

HAWAII BUDDHIST WOMEN'S NEWS

Hawaii Federation of Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Associates
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President's Message

By Carol Yamamoto

Dear Friends:



The year is certainly flying by. As you all know, Rev. Eric Matsumoto of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission was appointed minister advisor of the Federation. He assumed his responsibilities on the run and has been a tireless supporter.

A year has passed since the close of the World Convention, but it has not been forgotten. Fusae Kiyokawa and Donna Higashi, co-chairs, have continued to maintain their leadership roles and together with Susan Morishige, chair of the post-convention booklet committee, have been hard at work to get the report to the printers in time for a Fall distribution. Rev. Shigenori Makino who served as advisor for the convention, has stayed on to assist the committee. We thank them all for the many hours they have devoted to complete this project.

Another project still underway, requiring many hours of input from committee members is the production of the convention DVD. Dona Higashi is determined to have a comprehensive set of DVD's available for distribution. We thank her for her enthusiasm and devotion to the cause.

13th World Buddhist Women's Convention Follow-Up

By Fusae Kiyokawa and Donna Higashi

1. HHHFBWA Website - www.hawaiiibwa.org Click 13th World
 - a. With their permission, the keynote and some panelist's talks have been put on our website
 - b. Photos taken at convention have also been included
2. Post Convention Report
 - a. Chair, Susan Morishige and committee members worked diligently for the past 6 months on this post-convention report which will be in 3 languages - English, Japanese and Portuguese.
 - b. The 120 page report will be ready by the Oct. 6 Federation meeting and each delegate will receive a copy.
 - c. Copies will be sent to Japan, South America, BCA
3. Convention DVD
 - a. Using video footage by a special camera crew for September 1 and the camera crew at the Hawaii Convention Center for September 2 and 3, a "master" DVD was produced.
 - b. However, with the need to edit and re-editing, we are unable to complete this project by the October 6 meeting for distribution. But plans continue to make a set of DVDs. The first disk is a Convention Hi-Lites and the second disk is the major speaker's talks and special events. Approximate cost is \$ 20
4. Communication by email
email: hawaiiibwa@hawaiiibwa.org

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This will be my last message for the Newsletter. It has been an event-filled four year term. It is with humble gratitude that I thank the minister advisors, officers, committee chairs and representatives for their support and dedication to promote the activities of the Buddhist women's programs. The 13th World Convention was a monumental accomplishment of togetherness. To all of the members who are the backbone of the individual temple units, you are the precious links in our Golden Chain. Let us continue to walk the Nembutsu Path together in peace and harmony.

At the Fall Representative Assembly we will be electing a new set of officers. Let us be prepared to give them our enthusiastic support so that the Buddhist women's movement can be strengthened and expanded.

With deep appreciation.....in gassho,

Carol Yamamoto

HONOLULU UNITED BWA

JIKOEN BWA

Fun-filled, Meaningful Excursion to Wahiawa

Leilehua High School's student-inspired Peace Garden was one of the highlights of this year's summer excursion. In all, 47 members and guests made the pilgrimage to this monument to world peace which was conceived by the students and made a reality with the whole-hearted support of faculty and staff, community businesses and the military. It is a beautiful spot of greenery and flowers where students can relax, find solace, inner calm and peace. **Rev. Shindo Nishiyama** conducted a short, meaningful service there.

Later we bussed to Dole Plantation where we rode the train through fields of pineapple, then walked through a colorful garden filled with familiar plants like palms, bromeliads, ti leaves, bananas, etc.

A delicious buffet lunch was enjoyed at the adjoining Helemano Plantation café before we bussed back to town.



"In Gassho"



"Rev. Nishiyama officiates"



Lunch at Helemano Plantation"



"On the Pineapple Express"

JIKOEN continued...

Hosting Honolulu United's 2007 General Membership Meeting

Alice Tokuda served as chair of the 33rd annual general membership meeting of Honolulu United which was held on September 22. **Gwen Fujie**, a dynamic and well-known motivational speaker, made a two-hour presentation on "Mindful Communications" which fit the conference theme "Living in Peace and Harmony." After a light lunch, the participants enjoyed a songfest featuring some new gathas on the same theme. A great time was had by all.

After this event, the board of Honolulu United held its third quarterly meeting, presided over by President **Suzy Nishiyama**.

Esshini/Kakushinni Service

Our speaker for this special service was **Chihoko Yosemite**, wife of recently-retired Bishop Chikai Yosemite, former "Okusan" of Jikoen for 15 years and newest member of our JBWA. A special light lunch was served after the service. We are so happy to have Mrs. Yosemite back in our fold!

Happi Coats Project

The sewing circle ladies were extra busy for several months cutting and sewing special happi coats in time for the Bon season. The design on the back of the coats is a large image of Jikoen temple within the *sagarifuj* – very striking. The coats come in purple or black with gold ribbon along the neckline and front.



"Hapi coats for sale"

Kitchen Duties Keep Us Busy

During the past few months, our ladies catered the food for the usual temple activities such as the Third Annual Variety Show, the Bon dance and *omigaki* Sunday. They also prepared the snacks (hot dogs, drinks, andagi) and manned the booth at the Hanamatsuri celebration at Kapiolani Park. Although this was meant to be a non-profit activity, we surprisingly took in over \$1,000, which we donated to the Hawaii Buddhist Council for its future events.



"Our famous andagi in the making"



"Haru and Ed Okita's fried noodles"

MOILILI BWA

JOY IN THE NEMBUTSU

By Reverend Irene Nakamoto

Hardly a human being goes through each day without some sort of *dukkha* (*suffering*). At this time of Autumn Ohigan, we look back on the first half of the year and reflect on all that came to be for each of us. We reflect upon the countless encounters and what we gained and learned. To live and to learn requires countless encounters coming into our lives. Being aware of the events that come into our lives and personally touch us, helps us to see the depths of the interrelationships that made it possible and thus find meaning in it.

This is indeed a time to reflect on the human condition and examine the options open to us through the infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. This is a time set aside to listen to the teachers who are our Buddhists' guide. We, thus, reach toward the 'other shore' of spiritual fulfillment in our individual journey from birth to death. The 6 Paramitas remind us of its importance as we live this life of ups and down and sometimes it seems like we have more downs (*dukkha*). Dana, one of the 6 paramitas, reminds us to practice the unselfish giving of services, material goods, and the teachings to others. Sila tells us to control our cravings and desires, while, Kshanti says we must have patience. Virya is the effort that goes hand in hand with patience in attaining a successful result and dhyana is meditation. And finally, prajna is the supreme wisdom that develops the right view of life, releasing one from self-centered ignorance and attachment.

This is the time to listen. This is the time to learn. This is the time to have "Joy in the Nembutsu!" Ohigan is that time out of our hectic life to reflect upon our own life.

*"yuugure o yoso ni
azukete momiji kana"*

Twilight is left in the maple leaves

Written in the autumn of 1760, Chiyo-ni went to Zuisenji temple to attend the 500th memorial service for Shinran (1173-1262)

In the book, *A Pebble for Your Pocket* by Thich Nhat Hanh and there was an article about "Today's Day". It states, "On this day, Today's Day, we don't think about yesterday, we don't think about tomorrow, we only think about today. Today's Day is when we live happily in the present moment. When we eat, we know that we are eating. When we drink water, we are aware that it is water we are drinking. When we walk, we really enjoy each step. When we play, we are really present in our play. Today is a wonderful day. Today is the most wonderful day. That does not mean that yesterday was not wonderful. But yesterday is already gone. It does not mean that tomorrow will not be wonderful. But tomorrow is not yet here. Today is the only day available to us, today, and we can take good care of it. That is why today is so important—the most important day of our lives.

So each morning when you wake up, decide to make that day the most important day. Before you go off to school, sit or lie down, breathe slowly in and out for a few minutes, enjoy your in-breath, enjoy your out-breath, and smile. You are here. You are content. You are peaceful. This is a wonderful way to begin a day."

You have probably read that the Buddha said to Ananda, one of his disciples, "When I attain Buddhahood, I will cause my Name to be heard throughout the countless Buddha-lands of the eight quarters, the zenith, and the nadir. All Buddhas will preach my virtues and the perfections of my land to the multitudes of monks in their own lands. There will be none among devas, human beings, and even insects that fly, crawl, or creep, who upon hearing my Name, fails to awaken a heart of compassion. Dancing with joy, they will all be enabled to come and be born in my land. Fulfilling this Vow, I will attain Buddhahood; if it not be fulfilled, may I ultimately not attain Buddhahood." Here the Buddha is telling Ananda that everyone hearing the Name, is awakened to a heart of compassion. And dancing with joy everyone will be enabled to come and be born in the land of the Buddha.

We often hear ministers or Buddhist scholars say that as Buddhists we are saved. The Buddha has already taken care of us so we can rejoice and dance with joy!

MOILILI continued...

Ruth Tabrah in her book, *Just Live! On Becoming Buddhist*, mentions in the section on “Amida and Me”, the following:

“...the Buddha I sense in the secret recesses of myself, the Buddha with whom I feel a very personal relationship, is beyond the grasp of words. When Reverend Soga of Kamuela Hongwanji comes to my O-butudan and we chant a sutra together, the presence of Amida is very real to me. So it is when I visit a dear friend dying of cancer. And I am one with Amida each morning when I wake to the pink stain of sunrise over the Kohala Mountains and the joy of beginning a fresh new day.

What I came to see was that Amida is myself as I would like to be---and, simultaneously, as I truly am: ambitious, illogical, bumbling me. What comes to me more and more, like a silent inner shout of joy, is that it does not matter whether I can describe or understand or feel at ease with Amida. Because whatever I am doing or not doing, thinking or not thinking, Amida is always with ---and at ease with---me.”

I think that Ruth Tabrah was in joy of the Nembutsu! The joy permeated her very being. She could feel the joy within her as she stated... “like a silent inner shout of joy”...that Amida is always at ease with her.

Is joy fleeting? Is Joy of Nembutsu with us all the time? Are we joyful when we face a sad situation or when we encounter depression? Are we joyful when life throws us a “curve ball” and it seems that we are always suffering (dukkha)? Are we in joy when every day is a challenge physically or emotionally or mentally?

I think that Joy of Nembutsu comes from the deep recesses of our being where we feel sincere gratitude: Gratitude to be one with the Buddha; Gratitude in saying “Namu Amida Butsu”;

Gratitude in Living this Life; and Gratitude in being here and now. The Joy of Nembutsu is that wonderful feeling of Gratitude in the Three Treasures: Buddha, Dharma, Sangha.

In the *Collected Works of Shinran*, it states:

“Only the nembutsu is quick and true as the pure act that brings one to the land of peace; therefore, practice it.”

Also, it states that if those who fall into wrong views, evil thoughts, attachments, or go insane would have recited the Buddha’s Name beforehand, their karmic evil would have been eradicated and their obstructions swept away. “Within, the pure act of saying the Name would be fragrant, while from without, the compassionate light would grasp them, and in an instant, they would break free of all suffering and realize joy.”

In the Larger Sutra, it states:

“The Buddha said to Maitreya, ‘If there are persons who, having heard the Name of that Buddha, leap and dance with joy and say it even once, know that they receive the great benefit; that is they acquire the unexcelled virtues.’”

When we read all of this and more in the *Collected Works of Shinran*, we can not help but rejoice and have Joy of the Nembutsu. We receive great benefit, we are free of suffering, and we are at peace. How wonderful!

Once long ago, I was driving home after Dharma School at the Betsuin. Sitting by the Bus Stop was Reverend Tamekuni so I stopped and offered him a ride. He came into my car repeating “Namu amida butsu”. And as we talked during his ride home, Reverend Tamekuni would intermittently say the nembutsu over and over. Even when I dropped him off he thanked me and said the nembutsu. The nembutsu was always on his lips and even as Reverend Tamekuni was on his deathbed, he repeated the nembutsu. Reverend Tamekuni saw Joy of Nembutsu. He lived his life with Joy because he lived with the nembutsu. That joy permeated his deep sense of gratitude for all that was around him and a part of him.

“meigetsu mi kaerite hanasu
kotowa nashi”

Moon viewing—after coming home nothing to
say

---Chiyo-ni

MOILILI continued...

The other night, I ate the most delicious hayden mango that someone had given us. As I bit into the seed and slurped the juice, I was joyful and happy to be eating such a sweet juicy mango. The taste stayed with me for a while but soon disappeared when I ate a piece of cake. The memory of the juicy mango stayed with me but the taste had disappeared. The joy of eating that mango was fleeting, it came and went.

Not at all like the Joy of Nembutsu. It is not fleeting. It does not come and go. It is with us all the time as we embrace Amida Buddha and as Amida Buddha embraces us. Even on those days when we do not feel so special Amida Buddha is there to embrace us. When you feel "junk", say the nembutsu in gratitude for your life and it will make a difference. We all have good and bad days. We are grateful for our good days but we often ignore the fact that we can be grateful for the bad days. Good or bad, Amida Buddha is here with us.

How many of you like to do laundry and have a sense of joy when you have clean beddings and clothes? It may be a sense of joy as you take it off the clothes line or out of the dryer but in a few days or a week, you will have another pile of laundry. That joy in clean laundry is only once a week or only once in a few days – only when you have clean laundry. Joy of Nembutsu is not once a week, it is always and forever.

How many times have you felt joy when you received recognition or honor? When your Reverend praised you for a work well done, did you feel a sense of joy? However, the next moment you might hear some harsh words about you from someone else and suddenly your bubble is burst and you no longer feel joy. Joy of Nembutsu can not be burst. It is all encompassing.

Have you looked at a blooming lotus and felt a sense of joy at seeing such a beautiful flower. Sometimes, when I do my ikebana, I admire the beautiful flower and wish that it could remain like that all the time because it brings me great joy in seeing it as it is. However, in a few days, it wilts and dries and falls. My grandfather had a lotus (hasu) patch on his property in Pearl City and every time the lotus bloomed, we were in awe and excitement to see the beautiful flower. However, sooner than we wished, the flower would wilt and die. The joy of the flower is a memory and the sight of it has disappeared. Joy of the Nembutsu is not a memory. It is here and now all the time.

I'm an ice cream lover but a messy eater. The ice cream on the cone often melts and drips. As I am slurping the ice cream...mmmm...how wonderful but soon it is either in my stomach or has dripped to the ground. That joy was for a moment and dripped away quickly – especially on a hot day. The joy of Nembutsu does not drip away. It stays forever.

I am reading a book, "Black Ants and Buddhists" (Thinking Critically and Teaching Differently in the Primary Grades) by Mary Cowhey. Alice and Ty Unno had a part in helping this author. The author taught at the same school as Alice Unno in Northampton, Massachusetts. In her first grade class, the author noticed that one of the girls, Gloria, shrieked, "Black ants! Ugh" and soon Sadie screamed from across the room, "Ah! They're biting me!" and slapped her back and thigh for dramatic effect. Som Jet stood up at his table and said, "They are black ants. Do not kill them! " Do not kill them! They are living things! Black ants do not bite people!" Som Jet is a Buddhist. This teacher took her class through a discussion about life and about what to do with the life of the Black Ants. From this incident, her class did many compassionate acts – always with many questions from the students. Without realizing it, they were living the Joy of Nembutsu.

Today, I ask you, "What is Joy of Nembutsu for you?"

The question does not end here. Ask each other this question every Sunday. After a "Good Morning! How are you?" the next question is "What is Joy of Nembutsu for you?"

Let us all rejoice with "Joy of Nembutsu"! How beautiful each day is when we jump up to meet each bright day with "Joy of Nembutsu"!

So may we have a reflection at this time of Ohigan that the loneliness that befalls all of us from time to time can be overcome when we think of the "joy of the nembutsu" and of the interrelationships that surround our lives. We are but one and the "joy of the Nembutsu" within us brings forth happiness and contentment. As we interconnect and enjoy the fellowship with the sangha, we are joyful to be here today for today is the day, our day to be lived fully in appreciation. Namu Amida Butsu.

MOILILI continued...

Title: Gokurosama, Bon Odori Kichen Helpers!

It was a living "Golden Chain of Love" in action at the Moilili Hongwanji kitchen for our annual July bon odori. It was humbling and inspiring to see the BWA women work so hard and put together four dinners for workers and dancers over the two nights. At the 10:30 p.m. dinner, 100+ folks were fed on each night! On their feet for many hours, the "shower cap gang" were still able to laugh, dance (Tanko Bushi around the kitchen work island) and enjoy each other as they chopped away preparing all the delicious gochisou. The average age?...75+. Thank you all for your untiring efforts to make Bon Odori 2007 a success...once again. *(A typical event held at all Hongwanji bon dances this summer -- thank you to all BWA ladies!)*



Hard working ladies from Moilili BWA taking a well deserved break from the kitchen.

HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BWA

Hawaii Betsuin BWA

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mary Tanouye

I've been skimming through pages of remarkable quotes from such minds as Dalai Lama, Mohandas Gandhi, Thich Nhat Hahn, and even Prince Shotoku on the subject of peace. Every set of words was a perfect gem and I wished that I could store them for future use. But given my declining years and high rate of forgetfulness, I knew that it was a pointless dream. But there were a few I highlighted because they hit a resounding chord, some seem to be directed at me.

Such as these from the mind of the Dalai Lama:

*Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.

*If you can, help others; if you cannot do that, at least do not harm them.

*If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

*Old friends pass away, new friends appear. It is just like the days. An old day passes, a new day arrives. The important thing is to make it meaningful: a meaningful friend - or a meaningful day.

And these two struck me as very pertinent to my role as your president:

*Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.

*Sometimes one creates a dynamic impression by saying something, and sometimes one creates as significant an impression by remaining silent.

Coupled with these two I found Prince Shotoku's Article X of his constitution resonating in my thoughts. The Prince wrote: Let us cease from wrath and refrain from angry looks. Nor let us be resentful when others differ from us. For all men have hearts, and each heart has its own leanings. Their right is our wrong, and our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools. Both of us are simply ordinary men. How can any one lay down a rule by which to distinguish right from wrong? For we are all, one with another, wise and foolish, like a ring which has no end. Therefore, although others give way to anger, let us on the contrary dread our own faults, and though we alone may be in the right, let us follow the multitude and act like them.

HONPA continued...

So what do all of these wise insights have to do with all that you good ladies of BWA are doing to keep the temple going? You are personifying compassion and goodness in all your actions, large and small. And for that I say thank you very much.

We have a few more activities to stage in the next few months. With your continued help and support, we should weather through these with the usual success:

On September 23, the HHHB-BWA is organizing a Peace Day Observance. At the end of each service, the temple girl scouts will help distribute to each attendee a specially made book mark for the occasion and a container of commemorative onigiri made by the ladies. As part of the 10:00 o'clock service, the Betsuin choir will sing selected gathas, we will have readings on Peace by Dennis Sekine followed by a performance of the Beatles song *Imagine* by Paul Shimomoto and Mark Tanouye. Following the 10 o'clock service, the Dharma School Taiko group will present a special performance in the social hall.

Then in October, HHHB-BWA in partnership with Sudhana Fellowship will again undertake the annual food drive to alleviate the pains of deprivation for those who cannot afford enough to each. Election of the BWA officers for the year 2008 will be held at our annual general membership meeting on October 14.

On November 4, following the 10:00 o'clock English service, there will be the annual BWA memorial service for our members who passed away during the year. Members are invited to the "shojin" lunch after the service, which will be prepared by the committee headed by Grace Zukeran. November is also the clean-up month for Hawaii Betsuin.

Of course, the year-end meeting and luncheon is scheduled for December.

Again, I thank you for your faithful and loyal help and ask for your continued active participation.

Thank you very much.

Hawaii Betsuin BWA Field Trip

On Sunday, August 12, 2007, sixty-nine Betsuin BWA members and friends gathered at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin for the 7:30 a.m. morning service. Following the service, the members and friends boarded two buses for the trek to the Windward side of Oahu. One bus went directly to Tagami and Powell Art Gallery where they saw the art works of Hiroshi Tagami and Michael Powell as well as ceramic pieces and paintings by other local artists. A walk around the garden and down the pathway to see many tropical and exotic plants were of great interest to our plant "experts". Back on the lawn, Mr. Tagami chanted to the group and the ladies sang a song for him.

The second bus went directly to Senator Fong's Tropical Garden and walkers/hikers went on a tour to see the many plants and to hear the explanations by the guide. Others remained back at the "pavilion" to sew flower leis, browse in the gift shop, and eat snacks.

At 10:00 a.m. the buses exchanged places so everyone could visit both places.

At 11:30 a.m., everyone gathered at Kualoa Ranch for a buffet lunch. The scenery of the ocean and many islands (including Chinaman's Hat) were a breathtaking sight. The beautiful and sunny day made the environment a true feast for the eyes and soul!

A quick stop at the Byodoin Temple in the Valley of the Temple ended the day. The sound of the bell and the large Buddha made this field trip meaningful for Buddhists. The calling of the bell to a place of worship and the Buddha in the center of the building with the beautiful mountain range in the background was a reminder of the gratitude we feel for each day that we live. We were thankful to join our friends, family, and members for a day on the Windward side. We lived in interdependence with the environment and the culture. We lived to breathe in the beauty and air of our majestic island. Namu Amida Butsu.

Special thanks to President Mary Tanouye, Sets Takashige, Nancy Toyama, and photographer Mr. Tachibana for their hard work and assistance during the field trip!

OAHU UNITED BWA

34TH ANNUAL SEMINAR

The welcome mat was out for all 125 BWA members and 4 ministers who had registered to attend the 34th annual seminar of the OUHHBWA on April 14, 2007, at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. The Wahiawa unit served as host.

Emphasis on the theme, "Embraced by Spiritual and Physical Well-Being," was evident from the opening service. In his sermon, Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki of Wahiawa Hongwanji explained why our human conditions, egos, and negative emotions prevent us from listening to the teachings. He encouraged us to open our hearts so that we could truly "hear."

Lectures on Jodo Shinshu followed. Rev. Ai Hironaka of Aiea Hongwanji spoke in Japanese. He told those in attendance to be satisfied with what we have, listen to the teachings, seize opportunities which allow us to live each day to the fullest. He reminded us that we are always embraced by the Amida who accepts us just as we are.

The lecturer in English, Rev. Dr. Mary David of Mililani Hongwanji, indicated that we are reborn spiritually as we go through phases of understanding of the Dharma. Growth in our knowledge of how to apply this to ourselves enables us to become better human beings.

Rev. David stressed the importance of balance in our lives, dealing with what we have been given and appreciating what we have. As family caretakers, we must remember to take care of our own needs, renewing our spiritual being. Take time, even briefly, to reflect and contemplate, hearing with our hearts and maintaining our relationship with the Dharma.

Both lectures were well received.

Dr. Jason Uchida, a naturopath, focused his talk about physical well-being on osteoporosis and how to keep calcium in our bones. A definition of osteoporosis, followed by a discussion on the role of calcium and supplements, appropriate diet, the importance of exercise and inclusion of daily exposure to sunshine all helped to broaden our understanding of factors related to osteoporosis and the prevention of osteoporosis.

Simple, practical exercises to build bone mass were demonstrated. The detailed and informative handout served as an excellent reference source.

After a delicious bento lunch, the closing ceremony included brief comments by Rev. Hironaka, minister-advisor, and Thelma Kawaguchi, president of OUHHBWA.

A day well spent, connecting with friends old and new. Even the sun broke through earlier rain clouds and helped to warm our bodies. It was a golden opportunity to listen to presentations on how we can enrich our lives, both spiritually and physically, as we continue together on the path of Nembutsu.

AIEA BWA

Why are you a Jodo Shinshu follower? This question was asked by Ms. Kathi Takakuwa, speaker at the memorial service for Eshinni-sama and Kakushinni-sama, sponsored by the Aiea Buddhist Women's Association (ABWA). Everyone has his own answer. Ms. Takakuwa's response was that Jodo Shinshu teachings influence every moment and every activity, everyday of her life. She highlighted the letters that Eshinni-sama wrote to her daughter, Kakushinni-sama, a recent, rare and valuable discovery. The letters revealed her strength to endure hardship during difficult time--a goal that we can all aim for today.

Inspired by Ms. Takakuwa's talk, ABWA members worked with the Kyodan during the annual fundraiser, where all joined together for a common cause and also socialized with one another under the leadership of President Thelma Kawaguchi and co-chairperson Arlene Sunada. Aiea Hongwanji Pre-school, Aiea Hongwanji Jodo Club, and Lotus Adult Day Care Center all participated. Renters of the social hall, Kumon, Samisen, and Aerobics classes, helped by selling tickets.

A mini-bazaar was held by ABWA during the bon dance in August. ABWA also hosted the annual Oahu Convention in October.

OAHU...continued

MILILANI BWA

In early February, a group of our members flew to the Big Island to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival in Kamuela. While there, they visited the Kamuela and Honokaa Hongwanji temples and presented donations to go towards earthquake relief.

"What If...?" was the title of an informational session hosted by our BWA in April for anyone interested in learning about legal tools that may help us better prepare ourselves to face end-of-life issues that arise in caring for an aging loved one. It was presented by student law clerks of the University of Hawaii Elder Law Program (UHELP).

Did any of you get to eat some of our oishii inarizushi in May? Our annual sale of inarizushi and takuwan was a very successful fundraiser thanks to the help of our temple members and our Junior YBA, who also earned some money for their club. Thru this sale, we were able to give a \$1,000 scholarship to Claire Doi's son, Ian.

With buckets of water and rags in hand, about 15 members gently cleaned the Ehime-maru memorial at Kakaako Park on a nice sunny day in June. We placed an arrangement of flowers, which came from the garden of Jean Sanehira, at the base of the huge gray anchor monument. As Rev. Mary David chanted and we offered incense, our thoughts were on the sailors who tragically lost their lives on the Ehime-maru. Afterward, we enjoyed a nice lunch at Dave & Busters.



Mililani BWA at the Ehime-maru Memorial at Kakaako Park.

In July, the two BWA exchange students, Clarynne Ishikawa and Carolyn Taira, who are from Mililani Hongwanji, were given a nice sendoff to Japan at the airport with their family, BWA friends, and even Bishop Okano and his wife there. They had a wonderful time there and came back with lots of pictures as well as senbei and cookies to share with everyone.

After waiting months for a reply, we finally received a letter from the Senkoji in Hiroshima, Japan, accepting our invitation to be our sister temple. They shared that they have 500 members but only 50 attend meetings. They invited us to go to Hiroshima for a special celebration in November this year and wanted us to dance hula for them. With our former minister, Rev. Suehira, as our translator, we hope to keep in touch with them and share what our BWAs are doing. Thankfully we have members who can read and translate Japanese for us.

PEARL CITY BWA

Members of the Pearl City Hongwanji Fujinkai represented the Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association in making a community service visit to the Pearl City Hale Adult Day Care Center on Friday, June 29. They presented a musical program with Michiko Kato as the M.C. The well-received program included a medley of Japanese and English songs as well as several bon dance numbers. The singing was led by Mrs. Yoko Murakami, and clients at the center enthusiastically clapped and sang along with some numbers. The bon dance presentation included the popular "Tanko Bushi," and an Okinawan number, for which the ladies practiced beforehand under the direction of Kristen Higa.

"asagao ya tsurube torarete
morai mizu"

Morning glory the well-bucket entangled I ask
for water

---Chiyo-ni

OAHU...continued

Yukie Ouchi represented the Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA and presented a monetary donation to the center. Pearl City President Yuriko Minakami then presented the center with a gift from the Pearl City Hongwanji Fujinkai, a check for \$100 to be used for purchasing needed supplies for art projects. The donations were received by Rosanna Evers on behalf of the Pearl City Hale ADCC. Everyone agreed that it was a morning well spent.



Members of Pearl City Hongwanji Fujinkai entertain clients at Pearl City Hale Adult Day Care Center.

WAHIAWA BWA

New Year's Party, March 11, 2007

Setting: Dining Hall, Luana Hills Golf Course, Kailua; bright sunny day, beautiful hillside, bird's-eye view of Windward Oahu, nice contrast from Wahiawa's Central Oahu plains.

Brunch Buffet: Inviting array of everything from "fruits to nuts," omelettes, roast beef, fish, veggies, breads, desserts. "No need to cook, no need to do dishes," we all happily said.

Time for Games: Energized by all the food, members enthusiastically "gave their all" to the fun activities and great prizes. This day of fellowship was arranged by none other than Margaret Kimura, Mildred Segawa and their helpers, who give much time and effort, as ever, for us all. Thank you!

Eshinni Day Observance, 9:30 a.m., English Service, April 22, 2007

Our BWA participation included incense and floral offerings; also, the decision as to which organization shall receive the morning's offertory collection. Our Wahiawa Dharma School was decided to be the recipient this year.

Lunch Preparation for Kyodan Volunteers on Hoshu Cleanup Days

For many years, the volunteers have been spending much time and hard work on cleanup and property maintenance on every other Thursdays. In addition, there is another activity: cleanup of the social hall on the third Saturdays has been going on. The social hall is the scene of many activities and is used by members and nonmembers. It's a busy place! These hardworking volunteers, we hear, look forward to the delicious refreshments prepared by our equally devoted BWA members.

WAIPAHU BWA

On May 10, 2007, we held a mini-awareness session to hear Mr. Tom Lynch, RPh, who is Staff Pharmacist at Longs Drugs, Mililani Market Place. Longs Drugs offers various services, such as home delivery of prescription medication, Senior Advantage Card for discounts on Longs brand items, and ordering prescriptions by automated phone system in file.

During the question/answer period, he shared lots of good information about many different types of prescribed medicine and the interaction or possible side effects you may have with over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, food and herbs that we take. He stressed that it is important to read the printout of your medications, which contains vital information. It was a very interesting session for our senior members, as many of us are on some kind of medication.

"If one walks looking far ahead and pays no attention to the ground beneath his eyes, he will stumble. If one gazes critically upon others and forgets to look into himself, he will bring tragedy upon himself."

---Rennyoo Shonin

BIG ISLAND UNITED BWA

HFHHBWA Newsletter Fall Edition – PUNA HONGWANJI BWA

September 11, 2007

The Fujinkai sponsored Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni Day service was held on April 1st to honor Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni and BWA members who passed away after April 2006. Reverend Irene Nakamoto was our guest speaker.

On Father's Day the BWA members honored Fathers and "special gentlemen" of PHM as part of the family service on June 17, 2007. The program ended with a dance-exercise performed with pink flower sticks to the music of "Shanghai Hana Uri Musume" by Dora Hashimoto, Kilyoko Imada, Masako Sanehira, Jean Tanaka, Mitsuye Toma, Tsugie Tsutsui and Yoshie Yamashita.

Thirty-two Puna BWA members and fifteen Kamuela members with Rev. Itaru Nozaki got together for their long-awaited Home and Home on August 11, 2007 at Puna Hongwanji. It was a day of fellowship with new and old friends. Everyone enjoyed Mr. Richard Imai, our "resident historian", who conducted a tour of our temple grounds and shared the history of our Bodhi tree. A delicious lunch was prepared by Lei Kakugawa and her committee and enjoyed by all at tables beautifully decorated with flowers and gift bags. Games, exercises and a paper craft activity was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the hard-working Home and Home Committee chaired by Helen and Nancy Yamada and all the members whose cooperation led to a very successful get-together.

Submitted by Jean Tanaka

PH BWA Secretary

PAPAIKOU BWA

The Papaikou Hongwanji Fujinkai visited the Hale Anuenue Restorative Care Center on August 25, 2007. They donated a boxful of homemade bibs and lap blankets. It is an annual project which the members have participated in for the past several years.



front row-from left: Hisayo Hiramoto, Sue Omori, Jean Yamada, Mitsue Okimoto

back row-from left: Rev. Nobuharu Kato, Miyoko Takahashi, Tsukimi Murashige, Satomi Hiura, Lucille Takemoto

Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Happenings

Mr. Pieper Toyama, head of the Pacific Buddhist Academy, was the guest speaker at the Buddhist Education Seminar held at Papaalooa Hongwanji Mission on Saturday, September 8, 2007.

The 53rd HIUHBWA Convention will be held at the Mokuola Room of the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel on Sunday, October 28, 2007. Representatives from each unit will attend a pre-convention planning meeting on September 22, 2007, at Papaikou Hongwanji.

BIG ISLAND...continued

HONOHINA FUJINKAI NEWS

Reporter: Kikue Sueda

On August 15, Wednesday evening, at eight pm, the Honohina fujinkai ladies did the omigaki before O Bon. The BWA meeting was held after the cleaning.

On Saturday evening, August 25, the Honohina Hongwanji temple held their O Bon service and dance. The Fujinkai ladies prepared the food for the dancers, and the kyodan members helped set the tables and also did other chores.

Papaalooa and Honohina Fujinkai will be hosting the Buddhist Education Seminar at Papaalooa Hongwanji on September 8th.

On October 17, Wednesday evening, beginning at 6 pm the Honohina Fujinkai will hold the Fujinkai Hoonko Service. The guest speaker will be the Reverend I. Nozaki from Honokaa Hongwanji. The Honohina Fujinkai president will be the M.C. for the service, and a pot luck dinner will follow.

On October 20th, Saturday, the Fujinkai and Kyodan members will be visiting the hospitals, such as Extended Care, Hale Anuenue, and the Life Care Center. The ladies will take some warm clothing, bibs, and other things that the patients can use. The group will then have lunch together at a restaurant.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2007 HOSTED BY HONOHINA / PAPAALOOA HONGWANJI FUJINKAI

The Honohina/Papaalooa Hongwanji Fujinkais hosted this year's Big Island United Hongwanji BWA annual Educational Seminar on September 8, under the guidance of hard working minister, the Rev. Nobuharu Kato. The program for the day consisted of Buddhist sermon by Rev. Kato; presentations by Mr. Pieper Toyama, head of Pacific Buddhist Academy; and some ladies from Marimed Foundation, led by Dr. Jennifer DeCosta. This foundation is headquartered in Honolulu but has an office in Laupahoehoe. It is dedicated to providing opportunities through sobriety to youth and families. 109 delegates attended the seminar from 9 units.

KAMUELA HONGWANJI BWA NEWS

Reporter: Nancy K. Nonaka

Our members took on a community project for the North Hawaii Community Hospital and were the first organization to present 74 "prayer blankets" to be presented to all their patients. Their request for these blankets were that we have "good thoughts" while preparing them and a blessing. Mrs. Leila Staniec, representative of the North Hawaii Community Hospital who attended the service to accept the donation, appreciated the spirit with which everyone involved contributed towards the project which the general membership voted to have as our annual project.

We would like to share our minister, the Rev. Itaru Nozaki's message: "At this time Kamuela Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association joined the Prayer Blanket Missionary. Our life is filled with warmth when sharing life with others. It is a simple truth to learn but a difficult practice to fully realize. In the personal sense, we act by placing ourselves in the position of another and in a wider sense; we give service to the community with joy and gratitude for the betterment of all. The practice of making others happy is based upon the truth that life is Oneness. In deep gratitude, may we realize this Oneness of all life, the heart of which is Compassion. May these blankets give all patients the strength of living in Oneness through the realization that there is somebody who are interrelated to them and always thinks of them. Namu Amida Butsu."



"Honohina/Papaalooa Hongwanji Fujinkai Planning Com.
Education Seminar Sept 8, 2007"

BIG ISLAND...continued

NAALEHU HONGWANJI MISSION

Reporter: Masako Sakata

On May 19, 2007 the Naalehu Hongwanji Mission celebrated its Centennial Anniversary and dedicated this auspicious event with deep appreciation in memory of the late Rev. and Mrs. Kikuchi who devoted their services from October, 1913 to February 1953 in the remote sugar plantation village of Naalehu on the Big Island. As part of the appreciation souvenir to the guests, the Fujinkai members put together a booklet with "Recipes from the grueling days of yesteryear to the comforts of today". The following are the few of the issei recipes that were printed in the booklet.

Eggplant Patties

Cut 4 to 5 long eggplant 2 inches in length. Soak. Cook eggplant until tender in pan. Tear into pieces. Add ¼ to ½ round onion, sliced. Add 1 egg. Salt and pepper to taste. Mix together and drop by spoonfuls into hot oil.
(Submitted by Irene Kohara)

Tutu's Cabbage/Watercress Salad

2 cups head cabbage, shredded	2 cups
watercress, cut in 1 inch length	
½ tsp. or less Hawaiian salt	½ to 1 tsp.
sesame oil	
1 Tbsp. shoyu	

Wash and slice head cabbage and water cress. Place both in a bowl. Just before serving sprinkle with Hawaiian salt. Add sesame oil and shoyu and mix.
(Submitted by Alice Yonemitsu)

Rice Cooked with Daikon Leaves

Blanch leaves from 1 daikon in salted boiling water. Remove leaves immediately and soak in cold water. Squeeze to remove liquid and chop finely. Mix well into cup of hot rice. Add dash of salt and serve.
(Submitted by Harriet Arakaki)

Hot or Cold Somen Sauce

1 c. water	¼ c. sugar
½ c. shoyu	1 pkg. dahinomoto
½ c. mirin	1 tsp. aji (optional)

Boil ingredients and chill
(submitted by Ellen Tsukamoto)

"ha mo chiri mo
hitostu utena ya yuki
no hana"

First winter rain--- the bamboo somewhere in
the dawn

---Chiyo-ni

.....

"chōwa yume no
nagori wake iru hana
no kana"

Traces of a dream--- a butterfly through the
flower field

---Chiyo-ni

MAUI UNITED BWA...

Maui BWA News

From August 9-13, 2007, our Kahului Hongwanji BWA, including those from sister temples at Lahaina and Puna joining us, made our way to Las Vegas for a vacation second to none despite the 106° heat! Why? The highlight of the trip was the Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha 19th Annual Obon Festival on Saturday the eleventh. The well organized event is held during midday in the air-conditioned gym at Cimarron Memorial High School. It brings together people not only from all over the USA but also from other nations as well. We were welcomed by Dale Ito, President of the Sangha and chairperson for the event with gassho delivered by Reverend Marvin Harada from California. The master of ceremonies for the event was former Lahaina resident Wayne Tanaka, whose dad was a Buddhist priest in Lahaina many years ago. There were many numbers familiar to obon dancers but with the area flavor adding interest and attention. Most of all, it was a joyous event held in honor and appreciation of those who have passed on before us. If you haven't been to this event, make it a point to get there next year and capture the joy and spirit of obon Las Vegas style! Thanks to the excellent planning and foresight by our program committee co-chairs, Geraldine Kodani and Patsy Saki, a great time was had by all. Thanks also go to our Lahaina Hongwanji members who provided us with a hardy, ono local meal including spam musubi and trimmings and Anita's fry-soup for our flight to Las Vegas!

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BWA

August 20, 2007

The 110th anniversary celebration of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission is scheduled for 2009. The BWA will be donating two sets of uchishiki and a minister's "apron".

We prepared sekihan, barazushi and musubi plates for the Maui Matsuri. Festival at Maui Community College. This is the first time, we prepared musubis which turned out to be a good seller.

On June 4th, Awards Sunday, the BWA presented a Dana check of \$2,000 to the Kyodan. We also presented monetary "thank you" gifts to the Dharma school teachers for volunteering to share their knowledge of the Dharma to our youngsters. Other checks were given to the Jr. YBA and the Dharma School students to help defray the costs of their Lanai trip.

Our annual Autumn Craft and Food Fair will be held on October 20 from 8:00 to 12 noon. We will have 36 crafters – 24 from Maui, 11 from Oahu and 1 from the Big Island. The BWA ladies will be preparing the food items – nishime, baked chicken, pickled veggies including the popular ogo namasu, sekihan, barazushi, baked products and bento dishes: teriyaki meat with rice and chicken with rice.

On Bodhi Day, December 8, we will visit the elderly care facilities, Hale Makua Wailuku and Hale Makua Kahului. Last year, we had lunch with the Kahului clients that were members of our temple. We hope to repeat this again.

To increase attendance at our BWA meeting, we had Teresa Chang, Maui Memorial Medical Center's clerk demonstrate DAIKON CAKE. This is a steamed cake that is sliced and fried. She also made cabbage tsukemono using ling hing mui.

With a membership of more elderly and homebound members, the WHM BWA has reluctantly curtailed the production of sushi for Kyodan and Autumn Craft & Food Fair sales. More than half of our membership are 80 years+ or homebound. At the annual General Cleanup for our Obon, our BWA ladies were in charge of cleaning of the interior of the temple. We have done this for years and years. Our faithful BWA ladies are limited in the kind of work that they can do. We have suggested that we should share the cleaning with another group.

*"suzushisa ya suso karamo
fuku yabu tatami"*

*The coolness--- of the bottom of her kimono in
the bamboo grove*

---Chiyo-ni

MAUI continued...

LAHAINA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE FOR BWA FEDERATION FALL NEWSLETTER

In the previous BWA Federation newsletter, Lahaina Hongwanji BWA expressed concern about the decreasing membership of our temple and of the BWA. Happily, we are able to announce that four new members have joined the BWA. The number may be small, but the gratitude is big!

It is, perhaps, fitting at this time to not dwell on decreasing membership. Instead, let us look at the essence of Buddhist Women's Association --- what it means to all of us. What's important is *history, tradition, purpose,*

and, yes, *change* as well.

HISTORY: A strong member of Lahaina Hongwanji BWA is Ms. Miyoko Yamamoto. The photos below show her own history with the Fujinkai. In one photo Miyoko-san is shown holding a doll that she made in the 1950's, in a church-sponsored class. That beautiful doll still stands elegantly in a glass case at Miyoko-san's home. A more recent photo shows this respected BWA member helping out with refreshments for a church event.



TRADITION: The traditional Fujinkai roles such as temple cleanup, preparation of buffet meals and refreshments, and hospital visitations continue. The photo shows our BWA ladies at the Hale Makua long-term care facility.

“The faults of others are easy to see but the faults of our own are difficult to recognize. If one sees that he has a fault, he must realize that the fault must be very grave indeed for him to recognize it himself; thus, he must take steps to correct his fault. Because it is difficult for us to see many of our faults, we should listen to the advice of others.”

MAUI continued...

TRADITION: The traditional Fujinkai roles such as temple cleanup, preparation of buffet meals and refreshments, and hospital visitations continue. The photo shows our BWA ladies at the Hale Makua long-term care facility.



PURPOSE: The BWA continues with its purpose/function of participating in temple fund-raisers: Bazaar concessions & crafts, Obon concessions, Ono-Huli chicken sales, etc. Another function of the association is sponsorship of events such as the *Eshinni Day Service and Luncheon*. This year, the event was celebrated as *Eshinni-Kakushinni Day* and the guest speaker was Mrs. Takako Hashimoto, wife of Rev. Kojun Hashimoto of West Kauai Hongwanji Mission.



CHANGE: Change is inevitable, and it can be a positive experience. One potential change is for the BWA to try new/different methods of carrying out traditional activities. In April, a handful of Lahaina Hongwanji ladies were invited by Rev. Kumika Soga to visit Kahului Hongwanji Mission to observe their way of making maki-zushi --- which is an "assembly-line method". [Rev. Soga is Lahaina Hongwanji's minister; she is married to Rev. Jeffrey Daien Soga, minister of Kahului Hongwanji Mission.]



Buddhist Women of Hongwanji temples –let us honor our history and tradition and promote growth and strength through purpose and change.

LANAI BWA

UPDATE FROM LANAI

On Mother's Day, May 13, our members gathered at the Manele Bay Club House for a gala luncheon. Sixteen members were in attendance. We had a delicious lunch and dessert. There were many door prizes donated by members, members' families and local merchants.

In July, we celebrated OBon with a service on July 7, led by Reverend S. Murakami. On the next Saturday, July 14, we held our OBon dance. The ladies worked very hard preparing sushi and chow fun for sale and decorating the Yagura. For the first time in several years, we had some sons of our members join the dance to play drums for us. As usual we were very grateful to many Maui Hongwanji members for visiting and leading the dances.

Our August guest minister came to us from the Puna Hongwanji. We were happy to meet with Reverend Earl Ikeda once again. Also we hosted a group of Dharma school students from Kahului at the end of August. Reverend Murakami and Jane Amaral brought them to Lanai and invited our members to join them for dinner and a morning service.

October was a very busy month for our group with the Fall Assembly, a visit to the Makawao Anniversary celebration and our annual Bazaar. The members again helped for the bazaar with food preparation and manning the sales booth.

Our year-end service was held at 7 pm on December 31st. Ladies provided soba noodles and other treats to attendees as we toasted the beginning of a new year.

"hatsu shigure doko yara take no
asaborake"

First winter rain--- the bamboo somewhere in the dawn

---Chiyo-ni

KAUAI UNITED BWA

NEWSLETTER FROM KAUAI

Reporter: Cynthia Matsukawa

MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Annual General Membership Conference will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at the Lihue Hongwanji Mission Social Hall. Guest Speaker will be Mr. Melvin Rapozo. He will talk on the topic of "Identity Theft and Scams." During the conference, a memorial service will be held for all those members who have passed away during the year. Also honored will be Dharma School teachers who have served 5, 10, 15, 20+ years of service. The meeting will conclude with the Installation of Officers for the term 2008-2009.

VISITATIONS:

Members of West Kauai BWA visited their members who were in Skilled Care Facilities (Waimea Care Center, Omao Care Home, Garden Island long term care) or living with relatives away from their homes on August 19, 2007. Each member was presented with a nenju.

Members of Lihue Hongwanji BWA entertained the patients at the Garden Island Long Term care (Wilcox Hospital) with a mini-"Bon Dance" on July 25, 2007.

KAUAI...continued

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Three students from the Kauai High School Class of 2007 were awarded \$2,000 each from KUHBWA for their dedication to Dharma school, service to their respective temples and general knowledge of Buddhism. These three students from Lihue Hongwanji Dharma School are: Christopher Paler (University of Hawaii – Manoa), Cara Nonaka (University of Hawaii – Hilo), and Kori Masuda (Western Oregon- Monmouth). All candidates were interviewed and asked a series of questions. Their scholarships were awarded at the Lihue Hongwanji Baccalaureate Service on May 20, 2007.



2007 KUHBWA Scholarship Recipients

PLANTING OF MARIGOLDS:

It is time to start planting (late August/early September) our marigold plants for the annual Lonesome Grave project to be held on November 10. Members from each unit join with other Sangha members to decorate the graves at Kauai Veterans Memorial Cemetery for Veterans Day Celebrations each year.

Renny Shonin said, "The average person will not tell you unpleasant facts about yourself to your face but will repeat them behind your back, yet he will become angry should unpleasant things be said behind his back. I do not believe this should be so. If it should be difficult to say something bad to my face, say it behind my back. Say something unpleasant about me. Then shall I learn of my faults and correct them."

.....

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