

See Yup Benevolent Society 四邑會館

1153 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, HI 96817;
Bus. Ph. (808) 537-4242

Mission: To provide aid and support for those with ancestral roots in the See Yup region, and to engage in charitable, religious, cultural, literary, and educational activities for the benefit of the community.

History: See Yup (*Siyi* 四邑 “Four Districts”) includes the Toy San (*Taishan* 台山), Sun Wui (*Xinhui* 新會), Hoy Ping (*Kaiping* 開平), and Yin Ping (*Enping* 恩平) districts in Guangdong Province. The early See Yup immigrants had a keen feeling of responsibility for each other’s welfare, since they were in a foreign land thousands of miles from China. It is estimated that a group of See Yup people got together around 1877 to form the Society, but it was not incorporated until 1897. Although the membership was small, it was a highly active group. Before the turn of the century, it had purchased a parcel of land on King Street, near Liliha Street. An imposing-looking two-storey building was constructed to serve as a clubhouse. Behind the main building a second two-storey building served as a dormitory. Men without families who were unable to return to China were housed there. Also, transient visitors from out of town were accommodated as well.

Chu Kum was named the first president of the Society.

In 1957, the Honolulu Redevelopment Agency condemned the Society’s property for the Chinatown renovation project. The old men residing in the dormitory were moved to Palolo Chinese Home, and the Society temporarily relocated to the Yee Yee Tong’s facilities on Hotel Street. After much shopping for a new location, a three-story building on Maunakea and Pauahi Streets was purchased in 1980, and now serves as the headquarters for both the See Yup Society and the Yee Yee Tong.

In 1953, a Junior Chapter was organized to be more responsive to the needs of the younger members.

Society headquarters on Maunakea and Pauahi Streets



Activities

In the early years, there was no consul from China to turn to for help, the See Yup Society provided much logistic aid to its members. This served to foster close ties among the emigrants, and eased the hardship of living in a foreign land.

Nowadays, activities such as the New Year's Day Open House, where lunch is served, and the annual Spring Banquet help to bring members together.

Membership:

At present, the Society has over 1000 members, but only 200 are active. There is a lifetime membership fee of \$15 and females are allowed to join. The first female President was Sally P.T. Chan, 1998-99. The annual Spring Banquet is free to members who are senior citizens.

Association presidents

1897-98 Chu Gum 趙錦
1899-1927 Records lost (termite damage)
1928-29 Look Lau 劉祿
1930 Shia Hsu Tan 譚學徐
1931 Man Ki Seto 司徒文基
1932-33 Shia Hsu Tan 譚學徐
1934-35 Hing Fong 鄺廷
1936 Calvin Ki Chung Lum 林其忠
1937 Hing Fong 鄺廷
1938 Calvin Ki Chung Lum 林其忠
1939 Bo Yat Tang 鄧褒一
1940-42 Tsok Choy Tse 謝作材
1943 Shia Hsu Tan 譚學徐
1944 Hing Fong 鄺廷
1945 Calvin Ki Chung Lum 林其忠
1946 Wing See Lum 林榮書
1947-48 Given K.W. Tang 鄧基榮
1949 Choy Fong 鄺才

1950 Y.S. Seto 司徒想
1951 Yup Wee 衛業
1952-53 Eugene K.F. Lau 劉啓輝
1954 Alfred C.S. Lum 林卓燊
1955 Y.J. Seto 司徒真
1956 Edward Lim 林宇超
1957 Lung Chau Yee 余龍照
1958 Setwin Tang 鄧燮榮
1959 Foon Seto 司徒寬
1960 Long Hon Nip 聶龍澣
1961 Ah Kwong Seto 司徒光
1962 Ki Fong Louie 雷其芳
1963-64 Richard T.F. Lum 林帝扶
1965-66 Lester Wee 衛振倫
1967 Fong Tom 譚芳
1968-69 Chung Tim Lee 李仲添
1970 David S.K. Dang 鄧新光
1971-72 Norman F.C. Tang 鄧煥章
1973-74 Wing Kit Lum 林榮傑
1975-76 Frank W. S. Seto 司徒華想
1977-79 David T.H. Dang 鄧棟培
1980-83 Dennis K.N. Chun 陳觀儀
1984-88 Henry H. Chan 陳衡
1990-91 Chan Foo 陳富
1992 Allen Choy 蔡愛倫
1993 Cheuk Ng 吳焯
1994-95 Walter F.W. Tang 鄧煥華
1996-97 Henry K. Chan 台山
1998-99 Sally P.T. Chan 陳鄺碧丹
2000-01 Yuk Guy Yee 余玉佳
2002-03 Henry H. Chan 台山
2003-04 Yiu Yu 余堯