



*Broadening our understanding of the many different cultures represented at RNDC and Young's Market Company can lead to an authentic appreciation for our colleagues, communities, and customers. This month, we proudly continue the tradition of celebrating the diverse heritages of our associates in an effort to create greater awareness and build inclusive excellence into our DNA*

**Name:** Becky Spray

**Title:** Account Executive

**Location/Business Unit:** Hawaii/Chain Sales

**Date of Hire:** March 2000



**Why is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month important to you?**

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is important to me because it celebrates the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. I am fortunate that my family has passed down many Asian traditions that we celebrate today, such as celebrating Chinese New Year in February. In April, it's the start of the Ching Ming Festival, a Chinese tradition in which our family gathers to pay tribute to our ancestors by visiting their grave sites. My mom likes to teach us how to cook our favorite Chinese dishes such as Gau (Chinese mochi that symbolizes unity and good luck), Jung (Mochi rice wrapped in tea leaves stuffed with pork and peanuts), and Chow Fun (stir-fried beef and rice noodles).

**What would you like the RNDC/Young's family to know about you? Briefly tell us your story – personal and/or professional. What makes you uniquely you?**

I have been married to my wonderful husband, Dillard, and we're celebrating our 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July. We have two beautiful daughters Chelsea, 26 years old, and Tiffany, 23 years old. I am proud to be the grandmother of a very bubbly and energetic 4-year-old, Aliyah, who I can't imagine my life without. I am the Account Executive for Foodland Supermarkets, a major local chain in Hawaii. I truly appreciate all my coworkers, managers, and buyers for all their support. I'm celebrating my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Young's Market Company this year. Time flies so fast when you are having so much fun!

Not many people can guess my ethnicity, but I am 100% Chinese. My grandparents came over with little money and personal belongings from China and worked hard to make a good living in Hawaii. My maternal grandmother was an acupuncturist and owned a jewelry store. My grandfather was a successful businessman.

I honor my grandparents and parents' traditions by working hard to thank them for all their sacrifice to provide us life lessons and values I have today -- lessons that I am passing down to my daughters and granddaughter.

**What are some of your family traditions that celebrate your heritage? What makes them important to you?**

Back in the day, families arriving from China to Hawaii did not know a lot of people and would form social clubs to provide comradery and sense of family. From the time I was little, my brother, sister, and I participated with my parents and relatives in the Chang Wing Yong Tong Society monthly meetings and picnics. The mission of the club is to bring together people bearing the Chang surname, assist members in time of need, facilitate fellowship, cooperation and understanding, and undertake charitable activities.

In 2008, 2009, 2016, and 2017, I served as president of The Chang Wing Yong Tong Society. I feel honored to serve this society just as my grandfather, father, bother, and uncles have in the past. I'm hoping my children will appreciate these experiences and carry on these traditions with their family.

**Tell us about your favorite food or meal that represents your heritage and/or culture.**

My favorite meal that represents my culture is Dim Sum. Dim Sum is traditional Chinese food consisting of a variety of items (such as steamed or fried dumplings, pieces of cooked chicken, and rice balls) served in small portions. Chinese are very particular where they eat Dim Sum. They must meet my Popo's (Grandmother) quality standards with the best price in town. Popo made the best pork hash. She didn't have any recipes to hand down because she cooked from scratch and memory. Eating Dim Sum reminds me of happy memories from my childhood.

**What is your favorite adult beverage?**

My favorite adult beverage is a Disaronno Sour. My favorite bartender, Joey Gottesman, taught me this wonderful recipe made with egg whites! Cheers!

