

YOMITAN CLUB

ANDY HIGA

Yomitan Club is proud to honor Andy Higa as our 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year. Andy, the eldest of three children born to Misayo & Roy Higa, is a sensei residing in Honolulu. Andy is married to Debra "Diane" Higa and has two sons, Richard (36) and Eric (29).

Andy and his family have been members since 1988. Successfully, Andy spearheaded Yomitan Club's Annual Golf Tournament. He is energetic, punctual, organized, kind-hearted and always willing to help others in need. Most would say, if you can't find Andy at work, bowling, golfing, or fishing, you can most likely find him at a Yomitan Club function, always ready with a smile.

In 1986, Andy and Diane lived in Okinawa where they traveled near and far to learn everything about his culture and found the people of Okinawa genuine and down to earth. Andy and Diane were inspired to learn the language and history of the Okinawan Culture to share with their community. Congratulations Andy! Yomitan Club truly appreciates your involvement and is proud to honor you as Uchinanchu of the Year.



YONABARU CHOJIN KAI

HERBERT S. HIGA

Yonabaru Chojin Kai is proud to recognize Herbert S. Higa as our 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year. Herbert has been a member since relocating to Hawaii from San Jose following his retirement several years ago.

Herbert has been a tireless volunteer in the Yonabaru Club Okinawan Festival booth. His positive outlook and willingness to assist with activities makes him a valuable team member in the club's events. Herbert is married to Sung Suk and has daughter Maxine, and step daughter Joann that reside in California.

The Yonabaru Club would like to thank Herbert for his involvement with the club and looks forward to his future participation in club and HUOA events.



YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI

MASAICHI "MASA" UEJO

Masaichi Uejo has many fond memories of the early years of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. He was the first of many to volunteer his time, energy and talent toward the Center's upkeep.

When he first volunteered, the garden and fish pond existed only in the architectural plan when a generous family named Takakura from Okinawa donated money for the garden and pond. He was there when the pond was built and with his fellow club member, Jimmy Okudara, helped to build and install the pump for the pond. He also built the bamboo fence along the back wall to hide the pump house. When Mr. Takakura came to visit the Center, he was impressed when he first saw the beautiful garden and pond created from his donation that he invited Masa and other volunteers to golf at his Palm Hills Golf Course in Okinawa.

There are much more memories to share especially the early years of our club and its members. Masa Uejo is indeed a treasure and our club is proud to name him as our Uchinanchu of the Year.



YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII

BRIAN GOTO

Brian Goto, eldest child of the late Thomas Goto, mother Bettie, is our club's nominee for Uchinanchu of the Year. Together with his wife Lois, children Carissa, Jonathan and Brianna, Brian has been a most valuable contributor and supporter of the club's functions.

Although he shuns the spotlight, Brian can always be found behind the scenes, making sure everything is running smoothly and safely, and helping people in anyway he can. Brian is a great role model with his hard work ethic, love for his family and involvement with the club. He really portrays the Uchinanchu spirit in all of us.

In his spare time, Brian enjoys watching as well as participating in sports activities, loves to cook and currently learning to play the sanshin. He is employed as a real estate analyst and appraiser for the Hallstrom Group.



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TO OUR UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR HONOREES
OKAGE SAMA DE — BECAUSE OF YOU