

Quarterly Newsletter

WKHT OF HAWAII

April to June 2026
Established in 1902

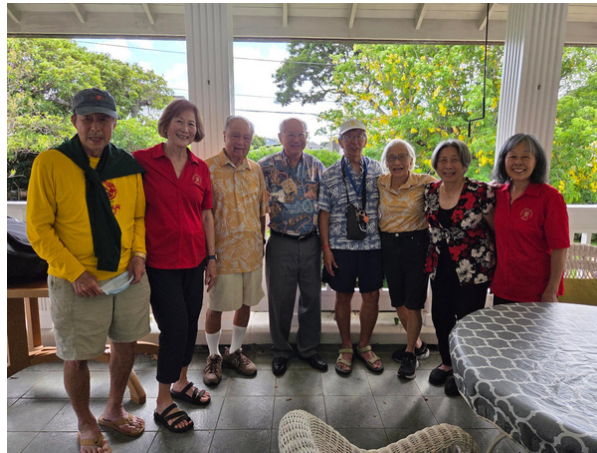


Photo by Arthur Wong

WKHT Ukulele Group Sings at Caring Manoa:

On Saturday, June 27, the WKHT Ukulele Ensemble performed at the Caring Manoa Assisted Living Facility. The facility is an old home just off E. Manoa Road that can accommodate about 16 residents.

Surprisingly, our group was welcomed into their large living room. Singing in such a close environment seemed like a special performance for family.

We started singing "Oldies But Goodies" songs, which included Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and You Are My Sunshine, with Charles singing the Japanese lyrics, Five Foot Two, and Art singing solo karaoke to two songs, After the Loving and This Guy's in Love with You.

Then our group sang "Hawaiian Classics" in our second segment. Remember Hukilau, Little Brown Gal, One Paddle, Two Paddle. Shirley Yoshida sang I'll Remember You, solo, with Charles accompanying her.

We ended our performance with Hawaii Aloha/Aloha 'Oe. Many residents came up to thank us for our performance. It is a good feeling when we see smiling faces appreciating our performance.

Our ukulele group is open to all WKHT members. We practice twice a month, usually on the second and fourth Sundays from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at IVY Retirement Home in Hawaii Kai. Call Fred Wong at 808-265-5499 for further information.

Ain't She Sweet closed out the "Oldies."



By Arthur Wong



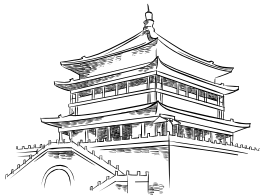


2026 WKHT Qing Ming Festival



The Qing Ming Festival, also known as the “Chinese Memorial Day,” is an ancient Chinese tradition that celebrates and honors the quiet dedication and perseverance of the Wong Family ancestors. It is a form of filial piety that originated in China more than 2,500 years ago. While the 15th day after the Spring Equinox traditionally marks the start of the festival, Chinese worldwide now continue the practice throughout the entire month of April.

As we are about to celebrate the 125th anniversary of WKHT next year, the following poem from our founders is engraved into the Legacy Monument as a reminder of our longevity and success:



“Every day forget not your parents’ words,
Every morn and eve you must offer
Incense to the altar of your ancestors,
Hear my words, the gods will bless my sons
With propagation and prosperity.”



On April 25, WKHT President Stephen Wong and President-elect Kim Wong Balisacan led the WKHT membership in celebrating Qing Ming at the WKHT Legacy Monument in Manoa Valley Chinese Cemetery. In addition, Chad Wong and Mitchell Wong also helped by invoking incantations to bring forth the spirits of our founders and ancestors to join in the celebration. Food and wine were presented at the altar, and paper money was burned as an additional offering to our spiritual guests. To chase away evil spirits, firecrackers were lit before and after the ceremony. Everyone was given an opportunity to present incense at the Legacy Monument, accompanied by the traditional three-bow salute. After the ceremony, all participants headed to our clubhouse to enjoy a large bento box lunch filled with delicious Chinese specialties, including noodles, roast pork, long beans, char siu bao, Jai, and egg tarts. Finally, a grateful mahalo should be given to Sherman Wong for chairing the committee and coordinating this year's Qing Ming Festival.

By Alvin Wong



Photo by Derrick Liu



Photo by Alvin Wong



Photo by Derrick Liu





My Journey to the D-Day Celebration in Normandy



The Voices of Atoha choir, of which I am a proud member, had the honor of representing the United States and Hawai'i at the 2026 D-Day commemorative ceremonies in Normandy, France. The events marked the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, when U.S. and Allied forces launched one of the largest amphibious invasions in history. On June 6, 1944, approximately 4,441 Allied soldiers, including 2,501 Americans, lost their lives during the invasion.

On June 5, 2026, the sea was calm. Only the beach grass swayed gently in the breeze. A few beachcombers wandered across the wide, quiet expanse of Utah Beach, perhaps unaware of the tremendous sacrifice that had taken place there 82 years earlier.

Thirty of our choir's 60 members made the journey to France, many visiting for the first time. Our theme throughout the trip was peace.

Our first performance took place on June 5 during the solemn Liberation Memorial Ceremony at Utah Beach. We opened the ceremony by singing *Prayer for Shalom*. As a symbol of friendship and shared sacrifice, both the French and U.S. national anthems were performed. The French mayor and a U.S. representative offered remarks before laying a wreath at the Utah Beach Memorial. The ceremony concluded with the combined massed bands and choir performing John Williams' *Hymn to the Fallen*.

For most of our performances, our choir proudly wore Hawaiian-style kihei to represent our island home and cultural heritage.

On June 6, the anniversary of D-Day, we performed at the Concert de Libération in the town square of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, the first French town liberated by American airborne forces during the Normandy invasion. U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth also visited the town and delivered a commemorative address.

Later that day, we sang inside the historic church where American paratrooper John Steele became famously caught on the church steeple during the airborne assault. He remained suspended there for nearly two hours, pretending to be dead before being captured by German forces. A replica of Steele and his parachute hangs from the church steeple as a lasting reminder of that extraordinary moment.

We then proudly marched in the D-Day Memorial Parade through the streets of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, wearing our kihei and waving ti leaves to the cheering crowds. Leading our group were members carrying portraits of five Hawai'i keiki o ka 'aina who gave their lives during World War II. The streets were lined with spectators. Many gratefully accepted the ti leaves we offered, waving them enthusiastically in return—a heartfelt exchange of aloha across cultures.

Our final performance took place at the magnificent La Madeleine Church in Paris. The grand domed sanctuary offered extraordinary acoustics, allowing our voices to resonate beautifully throughout the historic church. It was a fitting conclusion to an unforgettable musical journey.

Between performances, we explored World War II museums, walked among the massive concrete bunkers and bomb-scarred cliffs at Pointe du Hoc, visited the Normandy American Cemetery where we laid leis in honor of fallen soldiers from Hawai'i, climbed the steep streets to the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, and enjoyed the wonderful cuisine of France.

This journey was far more than a concert tour. It was an opportunity to honor those who sacrificed for freedom, to share Hawai'i's message of peace through music, and to build lasting friendships across nations. It is a trip that will remain in my heart forever.



Photo by Arthur Wong



Photo by Arthur Wong



Photo by Arthur Wong



Photo by Arthur Wong

By Arthur Wong





Photo by Gary Wong

Meet and Greet



At our General Membership Meeting held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, five applicants were ratified. We welcome the following:

Noelani Young was sponsored by her husband, Zachary Young. Zachary became a member in 2024.

Sherrie Hirota was sponsored by her mother, Aileen Dang. Aileen has been a member since 2023.

Cheryl Carriera was sponsored by her second cousin, Kevin Wong. Kevin has been a member since 2018.

Bing Huang was sponsored by his friend, Fred Wong, a past WKHT president. Fred has been a member since 1980.

Clifton Ching was sponsored by his cousin, current Vice President Kim Balisacan. Kim has been a member since 2002.

Their applications indicated their areas of interest in WKHT, and our committee chairs will be in touch to connect each with the appropriate committee. Areas of interest include cultural, social, education, and communications.

In fact, all active members interested in volunteering can email info@wkhtofhawaii.com or speak with a committee chairperson at an upcoming event to express their interest.

We currently have 379 members and look forward to many more.

By Derrick and Gladys Liu

WKHT Membership

If you have eligible friends and family who are interested in joining, the application form is available on our website at <https://wkhtofhi.com>.

Qualifications for membership are on the application form, and the completed form, including the sponsor's signature and a check payable to Wong Kong Har Tong for \$15.00, must be mailed to:

Wong Kong Har Tong
P.O. Box 37249
Honolulu, HI 96837

The Membership Committee meets quarterly to review applications and will refer approved applications to our Executive Committee for a vote at their scheduled meeting. Applicants approved for membership are notified of their acceptance and ratified at an upcoming General Membership Meeting. Please plan to attend the meeting with your sponsor.

By Derrick and Gladys Liu

Have a Laugh

A Chinese kid was born before the due date. His parents named him "Sudden Lee."

Shared By Derrick and Gladys Liu



Want to share something in the next WKHT Newsletter?
Submit your photo(s) and article(s) by 9/15/26 to
Wkht.Oahu@gmail.com



General Membership Meeting – Q2



Photo by Gary Wong



Photo by Gary Wong



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Photo by Gary Wong



Photo by Gary Wong



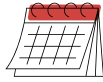
Photo by Gary Wong



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Upcoming Events



August 16, 2026 -

United Chinese Society Picnic
Kapi'olani Park 10 AM - 2 PM
RSVP by 7/18/26



August 22, 2026 -

General Membership Meeting
Ali'iolani Elementary
1350 7th Avenue 10 AM
RSVP by 8/15/26



August 23, 2026 -

Mahjong!
1717 Mott Smith Drive 12:30 PM
RSVP by 8/19/26



September 26, 2026 -

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
Banquet
Jade Dynasty 6 PM
RSVP by 9/12/26



July 28, 2026

Aloha WKHT members,

This letter also serves as notice for the first General Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM, Ali'iolani Elementary School Cafetorium. Please RSVP by Friday, August 15, 2026 by emailing Wkht.Oahu@gmail.com and type name(s) attending. You will receive a confirmation email once your RSVP is received.

We kindly ask that you inform us if you cannot attend once you've RSVP'd.

Friendly reminder: 2026 Activity fee must be paid in order to participate in 2026 events and banquets.

Thank you!



Photo by Alvin Wong



Thank you for reading!

WKHT OF HAWAII

INFO@WKHTOFHAWAII.COM

<https://wkhtofhi.com/>

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