

# Oo Syak Gee Lu Society Newsletter

Founded December 1897 • Incorporated 1955

烏石奇屋

## Ancestral Roots Trip Abroad – China Trip

中國



It's been a while since our group took a tour to China to research their ancestral roots. There were a total of 11 travelers: Eldora Chang\*, George Chang\*, Jamie Chang\*, Alan Dote, Tanya Dote\*, Connie Mark\*, Herbert Mark, Jari Matsui, Sylvia Matsui, Helen Pierce, and Brenda Young-Matsui. *(Members are marked with an \* mark. Others were spouses of members or friends.)*

The group left Honolulu on March 10<sup>th</sup> and returned on March 27<sup>th</sup>, an 18-day tour. The trip was fun-filled with lots of shopping, walking, and an experience of a lifetime for most of us. We traveled to **Beijing** and visited the Summer Palace, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Ming Tombs and hiked up (yes, it was a hike!) the Great Wall of China; to **Xi'an** to see the Terracotta Museum and the old City Wall; to **Suzhou** to see the old China living near the river and washing dishes, clothes and other things in the

river; and to **Shanghai** to see the new modern China and the world-famed Pearl Tower.

Throughout this journey, we walked many miles and saw many sights. We were able to buy souvenirs from the jade factory, pearl factory, cloisonné factory, carpet factory, lacquer factory, and silk factory. At these factories, we were able to learn how things were made and how easy or tedious the jobs were. Many of the workers were very young girls working in poor lighting conditions. When visitors stop by to look at their work, they just keep on working.

The highlight of the trip was in **Zhongshan** when we went to **Oo Syak Village**, our ancestral home in the **Sam Heong Province** (Guangzhou, aka Canton). *(Continued on page 3)*



All dressed up in royal garb at the Miniature of China in Zhuhai. Pictured, from L-R: Connie, Herbert, Eldora, Tanya, Sylvia, Alan, Helen, Brenda, and Jari. Not pictured: George and Jamie.

## Who's Who in Oo Syak Gee Lu Society

### 2007 Officers:

President	Kenneth K.C. Chang
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres	Alvin G.K. Chang
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres	Duane K.F. Chang
Treasurer	Daryl H.K. Hu
English Secretary	Constance K.H. Mark
Chinese Secretary	Donna N. Chang

### 2007 Board of Directors:

Mildred Ai-Chang	Paulette K.Q. Chang
Christine M. Chang	Roy K.S. Chang
Clayton K.L. Chang	Shirleen W.Y. Chang
Edmund W. K. Chang	Wah Jip Chang
Ellen M. Chang	Harold K. C. Hu
Maile K. Chang	Edith P.S. Won
Margaret M.H. Chang	Gertrude C. Yee

\* The "This & That" Committee has been formed to review little tid-bit details of the Society. Members of this committee were selected by the President, Kenneth Chang.

### 2007 Committees:

#### Budget & Assets Management Committee

Chairperson: Harold Hu  
Clayton Chang, Wah Jip Chang, Daryl Hu

#### PR & Membership / Scholarship Committee

Chairperson: Jamie Chang  
Mildred Ai-Chang, Ellen Chang, Edith Won

#### Banquets & Events Committee

Co-chairpersons: Constance Mark and Donna Chang  
Margaret Chang, Paulette Chang, Shirleen Chang

#### Nominating Committee

Chairperson: Edmund Chang  
Alvin Chang, Maile Chang

#### China Travel Committee

Co-chairpersons: Constance Mark and Jamie Chang  
Donna Chang, Paulette Chang

#### Bylaws & Review Committee

Chairpersons: Duane Chang  
Edmund Chang, Ellen Chang, Roy Chang, Gertrude Yee

#### This & That Committee\*

Chairperson: Alvin Chang  
Edmund Chang, Ellen Chang, Roy Chang, Gertrude Yee

### Members Corner

- **Nancy Chang Lee** – was hospitalized and underwent surgeries on both her hips after she fell. Her surgeries were done at Kaiser Hospital (Moanalua). She is now going through physical therapy and recovering at home. We wish her a speedy recovery
- **Gertrude C. Yee** – had out-patient surgery on both her eyes for detached retinas. She is doing much better and no complications have occurred.

### Travelers to China - Oo Syak Village, Zhongshan (March 10 – 27, 2007)



From L-R: Herbert Mark, Connie Mark, Alan Dote, Tanya Dote, Sylvia Matsui, Brenda Young-Matsui, Jari Matsui, Helen Pierce, Eldora Chang, George Chang. Not pictured: Jamie Chang

Here's the entire group who traveled from Honolulu to Oo Syak and their relationships to each other. (Grouped by families)

Herbert & Connie Mark\* – Husband and wife.

George\* & Eldora Chang\* – Husband and wife.

Alan & Tanya Dote\* – Husband and wife.

- Niece to George and Eldora.

Jamie Chang\* (not pictured)

- Niece to Alan and Tanya
- Grand-niece to George and Eldora.

Jari & Brenda Young-Matsui – Husband and wife.

Sylvia Matsui – Mother of Jari.

Helen Pierce – Friend of Sylvia.

\* Members of Oo Syak Gee Lu Society.

**China Trip** *(continued from page 1)*



We were treated like VIP dignitaries while we were there. A special mahalo goes out to Basilio Chen, an Oo Syak Gee Lu Society member living in San Francisco, California, and his son Benedict who acted as ambassadors and translators between us and the Oo Syak officials and Zhongshan government party. Without Basilio and Benedict, many of us would just be nodding, smiling, and bowing to whatever they would say.

The first night we arrived in Zhongshan, we spent a couple hours talking to Mrs. Cheng Chew Yee (former Oo Syak Party Secretary) who organized this trip on the China end. She and a few of the current Party officials came to our hotel lobby at the Zhongshan Hot Spring Resort to talk about our ancestors and family lineage for hours into the night. It was quite interesting to find out that Brenda (who found out about this trip from her mother-in-law, Sylvia, whose aunt is an OSGL member) is related to George and Eldora, Tanya and Jamie! It's an amazing relationship that goes back four generations. All this time we were traveling together, we had no idea!

Based on pictures and lineage we had, Basilio and the Oo Syak officials were able to find the house that once belonged to Connie's grandfather, and Sylvia was able to meet a distant relative still living in Oo Syak. This was truly an amazing experience for all of us.

Aside from researching our ancestral roots, we were given a tour of the village and saw the many temples and *qi tong's* (family gathering place) around the residences that are still standing. The village and the whole Sam Heong area is developed and modernized with paved roads and beautiful landscapes. Party Secretary of Sam Heong Cheng LiangXin gave us a personal tour around the very modern and new Zhongshan government building, just recently completed in August 2006. A video was shown to us (in Chinese) about the recent developments around the city, and gifts were exchanged. About 10 Zhongshan officials took time out of their busy day to meet with us for lunch. *(continued on page 4)*



*Translator and ambassador, Basilio Chen (center) with Jamie and Connie.*



*Jamie and Connie with the current Mayor of Oo Syak, Cheng LinMing receiving gifts from Hawaii.*



*Jamie and Connie with Mrs. Cheng Chew Yee – former Oo Sak Party Secretary (center) who organized the details of the trip from her end.*



*Left: The Hawaii Oo Syak group with Zhongshan officials outside the back of the newly built government building.*



*Right: Party Secretary of Oo Syak, Rong Shanning (center) presenting a golden boat to Jamie and Connie for the Oo Syak Gee Lu Society.*

**China Trip** (continued from page 3)



We also got to see a little bit of history in Oo Syak. Oo Syak is translated to “black stone”, which there are still some famous black stone landmarks throughout the city. The black stones are very smooth from the natural erosion by water, indicating that Oo Syak was once surrounded by water. Another indication that Oo Syak was a village by the sea is that there is a building that is made up entirely of oyster shells. It is a very strong and sturdy building that has lasted hundreds of years.



Sitting on one of the famous black rocks still prominent in the village. From L-R: Tanya, Sylvia, Brenda, Jamie, Connie, Eldora, and George. Not pictured: Alan, Herbert, and Jari.

For recreation around the town, there is an open park with a statue of Cheng Kwun Ying (founder of modern China’s socio-economic philosophy ) where they show free movies every day/night. People also gather to do morning exercises (*tai chi* and *qi gong*) and play games (Chinese chess, checkers, etc). There is also an amusement park for children and families, a sculpture park with beautiful landscapes and exercise playgrounds.

The tail end of our trip, we were basically on our own in Shenzhen and Hong Kong. We were able to do a lot of shopping in Shenzhen at Luohu Shopping Mall. Many of us needed to buy new luggage to fit all the things that we had bought along the way. We got some good bargains there. Then, in Hong Kong, we did an optional half day tour to Repulse Bay, Stanley Market, Aberdeen Fishing Village, and Victoria’s Peak. We weren’t able to see anything from the Peak because it was so foggy. All we saw were clouds of white! Usually you’ll be able to see the beautiful sights of Hong Kong.

This is basically our trip in a nutshell. If you missed out on this exciting opportunity, let Connie or Jamie (contact information below) know that you would like another trip planned. If there are enough people to make a second trip back to our ancestral hometown, we’ll work on it.

For more pictures and comments, please visit our website at <http://www.geocities.com/echang55/basiliotrip.html>. 中國

**Connie Mark – Email: [connie.mark@gmail.com](mailto:connie.mark@gmail.com) • Phone: 455-5221**  
**Jamie Chang – Email: [jmechang@yahoo.com](mailto:jmechang@yahoo.com) • Phone: 373-1714**



The vast oyster shell wall (right side) proves Oo Syak was once surrounded by water.



The Hawaii Oo Syak group outside the Oo Syak government headquarter building with Oo Syak officials and a “welcome home” sign.



Cheng Kwun Ying Statue in the park where they play free movies all day/night on the big screen monitor. The Zhongshan government building is in the back.



*Some newly developed high-rise apartment buildings with surrounding beautiful landscapes.*



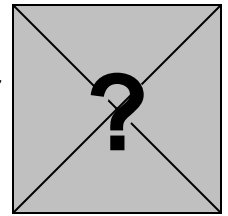
*The busy street life in Sam Heong – modern looking, with taller buildings, paved roads, and automobiles.*



*The residential part of Oo Syak Village with narrow walking lanes.*

## Photos from Oo Syak???

Time to pull out those old photo albums in your closet.... We are looking for any photos taken by your parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents in Oo Syak Village in the late 1800's or early 1900's?



Member Dr. Homer Cheng is putting together a book that documents the life and work of his father, Dr. Holt Cheng, and is looking for any photos starting with his life Oo Syak village, through Hawaii, San Francisco, Norway, then back to China. This book will be published in time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Guang Hua Medical College that Dr. Holt Cheng started in 1908 in Guangzhou which is now a part of the Sun Yat Sen University.

They are looking for any photos that portray the lifestyle and character of the village. Photos will be scanned for publishing and returned to you. Please contact Joyce Chan at [jmch888@aol.com](mailto:jmch888@aol.com) or call Allynne Tom at (808) 226-7975..

You can view pictures of Dr. Homer Cheng from San Francisco, California when he came to visit Hawaii earlier this year on our website at <http://www.geocities.com/echang55/homerparty.html>.

## China Meets Hawaii

A delegation of officials from Zhongshan stopped over in Honolulu for a quick layover. Their stay was a quick one, after a visit to Washington DC, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.



*Above: Just after arrival of the Zhongshan delegation at Honolulu International Airport. Right: OSLG Chinese Secretary Donna Chang, OSLG President Kenneth Chang, Sam Heong Town Governor Zheng Jiarong, and OSLG PR & Membership Chairperson Jamie Chang.*

They arrived on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and a group of Oo Syak members, along with OSLG President Kenneth Chang, greeted the 29 people at Honolulu Airport with kukui nut leis.

A dinner was held for this special group before they headed back home to China on Monday. At the dinner, token gifts were exchanged. The Society gave gifts of

macadamia nuts and chocolates to five of the VIPs who visited. They each also received our special Oo Syak Gee Lu Society pens and pencils to bring back to China with them.



## China – Looking for Roots in Hawaii

While we were in China, the Director of Tourism Cheng Hua Xing let us know that he also has some roots in Hawaii. As they are helping us continue to find our roots in China, he asked us to help him do the same for him in Hawaii.

His grandfather, Cheng Chew Liang (a.k.a. Jing Kun), was already in Hawaii prior to 1930. His approximate birth date is 1874. He worked as a business man and a labor worker. In 1930, he applied for a single entry passport to return to China when he was 56 years old (see Figure A). Then in 1935, at 61 years old, he applied for another passport that took him from Honolulu, to Hong Kong, and then to China (see Figure B).

Cheng Chew Liang has an older brother, Cheng Heng Chiu, who lived in Hawaii with him. Cheng Chew Liang had two wives, both with the surname Ng (also could be spelled Wu or Woo – see below for Chinese characters). No children from the first wife, but he had children with his second wife.

If you happen to know any of these people, or think you may be related to them, please contact Connie Mark at 455-5221, and she will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

### Sam Heong Oo Syak 24<sup>th</sup> Generation Cheng Grandfather Cheng Chew Liang (a.k.a. Jing Kun) Passport

三乡乌石郑氏第二十四世太公郑兆良 (镜琨) 当年往来檀香山护照



**Figure A:**

- **Name:** Cheng Chew Liang
- **Age:** 56
- **Place of Origin:** Guangdong, ZhongShan
- **Occupation:** Businessman
- **Issue Location:** Zhongshan City
- **Issue Charge:** \$6.00 / application
- **Issue Date:** 12/09/1930
- **Passport #:** 1096



**Figure B:**

- **Name:** Cheng Chew Liang
- **Age:** 61
- **Occupation:** Labor Worker
- **Place of Origin:** Guangdong, ZhongShan
- **Height:** 5 ft. 6in.
- **Issue Date:** 06/20/1935

伍 吳

First Wife Surname

Second Wife Surname



Current picture of Cheng Hua Xing and his father in Oo Syak.

## Annual Banquet

Our Annual Banquet will be held at Hee Hing Restaurant in Kapahulu on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost to members will be \$150.00 per table. Once again, the tables are **SOLD OUT!!!** There are no more available tables.

On the menu are the following items:

- *Chicken Salad with Jellyfish*
- *Diced Wintermelon soup with 8 treasures*
- *Steamed Fresh Salmon with Black Bean Sauce*
- *Steamed Chicken with Ham and Greens*
- *Braised Shortribs with Taro*
- *Braised Black Mushroom on Choy Sum*
- *Lychee Pineapple Prawns (w/ sweet sour sauce)*
- *Dessert – Lychee Sherbert*



If you have not paid for your table, please submit your payment to:

*Connie Mark  
2386 Auhuhu Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782*

Please make checks payable to “Oo Syak Gee Lu Society”. No refunds will be given once payment is made. Questions about the banquet may be directed to Connie Mark at 455-5221 or Donna Chang at 537-4015.



## Scholarship Selection – In Process

A handful of Oo Syak Gee Lu student members have applied for our 2007-08 Scholarship. The judges are hard at work evaluating the students based on their scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, leadership, and community involvement.

The winners will be announced at our annual banquet (held August 11<sup>th</sup> at Hee Hing Restaurant) and published in our next newsletter.

## Mun Lun Chinese School – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Mun Lun School is currently looking for any information or pictures to put into their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook scheduled to be published in 2011. If you or your family member have attended Mun Lun School, or have any pictures, annuals, or articles from Mun Lun School, please contact Edith Won at 373-2658.

## Update Membership Records

We are currently seeking the help of our membership to update all of their information so our records are up to date. Having an updated database will ensure our accuracy for membership.

If you are moving, or have moved, please notify us so you can still receive our quarterly newsletters. Don't worry, your information is held for private use of the society and will not be released or sold to outside parties.

To make sure that your records are updated, please call our Membership Chairperson Jamie Chang at 373-1714 or email her at [jmechang@yahoo.com](mailto:jmechang@yahoo.com).

## Note Your Calendars!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location / Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
July 15	Board of Directors Meeting	Hee Hing Restaurant (Kapahulu) / 11:00am	Alvin Chang by 7/5
Aug 11	Annual Banquet	Hee Hing Restaurant (Kapahulu) / 5:30pm	Connie Mark *
Oct 21	Board of Director's Meeting	New Empress (Chinese Cultural Plaza, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor) / 11:00am	Alvin Chang by 10/11
Nov 18	General Membership Meeting	On On McCully Restaurant / 11:00am	Alvin Chang by 11/8
Dec 8	Christmas Luncheon	New Empress (Chinese Cultural Plaza, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor) / 12:00am	Connie Mark beginning 10/21 *

To RSVP for meetings, call Alvin Chang at 533-3762 by the deadlines listed above beginning one month prior to the event.  
\* Annual Banquet / Christmas Luncheon reservations are to be made to Connie Mark by calling 455-5221.



**Moving???** If you are moving, or if your address has changed, please notify Jamie Chang at [jmechang@yahoo.com](mailto:jmechang@yahoo.com) or call 373-1714 so you can continue to be in the loop and receive newsletters and information about our Society.


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Place Stamp Here

Jamie Chang  
5355 Papai Street  
Honolulu Hawaii 96821



## Did you know????

Here are some upcoming significant Chinese dates to remember:

### Dragon Boat Festival – June 19, 2007

The Dragon Boat Festival is China's oldest festival where boats decorated as dragons race to the finish line as paddlers move their oars in one fluid motion while the drummer thumps out a steady rhythm. It is figured that one of China's most famous poets and a Minister in Law and Ordinance, Qu Yuan, committed suicide in the MiLuo river by tying a large rock to his body. Local fisherman raced to their boats to recover his body, beating drums and splashing their paddles on the water to scare away the fish. But it was all to no avail. They began throwing rice on the water as a sacrifice to their dead hero, and to nourish his spirit. One night, the image of Qu Yuan appeared to one of the fisherman in a dream. In the dream, the poet revealed that the fish were eating the rice. He asked that the rice be wrapped in silk to protect it. Later, the silk was replaced with bamboo leaves – to become known as a delicious glutinous rice dumpling treat we know as *jongzi*. (Date: fifth day of the fifth Chinese lunar month).

### Moon Festival (Mid Autumn Festival) – September 25, 2007

Many myths and legends surround the Chinese Moon Festival. But all legends say that the moon fairy/maiden's beauty is greatest on the day of the Moon festival. The Moon Festival is celebrated with dances and moon gazing, and of course traditional moon cakes filled with lotus paste and egg yolk – the egg yolk symbolizing the moon. (Date: fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar.)

*Where are we going to get our delicious jongzi and mooncake trerats now that the ever popular Shung Chong Yuein cookie and pastry shop is closed on Maunakea Street? Email your feedback to Jamie Chang at [jmechang@yahoo.com](mailto:jmechang@yahoo.com) or call her at (808) 387-9854. Your response will be printed in the next newsletter.*