the pageant and
 Coronation Ball on page 3!

lined with over 10,000 people. What a sight! For those that still are not ready to participate in person, that is ok - but we do want to hear from you! And, as always, we need volunteers. Our Social and Cultural Committee organizes most of our activities and helping hands are needed for various functions. The Communications Committee can also use volunteers. Whatever your interest, whatever your gift - please be sure to check the WKHT website frequently in order to stay abreast of current society events that you can enjoy and also help out with. Above all, please stay in communication with us. We are all doing our best and we ask for your help to make 2023 a great Year of the Rabbit.

Mahalo,

Yaht Wah Wong



WKHT's Ukulele ensemble rides in style and plays to the delight of Chinatown crowds on January 14.

As so many Chinese do, Derrick Liu's grandparents fed him to nourish not only his body, but his soul as well.

THE HEART OF THE KITCHEN

by Derrick Liu



Back in my high school and university days, I would drive to my grandparents' house every Friday for lunch. I called them my grandparents, though they were in fact not related to me by blood. They were close friends of my family. The old couple had babysat me before I entered preschool, and they had come to love me as though I were their own son. They had never had any children of their own. Whether I was having a good week or a terrible one, I always knew that there was a place for me to go on Friday. I still remember the last time I ever had the chance to be there with them, in that place.

I was welcomed with a feast, as always. I entered the small kitchen and sat on a stool at the plywood, semicircular white table. Goong Goong smiled widely. Smiles so genuine that they were audible were the best smiles. He stood, the muscles of his still lean body straining beneath a white tank top. He opened the small toaster oven and removed a piece of fried chicken that had been warmed up for me. It had just finished cooking, the skin crackling in its own oils. Popo slid the Shanghai noodles from the wok into a shallow silver bowl, then topped it with oyster sauce and shredded ginger. She looked happy, standing tall and strong. Her hair was coiffed into lively curls. Her gold-framed glasses sparkled in the sunlight coming through the single, small window in front of the sink. Her eyes sparkled too.

Goong Goong and Popo watched as I ate, only picking at a rogue piece of ginger or stray vegetable every once in a while. They found satisfaction in my eating, as though they were watching a mukbang. It was a pure expression of their love. Halfway through the meal, as was tradition, they started, realizing that I did not yet have a drink. Popo stood to open the refrigerator in the far corner. Inside, an orange plastic cup was already filled with ice. It was always the same cup. It was my cup, I suppose. She took it out and placed it in front of me, along with a can of guava juice. Everything pre-planned for my arrival, the highlight of the week for all of us. The food was delicious as always.



When I left to return to school, I noticed the garland of roses growing on the arch leading up to their front door. Refreshed, the world was infused with a raw newness. I wondered what might take hold. I ventured forth again to find out.

MEMBERSHIP AND WELFARE REPORT

by Dr. Jeff Wong

WKHT Membership and Welfare will be presenting the following candidates for ratification at the 1st Quarter general meeting on Saturday, 2/11/23:

Brent Ying Jun Wong | Sponsor: Stephen C.L Wong
Brad Ying Chan Wong | Sponsor: Stephen C.L. Wong
Kevin Sai Wo Chun | Sponsor: Wendy Wong Chun
Michael B. Chun | Sponsor: Wilford Y.C. Wong

Please welcome our new applicants!

Reminder:

Please verify that you and your family have paid your activity fee for 2023. Your activity fee keeps your membership in good standing and allows you to take part in all of the WKHT activities at member rates as well as helping us keep our rolls up to date. If membership information has changed for anyone that you are renewing for, please note that on the activity fee form. If your membership information changes during the year, please advise membership and welfare by contacting **Jeff Wong**:

hoobie@hawaii.rr.com
808-988-6615

Please visit the WKHT website frequently for current membership information and forms:

WHTofHawaii.com

Mahalo!

Getting to Know Our Past Presidents

by Derrick Liu

How well do you know WKHT's past presidents? After having the privilege of chatting with past president Fred Wong recently, and being enlightened about how diverse his life experiences have been leading up to and during his WKHT membership, I decided to create a quiz so we can all see just how well we know some of our former leaders.

1. This individual currently serenades the Honolulu community as a member of the Voices of Aloha.
2. This past president was responsible for creating the Audio Visual Room at Liholiho Elementary School, once was a volunteer swim instructor at the YMCA, and taught Chinese cooking at the Community School for Adults.
3. This person served on the WKHT Social Committee for over 20 years and has volunteered as a 4H Leader.
4. This past president once worked as an engineer on Kwajalein Atoll.
5. This dearly departed former president was a multi-term WKHT Treasurer (Harry CY Wong admirably refers to him an honest man) and his daughter now serves at the standing Treasurer.
6. This individual holds a PHD, is employed as an advisor to a Bank CEO and served on the Salvation Army board.
7. This pair of past Presidents are brothers as well as 3rd generation Presidents (their father and grandfather were also WKHT Presidents).

Answers:

1. Art Wong 2. Harry Wong 3. Annette Wong
4. Fred Wong 5. Wah Lun Wong 6. Henry Wong
7. Dennis and Wayne Wong

6-7 correct answers: Golden Rabbit Award.
Please apply to be WKHT's next Historian!
4-5 correct answers: Silver Hare
3 or fewer: Bronze Bunny

LAURA HO CROWNED RABBIT QUEEN

By Alvin Wong



The Year of the Rabbit got off to a fast start with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's selection of Laura Alexis Mei Lan Ho as 2023 Narcissus Queen, along with an impressive court. The sold-out event was held January 6 at the New Hope Oahu chapel on Sand Island, with nine

contestants vying for the coveted title of Narcissus Queen.

Laura Ho, an honors graduate of Punahou School and magna cum laude undergraduate of the University of Oregon, captured the overall title as well as the popularity award. As an accomplished saxophonist, she also easily clinched the title of Miss Talent.

KITV4's Cynthia Yip served as pageant host and paced the contestants through the three arduous phases of the competition – talent, public speaking, and evening gown. Prior to the pageant, the contestants completed classes on Chinese history and customs. Wong Kong Har Tong member Douglas Chong was recognized by the Chamber for his role as eminent Chinese instructor emeritus.

Beauty and brains reigned all evening, with each contestant impressing the audience and judges with their talent and resumes that included undergraduate degrees from prestigious institutions and bilingual abilities.

Ultimately the court, who will represent the Chinese Chamber through the Year of the Rabbit, was selected as follows:

Queen: Laura Mei Lan Ho

First Princess: Jacelyn Chun Wei Ho

Second Princess: Kelly Wung Yun Yee

Third Princess: Jessica Chen Lin

Fourth Princess: Kelsie-Ann Suan-Kon

On January 28, Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi crowned Ho in front of a crowd of 450 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The Coronation Ball is the culmination of the Narcissus Festival, an event sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for the past 73 years. In his welcome remarks, CCC President Jonathan Cook announced, "We're back!" - in reference to the hiatus of the Ball due to Covid restrictions.

KITV4 News Anchor Rick Quan served as the Master of Ceremonies. CCC President-elect Michael Young thanked the festival sponsors, patrons, and volunteers. He stated that numerous events will take place during the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit and that Narcissus Queen Laura Ho and her court will be making official visitations to many of these.

WKHT-sponsored members who attended the Coronation Ball were Arthur K.C. and Gwen Wong, Derrick K.T. and Gladys K.N. Liu, Alvin C.P. and Donna C. Wong, Winston K.Q. and Monica Wong, Emily S.Y. Wong, and Christy Wong Yee.

On Saturday, February 18, 2023, newly crowned Narcissus Queen Laura Ho and her court are scheduled to participate in WKHT's Open House. All WKHT members are invited to meet and greet this year's Queen and court.

FIVE COOL THINGS - RABBIT EDITION

Has the Year of the Rabbit made you curious about the shy, long-eared zodiac creatures? Read on to learn 5 facts about bunnies.

1. Rabbits can live up to 12 years in captivity. They are wonderful companions but according to experts, they should not be kept in a cage 24/7. Remember that if you're tempted to get one as a pet!

2. Some famous literary rabbits include: Peter Rabbit, the scoundrel that stole Mr. MacGregor's vegetables; the White Rabbit that Alice chased down a very long hole; and the Velveteen Rabbit from Marjorie Williams' children's story about growing up.



Wong Kong Har Tong
% Jeffrey C.M. Wong

Honolulu, HI 96822

3. Rabbits, while cuddly, are also a great source of lean protein. They are lagomorphs, not rodents, and their meat is described as "clean and tender," a cross between frogs' legs and chicken. (It wouldn't be a Chinese society newsletter if we didn't discuss rabbits' potential as food!)

4. Rabbits symbolize fertility, luck and creativity. If the rabbit is your zodiac animal, you are said to be gentle, quiet, alert and patient.

5. Rabbits are smart and very social. They also have keen hearing and eyesight.

Hope you learned something new! See you next quarter!

