

# Y'S CRACKS

THE HILO Y'S MEN & WOMEN SERVICE CLUB HAWAII REGION US AREA

## ALOHA FROM THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Aloha Fellow Hilo Y's Men & Women & Friends,

I want to share with you an adapted article written on October 21, 1999 by Rod Thompson of the Star Bulletin titled: *"BEING NICE IS THE SECRET OF SUCCESS. Robert "Steamy" Chow knows everything about Hilo and the Big Island"*.



Steamy at the sweet age of 90 years young continues to support the Hilo Y's Men & Women Service Club and The Island of Hawaii YMCA. Now, Steamy and Lily, we honor your support & kindness! Aloha from Bobby & your fellow members.

**Hilo**— When 500 people showed up at the Kress building in downtown Hilo yesterday to honor Robert "Steamy" Chow as a living legend, Chow knew almost every one of them. "Bob can tell you who lived next door to who, who's related to who," said admirer Donna Saiki at the nearby Hilo Tsunami Museum.

"Mr. Hilo," county worker Greg Branco called him. When tourists get stranded downtown. Chow sometimes drives them back to their hotels, Branco said. What Chow, 77, doesn't know, he finds out.

A woman arrived in Hilo one day with an Elderhostel program seeking information about the bakery her father once owned. Chow found out that the man, retired from the military, ran the American Bakery beginning about 1915. He married one of his employees, the Elderhostel woman's mother. Later the family moved to the mainland,

### VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

#### In this issue:

"Being Nice Is the Secret of Success.:	<b>1</b>
Honoring "Steamy" Chow	<b>1</b>
Hawaii Food Basket	
Sharon Ishida, Regional Director Visit Hilo	<b>2</b>
Christmas Tree Pre Order Forms	<b>2</b>

### SEPTEMBER 2012

#### Special points of interest:

- \* New Title: International Association of Y Clubs
- \* Community Service Canned Goods Donation
- \* New Members Inducted to Y'sdom

## Y SERVICE CLUBS. WE SERVE.

leaving the bakery in the ownership of an "Aunt Mabel."

Chow delivered the Hilo (now Hawaii) Tribune-Herald. "That's how I know every crack in the road," he said.

At age 21, he heard that the police department was looking

for officers who spoke Chinese. Chow spoke Cantonese and got the job on the spot. Chow's life changed suddenly in 1963 when his kneecap was ripped in a crash involving his patrol car.

"My biggest asset is being nice to people," he said. "It's free to be

nice to somebody else. You can say, 'Hello.' It's free. You can say, 'Thank you.' It's free."



**THE HILO Y'S MEN  
& WOMEN  
SERVICE CLUB  
HAWAII REGION  
US AREA**

**MEETINGS**

**2ND WED. QLCC 7 PM  
4TH WED. ENCORE 6 PM**

**CHARTERED: JUNE 22, 1938**  
Service to the YMCA  
& community.  
Editor: B. Stivers-Apiki



*"To acknowledge the  
duty that accompanies  
every right".*



*"Even a turtle never  
gets ahead unless he  
sticks his neck out."*



Danielle Kualii, Tracey Niimi & Aaron Inouye inducted as members of the Hilo Y's Men & Women Service Club



Christmas Tree Pre Order forms are now available!

Call the Y 935-3721

**Y's Men International News**

At the International Convention in Norway, the following was approved:

"This organization shall be known as "THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Y CLUBS" which will include club names like 'Y's Men's Club', "Y Service Club" & Y's Men & Women's Club. New logo adopted.

**US Area News**

The Area U.S. of Y's International consists of Y's Men Clubs, Y's Men & Women's Clubs and Y-Service Clubs. We are service clubs in partnership with the YMCA. Today, regardless of the various club terms, we are an Association of Y Clubs.

**OVG District News**

What's up Maui & Kauai?

**Hawaii Region News**

"Peace Through My Eyes" has been adopted unanimously by all clubs of the Region. The drawing and writing project for 5th graders in YMCA afterschool or youth programs is to find the 'best' drawing depicting PEACE.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

A big MAHALO to our caring and serving members for donating over 180 food items to the Hawaii Food Basket. The Basket is a non-profit organization that feeds thousands of poor and hungry children and families all year around. Special thanks to Sharon Ishida, Hawaii Regional Director and her husband Brad for their donation of canned goods.



Delivering canned goods Lance & Bobby to Don, Hawaii Food Basket.

**EMBRACING Y'S DOM**

**HILO WELCOMES SHARON ISHIDA, HAWAII REGION REGIONAL DIRECTOR.**

On a beautiful Friday night, Regional Director Sharon Ishida joined 17 members and guests for a lovely dinner at the gracious Seaside Restaurant—famous for their fried Aholehole!

The wonderful dinner was well-attended including three generations of the Inouye Family—Lily Inouye, her son Gordon whose been a member for 25 years and his son, new member Aaron Inouye. Sharon's husband Brad and Paul Kuromoto, past Regional Director also attend the dinner and new member installation.

A new generation embraces Y's dom. Newest members Danielle Kualii, Tracey Niimi and

Aaron Inouye join Bernie Kualilani, Rhonda Mattos and Gary Baustista in Y's dom. Fred Yamashiro and Ken Okimoto joined last year. We are proud of all of our new members.

Sharon Ishida, Regional Director inducted into the movement Danielle, Aaron and Tracey. She reminded them . . . **TO BE A Y'S MAN MEANS TO BE . . . IDEALIST, LOYAL TO THE YMCA, WORLD-MINDED, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT & BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACTIVE!**

**CLUB ROSTER:** Gary Bautista, Steamy Chow, Putman Clark, James Fujimoto, Steve Hiramaki, Aaron Inouye, Gordon Inouye, Lily Inouye, Les Iseimoto, Danielle Kualii, Berrnie Kualilani, Rhonda Mattos, Dr. Milton Murasaki, Ilyn Narciso, Joni Neel, Lanny Neel, June Niimi, Lance Niimi, Tracey Niimi, Ken Okimoto, Oscar Panem, Bobby Stivers-Apiki, Fred Yamashiro. Honorary Member: Harold Tanouye.



# Hawaii Region of the International Association of Y Service Clubs

## THE GOLDEN BOOK

Living Tribute to: Lance and June Niimi

For the first time since the founding in 1938 of the Hilo Y's Men's Men Club (Hilo Y's Men & Women Service Club), we are honored and proud to include in the 2012-2013 Y Service International Golden Book, husband and wife members, Lance and June Niimi. They are worthy and deserving of the highest recognition in Y's dom for their time, talent and treasurer as servant leaders of the club for the past 11 years for Lance and for the past 5 years for June. Lance has served as club president for four two-year terms, treasurer for three years and currently serves as Hawaii's Region Orchid Valley and Garden (OVG) District Governor. June has served as club secretary for two years, club bulletin editor for two years and most recently, June provided the leadership for the publication of a successful fundraising cookbook, *Y's Choices* that will sell over 1,100 cookbooks.

Lance serves as chair of the Board of Directors of The Island of Hawaii YMCA and is a licensed social worker who was selected Social Worker of the Year in 2011, and is employed since 1989 as Branch Unit Manager at the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center in Hilo. June has 30 years of inspiring, motivating and educating high school students as a math teacher with the Department of Education at Pahoa High School in Hilo.

Lance and June has been married for thirty-two (32) wonderful years and have two children, daughter Kristen and son Tracey.

Honored by:

The Hilo Y's Men and Women Service Club  
2012 – 2013 Hawaii Region of the International Association of Y Service Clubs  
September 12, 2012