



Windward Y'er

Bulletin of the Windward Y's Men's & Women's Club

Chartered April 5, 1980

Annual Support Campaign Needs Our Work

Everyone knows the economy is in bad shape and charities are having a tougher time than ever meeting their goals.

As the Annual Support Campaign for our branch of the YMCA kicks off on February 5, organizers hope that the 2008 Windward ASC will meet its goal of \$60,000 in pledges anyway. Part of that optimism is based on the theory that in hard times, people still give but they give more carefully, seeking out only the worthiest of causes.

The YMCA, with its history of doing so much for so many and raising healthy kids and healthy families, is one of the worthiest.

Many donors also know that the ASC money allows the YMCA to offer its programs to those who need them but could not otherwise afford them.

Nevertheless, this year's campaign is going to be a difficult one and will require all our efforts.

The Y's Men & Women's Club is always a hard worker for the Y. We start by making our own donations and most of us have friends and contacts who expect our calls and visits every year and give generously. Our club, small as it is, raises a significant share of the donations.

This year's campaign has a "pirate" theme. Our club is teamed

with the YMCA board of managers to make up one of several divisions and our president, **Russ Lynch** is chief of the division.

The kickoff on the 5th will be a vegetarian dinner at the Castle Wellness Center, like last year. After that, there will be phone/report nights at Windward YMCA each Thursday through the rest of February. Calling from the Y seems likely to get less hang-ups

than calling from a real estate office as we did in the past, although Coldwell Banker Pacific's generosity in the use of their offices was of great help.

If you have spare cell phones bring them to the report nights. Let's have a bit of pirate fun and do a great job for the YMCA in the process. There are some generous annual givers just waiting for our calls, ready to make pledges.

A Little Slice of Y's Men's History

Veteran Y's Man **Phil Chun** dug up some old pictures and here are some of our members as shown then. At right, **Jim Kanehira**, and lower right, the late **Conrad Tsukayama**. They were at a 1960 Hawaii Region Convention on Kauai. Below, **Ken Kado-moto** (left) and Jim in 1958 at a new-members orientation at YMCA Camp Erdman. Full versions of these group pictures are on our web site <http://ysmenwin.com> Perhaps you'll recognize other old-timers.



**Our next meeting will be at
7 p.m. Wednesday
February 4 at
Windward YMCA.**

Windward Y's Men's
& Women's Club
2008/2009

Chartered April, 1980

President: Russ Lynch
Vice president: Jim Kanehira
Secretary: Joe-Ann McCarthy
Treasurer: Ken Kadomoto

Members:

Karel A. Ling, Marion Liu,
Jack McCarthy, Karla Redding,
Donna Saito, Justin Saito,
Diane Sanderson,
Donald Scott, Sam Shoji,
Emma Thomas

Youth Members:

Makena Liu, Ryan McMonigle

Young-Adult Member:

Lindsey McMonigle,

Bulletin Editor: Russ Lynch

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Visit our Web site at

<http://ysmenwin.com>

Metro Christmas Party a Success

Getting all six clubs on Oahu together for a Christmas party turned out to be a great success for the Metro District and a lot of fun for those who attended.

We gathered at the Kalihi YMCA on December 5 for an evening of great food, wonderful fellowship and truly enjoyable mixing with members of the other clubs. It was particularly good to meet some of



Bill Stone, left, with **Karla Redding** behind him, in the food line at the Metro District Christmas Party December 5. **Marion Liu** is in the middle of the group on the right.

the newer members and to reacquaint with some of the folks we haven't seen in a while. Seating was arranged so as to scatter each club's members around with the members of other clubs so everyone socialized more, and the evening included lots of interactive games.

Of course there was singing, led by our own incomparable cheerleader **Jim Kanehira**, the highlight of which was the pidgin 12 Days of Christmas. Our club came away with the firm belief that this was an event that should be repeated in future years. It just made a lot of sense to get the clubs that make up the Metro District to join together for Christmas rather than going it alone in their individual clubs.

For a Web gallery of photos from this delightful evening go to:

<http://gallery.me.com/russlynch#100324>

'YMCA Sunday' is Here

January 18 is "YMCA Sunday," an occasion in which Y's Men and Women everywhere remember their Christian connection by going to church. Our club will do so at Kailua Christian Church at 10 a.m. on that Sunday. It's **Karel Ling's** church, on Manono Street makai of Oneawa. This is an entirely voluntary Y's Men's event but a nice one if you do go.

Hawaii Region News

A Regional Assessment of \$15 per club member was approved at the Hawaii Region Mid-Year Cabinet Meeting November 15 at the Ilima Hotel in Waikiki. The assessment, which is additional to other dues and fees, varies from year to year. This time an assessment is needed because the

2008 convention did not leave a surplus and because the Regional dues structure has changed to allow a 50 percent discount for young-adult members.

News from IHQ

Y's Men International accepted 75 new clubs in 2008. nine of them in December alone.

The vast majority of the new clubs are in India, where Y'sdom has been growing at a remarkable pace in recent years.

However, the 2008 tally also included one in the United States (St. Louis, Missouri) and others in Russia, Taiwan, Australia, South Korea, Denmark, Finland, Norway and three entirely new countries for our organization: Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Ecuador.

The next International Convention will be in 2010 in Yokohama, Japan.

Inspiration

Christian Emphasis

A message for the New Year: May we live as God intended, in a world at peace and in the awareness of His love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss and every wonderful, miraculous, astonishing beat of our hearts. A very Happy New Year to all! – **Author Unknown**,

Let's take this great message and try to apply it, not just to the start of a fresh year but to the rest of our lives.

Dinner with Shoji-san

Thanks to the always-great organizing ability of **Marion, Joe-Ann** and the rest of the Liu family and those they called on to help, we had a really nice pre-Christmas dinner get-together with our member from Osaka, **Osamu "Sam" Shoji**.

The December 15 dinner was at the Joyful Garden in the Windward City Shopping Center and we had our own private room, which was good because we had a large turnout. Members brought spouses and it was particularly nice to have our three youngest members, **Makena, Ryan** and **Lindsey** in attendance.

Sam brought along his wife **Yasuko** and their grandson **Yasuke** and it was great to see them too. Yasuke, at age 8, finished the Honolulu Marathon along with Sam, in a bit over eight hours.

As usual, Sam brought us gifts, gave a nice little speech and did some magic for the group.

Working with various members of the audience, he had money appear in an empty wallet, disappear and appear again, after which he generously denoted the cash, five real \$50 bills, to the Y's Men Hawaii Region.

Late News: See note on Page 4 about Sam's own article and where to find it.



Osamu 'Sam' Shoji, a member of our club and the Osaka-Senboku Y's Men, talks to our group in his Marathon Finisher shirt.

President's Message

from Russ Lynch, President 2008-2009



It wasn't a white Christmas -no snow, except some patches on the ground - but it was pretty cold for me and Eiko at Christmas and New Year's in Columbus, Ohio. Below freezing outside but pleasantly warm inside, especially the loving company of our daughter Jen and her husband Dan and our two grandsons, aged nearly 4 and just over 17 months. Things learned: There are places in this world where

there are no green trees in winter, where it's flat for hundreds of miles, where if you have a good wool scarf don't be stupid enough to leave it in the house when you go out, and where the reason the roofs slope is so the snow can slide off.

Well, I am all thawed out and ready for action and we have a lot of it coming up, the big one being the Annual Support Campaign for our YMCA branch, which kicks off February 5.

We'll be using a pirate theme this year. A thought: Can we make 'em walk the plank if they don't donate? Arr, matey. Better idea: Make a big enough donation and you get to force Y Exec. Bill Stone to walk the plank. We'll work on that.

Anyway, I am chief of a division that includes the Y's Men and Women and the YMCA board, as motley a crew as you could wish for to sail under the skull and crossbones for a good cause.

I'll be asking for everyone's help. Our goal is \$60,000 in pledges for our branch. I am confident we'll make it despite the tough economy, because the Y is such a good cause.

So, thanks for everyone's hard work in 2008 and thanks in advance for your continued efforts this year.

Aloha, Russ

Another 'Breakfast With Santa'

Windward members helped out both Saturday and Sunday December 14 and 15 at "Breakfast with Santa," the big annual fundraiser staged at the Japanese Cultural Center by Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii. Once again we manned the "Fish Pond" for the kiddies to fish for little bags of cookies.

And we did whatever other tasks we could to help **Aileen Deese** and her crew make the occasion a success.

Having done this for a number of years we have it down pretty well. And it is a very deserving organization for our com-

munity service efforts. For a full set of pictures from the busy weekend go to:

<http://gallery.me.com/russlynch#100316>



Joe-Ann, Marion and **Donna** with a "Star Wars" crewman, one of the many costumed characters at the Prevent Child Abuse fund-raiser, "Breakfast with Santa."

Club Calendar

January 7, Wednesday

7 p.m. Monthly club meeting
Windward YMCA

January 10, Saturday

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Windward YMCA Open House
Hand out free popcorn
and promote our club.

January 18, Sunday

10 a.m. "YMCA Sunday"
church service at Kailua
Christian Church, Manono St.

January 28, Wednesday

Stevenson Middle School,
Makiki. Metro District Meeting
Evening (time & details later)

February 4, Wednesday

7 p.m. Monthly club meeting
Windward YMCA

February 5, Thursday

6 p.m. Castle Medical Center
YMCA Annual Support
Campaign kickoff dinner

Thursdays through February

6 p.m. Windward YMCA
ASC report/phone nights

May 16-18, Saturday-Monday

73rd Y's Men Hawaii Region
Convention. Ilima Hotel.

July 9-12, Thursday-Sunday

U.S. Area Convention
Santa Barbara, Calif.

January Focus:

YMCA Service

February Focus:

Time of Fast

A Senior Moment —

"Where's my Sunday paper?" the irate senior citizen yelled over the phone. "It's afternoon already!" "Madam," said the clerk patiently, "today is Saturday. You'll get your Sunday paper tomorrow, which will be Sunday." After a long pause the caller said quietly: "Well, gee, I guess that explains why nobody was at church this morning."

Enjoying Aloha Onsen Tour in Japan

By Jim Kanehira

From November 5 to 17. I had a wonderful experience of traveling in Japan on an autumn Aloha Club onsen tour, geared especially for senior citizens.

There were 11 of us — six men (the oldest was 92) and five ladies.

Gladys didn't go because she doesn't go into onsens, so I roomed with my retired colonel-chaplain classmate who loved Japan and was on his 22nd Aloha Onsen Tour.

We rode on a brand new bus with capacity for 24 people, which had a screen for karaoke.



Jim Kanehira

The tour guide, who spoke good English, made the trip interesting and fun with stories, interesting facts about places, and jokes. We sang songs and exercised each morning at the beginning of the bus ride and various people sang karaoke during long rides.

Although I didn't know the Japanese songs my ability to read hiragana and katakana improved as I followed the screen.

The trip started from Kansai Airport and covered the southwest portion of Honshu, circling Kyushu

and returning through the island of Shikoku. The scenery in the mountains was very colorful and beautiful as we traveled on highways and through numerous tunnels over 1,600 miles, including three ferry rides.

We stayed at ten hotels, which were very comfortable, all with enjoyable onsens and delicious food. I enjoyed going to onsens twice a day, at about 5:30 a.m. and prior to dinner.

I especially enjoyed the buffet breakfasts with a variety of dishes. All the wonderful food made me gain back all the weight I had lost in preparation for the trip.

We visited castles, beautiful gardens and parks, temples, museums, Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park, numerous companies and stores. We experienced picking oranges, apples and persimmons, which were just "ono."

I even went on stage and danced "Dojo-Sukui." ("Catching Dojo Fish.") We stopped at various convenient shops, tasting pickled vegetables and cookies. I ended up bringing home one box of goodies because they taste so good.

A couple stated they had gone on tours before but this was the best. Anyone wishing to visit and enjoy onsens should consider Travel Ways Aloha Onsen Club tours.

U.S. Area News

The next U.S. Area Convention will be on the West Coast, in Santa Barbara, Calif., July 9 through 12. This is a big change from the earlier proposals for Philadelphia and, later, St. Louis, and the shift to the west will make it easier for Hawaii's Y's Men and Women to attend.

More information and a registration form are available on the Hawaii Region website:

<http://ysmenhawaii.org>

Sam Shoji's Manuscript —

Just as this issue was going to press we received Osamu Shoji's own writing about his family visit and Marathon experience, with some great photos. It was too late for this issue, so we placed that story and pictures in our Web pages. They will appear in the next printed edition but meanwhile use the Internet and go to:

<http://ysmenwin.com>