



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,

Greetings of the new year. 2007 has brought many changes for us. We bid farewell to Bishop and Mrs. Yosemori with deep appreciation for their commitment to the Federation. We welcome Bishop Thomas Okano and Mrs. Okano who will now be our new honorary president. We look forward to a warm working relationship. As of this writing, our new minister adviser's appointment has not been announced, but we also welcome him or her.

Now that the 13th World Convention is over, our final responsibility will be the printing and distribution of the post-convention booklet. The survey of resolutions will give us a good indication of those programs which mean the most to us, and we will then be able to turn our attention to areas which need strengthening.

Dwindling membership is a concern not only for the Federation, but for the entire Mission. As I looked over the annual reports turned in by United presidents, I was impressed by the wealth of activities carried on at the unit

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levels. Can these activities be opened to non-members in the temple or friends in the larger community to spark the interest in our organization? Another area of concern is the serious shortage of ministers. What can women do to ease the ministers' burdens?

We lost an inspirational leader when Mrs. Toku Umehara passed away in January. The Federation sponsored the memorial service at Hawaii Betsuin to honor her for the years of dedication to our organization.

On a personal note, thank you for the kind expressions of concern for my family's loss.

Let us live each day "embraced by the vow".

In gassho,

Carol Yamamoto

Aloha and Mahalo

Dear members of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for the friendship, kindness and patience that my husband I have received from all of you all these years.

When my husband became the Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in 1996, as his wife, one of my obligations was to serve this organization as honorary president which was a tremendous task for me at that time. However, with your great support I was able to serve this wonderful organization and end my tenure this year.

When I reflect upon the past years, I find many pleasant and happy memories of the BWA members and events. As honorary president, I have been fortunate to be able to work with three Federation presidents: Mrs. Fusae Kiyokawa, Mrs. Rose Nakamura and Mrs. Carol Yamamoto—all excellent BWA leaders who guided the Federation of BWA in the right direction. I met many devoted members and brilliant leaders who inspired and nurtured me as a Buddhist woman who truly believes and trusts the Jodo Shinshu teachings.

I have attended countless number of meetings, services, seminars and conventions which the BWA sponsored. I participated in six World Buddhist Women's Conventions in Japan, Canada, Mainland USA, Brazil and Hawaii but the most unforgettable event for me, was the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention which was a great success.

I'm very proud of this group--who proved the world that good results can be achieved when a challenge is confronted with spirit, determination and effort. Please continue to be active BWA members, support temple activities and help our ministers.

Even though my husband will retire from active ministry, will continue to be a BWA member and look forward to participating in future events and programs.

In closing, I would like to express my true Aloha and Mahalo to all of you and send best wishes to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations.

In Gassho,

Chihoko Yosemori

Mrs. Toku Umehara EULOGY By Fusae Kiyokawa

January, 30, 2007. Today we are honoring Mrs. Toku Umehara, mentor, "mother", "grandmother", and a revered leader of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Who was Mrs. Umehara? As a mentor she was always in her office down stairs to help any with suggestions to their problems or ideas. She was our example as to how we might do whatever needed doing. I was very fortunate to have this "jewel" precede me as President of the state Buddhist Women's Association.

"Mother" Umehara helped our new ministers with their adjustment to our temple community, be it in language, getting to know the customs of our Hawaii, and probably "mothering" them while they were away from their homes.

While she was state director of the Sunday Schools then of Primary Education, she volunteered as a religious education teacher at Hongwanji Mission School, where the little ones referred to her as "grandma". Whenever an organist was needed you found her seated at the organ. When the mission school had special services, she was also one of the Speakers. She was great at recruiting teachers for the Sunday School (called Dharma School today.) There are still some teachers she had recruited helping in the Dharma School.

A little known fact of her long tenure at the Hongwanji Mission is that for all the time she was with us, she was a part time employee. All the times we sought her help, she was a volunteer.

We members of the Buddhist Women's Association gained from her leadership as the President of the Federation. She was instrumental in encouraging us to implement resolutions approved by the World Federation. You may be familiar with some of those projects: HOSHA DAY, once a month cleaning of the temple and altars; ESHINNI DAY, an annual celebration for Shinran Shonin's wife; and STUDENT EXCHANGE with Japan where we send two students to participate in this program.

We were very fortunate in having Mrs. Umehara participate in our video made for the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention held in September of 2006. This video is called, "The Lotus Blooms in Hawaii" -- a pictorial history of the Buddhist Women of Hawaii.

Mrs. Umehara will always be with us as we continue her legacy in the many different programs that we continue to carry on.

In Gassho, Namu Amida Butsu.

HONOLULU UNITED BWA

JKOEN BWA

Annual New Year Party

A fashion show of very versatile mix-and-match clothes from Lois Toyama's Weekender line modeled by Helen Asato, Mernie Miyasato-Crawford, Suzy Nishiyama, Doris Oshiro and June Sutterfield was the highlight of this annual get-together planned by co-chairs Dorene Niibu and Pat Shiroma on January 27. Fifty-five members and honored guests gathered at the Honolulu Country Club for a great lunch, games and prizes. New officers for the next two years were also formally installed by the Rev. Shindo Nishiyama.

Many members (to fill over five tables) have signed up for the Aloha Banquet for Bishop and Mrs. Chikai Yosemori in March because of our close ties all these years. We all have such fond memories of their 15 years at Jikoen when we all worked, laughed and cried together at so many different functions and projects. We hope to keep these bonds ever stronger after they retire from their formal duties.

INVITATION to JIKOEN open house in November

Despite inadequate publicity, we attracted a nice crowd of people who came to see what Jikoen temple has to offer in the way of projects, clubs and activities. President Barbara

Yamada with the help of her daughter Denise Hirano put up an eye-catching display of photos and information to introduce the JBWA to our visitors. Many other members also donated all kinds of desserts to supplement the simple lunch and snacks that were provided by the kyodan. Jikoen plans to make this an annual affair to publicize what all our temple's affiliates do throughout the year.

Six octogenarians from among us were recognized and honored at our Keirokai service in November: Mitsue Aka, Janet Ginoza, Kimiko Ishiki, Sally Kiyuna, Shiz Miyasato and Sadako Oshiro. Each was given a beautiful montoshikisho by the kyodan.

New officers were elected in December to serve for the next two years:

President: Barbara Yamada
 Imm. P.P.: Helene Minehira
 V.P.: Shiz Miyasato
 Sec.: Helen Asato
 Corr. Sec.: Haru Okita
 Treas.: Annie Shimabukuro
 Auditors: Lillian Gima and Elaine Hirashiki
 Advisers: Masako Oda and Sadako Oshiro

We are proud to have a JBA member, Suzy Nishiyama, who will serve as the Honolulu United's president for 2007. Jiko-en will also be represented at the meetings by Shiz Miyasato (vice president) and Alice Tokuda (auditor). Our Rev. Shindo Nishiyama will serve another year as minister-adviser.

MOILIILI HONGWANJI BWA

The year 2006 ended with expressions of deepest sympathy and condolences extended to twelve families of BWA members who passed away during the year. At our November general membership meeting besides electing new officers, we welcomed five new members. They are Nancy Hironaka, Debby Ridao, Alisa Kondo, Lehua Matsuoka, and Fusaye Muramaru.

A great intergenerational event was held on November 29, when the BWA ladies joined the weekly Preschool Keiki Service. It was CARE (Compassion and Respect for Elders) Day at its finest. The youngsters were excited to see grandparents and friends among the elders who joined them in the temple. The children offered colorful paper leis to each of the seniors and in return the BWA ladies and gentleman strummed and sang "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

The 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention

*"Buddha's Vow, My Aspiration:
May there be Peace in the World,
May the Buddha Dharma Spread
over here."*

Rev. Eric Matsumoto gave a short dharma message before the group adjourned to the annex for planned activities which included self-help shiatsu, nostalgic children's songs, onenju making, mini ikebana and card games. A delicious healthy lunch and a bag of donated goodies ended a highly successful day which everyone agreed to make it an annual event. We would like to thank the Preschool Director, Mrs. Alison Sakamoto and the Staff for allowing the BWA members to share in the morning service.

Zenzai and soba were January's Hoonko Day service refreshments made by the BWA ladies. In addition 35 extra servings were made and delivered to selected homebound members of the BWA and Kyodan.



CARE Day - Preschool Keiki service

KAILUA BWA

Happy New Year!

Kailua BWA ended 2006 with our Bonenkai on December 10, 2006 at the Olomana Golf Club's Sakura restaurant. Everyone enjoyed a teishoku lunch in exchange for canned/packed food for the food bank

Other annual activities that kept the ladies busy were the annual garage sale on November 4, 2006 and the poinsettia plant sale in December.

2007 Officers are:

President Jean Fukumoto
1st VP Elaine Fukada
2nd VP Betty Okamoto
Rec.Secty Miyuki Masuda
Treasurer Janet Kukino
Auditor Shirley Yanagisawa

HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII BETWUIN BWA

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2007

Congratulations to the following who were unanimously elected at the general membership meeting on October 1, 2006, and they were installed on December 17 at the general membership meeting and luncheon get-together.

President:	Mary Tanouye
1 st vice pres.:	Setsu Takashige
2 nd vice pres.:	Lois Yasui
Rec. sec.:	Fujiko Motobu
Correspond.sec.:	Alice Omura
Treasurer:	Grace Zukeran
Assist. Trea.	Florence Wasai
Auditors (2):	Yukie Sakai and Peggy Shintaku
Directors (2)	Linda Toshima and Carol Yamamoto
Minister adv.:	Rev. Ryoso Toshima

The following members served in the nominating committee. Yolanda Hirohata, Blanche Sawamura, Florence Wasai, Carol Yamamoto, and Grace Zukeran.

Various standing committee chairpersons were appointed by the president. These are the following: Community Service: Carol Yamamoto, Education Committee: Fusae Kiyokawa, Finance Committee: Florence Wasai, Membership Committee: Shigeko Miyashiro and Sue Kaizawa, Nomination Committee: executive board to select chair, Program committee: Mary Tanouye, Publicity committee: Fujiko Motobu, Refreshment committee: Mary Fujitani and Miyoko Sato, and Welfare committee: Grace Zukeran.

FIRST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF BWA HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2007

Under the leadership of the newly elected BWA president, Mary Tanouye, the first general membership meeting and luncheon was held on January 28 in the main social hall. The president's main goal for this year is to increase membership, especially aiming at the younger members of Hawaii Betsuin; therefore, many guests were invited to attend the luncheon. Men and women were invited and they all seemed to grasp the idea of working together, so we can anticipate a cooperative sangha for all BWA activities.

Last year, we initiated four new members; they were Yuka Takata, Dianne Ida, Liane Wong, and Alice Nagata. We are excited to have them join our group and hope to have many encounters of fun activities. Our goal is to pick up many more young women this year.

KITCHEN RENOVATION will be our main goal for this year. In planning the renovation, all organizations were invited to give input to the architect so that we can have a comfortable, workable area for food preparation. BWA ladies are hard workers but have never been the sole proprietor of the space, and we would like to have all the users from other organizations work harmoniously.



*2nd VP Lois Yasui, 1st VP Setsu Takashige,
newly elected President Mary Tanouye,
minister adviser Rev. Ryoso Toshima*



General Membership Luncheon Meeting

OAHU UNITED BWA

On October 21, 2006, the 48th Annual Convention of the Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji was held at Mililani Hongwanji. The theme was "Embraced by the Vow: In Harmony." The day started with a memorial service to remember the 28 members of the Oahu district BWAs who passed away between August 1, 2005, and July 31, 2006. This was followed by a talk by Gay Tanaka, an attorney and a member of the Mililani BWA, who made us laugh as she shared her perspective on the GEN X and Y woman and her journey amidst demanding jobs, family commitments, ipods, DVDs, DVRs, and the internet. Following the general membership meeting, the 2007 officers were installed. They are:

President - Thelma Kawaguchi (Aiea)
 Immediate Past President - Roseline Yano (Wahiawa)
 Vice-President - Janet Youth (Mililani)
 Recording Secretary - Joan Masaki (Pearl City)
 Corresponding Secretary - Takako Desaki (Pearl City)
 Treasurer - LeeAnn Hanabusa (Waianae)
 Assistant Treasurer - Mitsue Hanabusa (Waianae)
 Auditors - Nancy Kunitatsu (Kahuku) and Mieko Tanaka (Waialua)
 Minister Advisor - Rev. Ai Hironaka (Aiea)

The convention ended by all "harmoniously" enjoying a delicious bento, talking story with each other, and watching the World Convention video, "Lotus Blooms in Hawaii."

AIEA BWA

Aiea Hongwanji Mission Fujinkai was officially renamed Aiea Buddhist Women's Association at the April, 2006, meeting. Beginning in 2007, dues have been increased to \$20 annually.

Everyone worked very hard on July 22 during the chicken and sushi sale. Equally important was the serving of nourishment to the workers under the able leadership of Mrs. Mitsuyo Uyeunten. Mrs. Helen Onishi prepared a delicious omelet and her special mochiko pancakes.

ABWA's craft sale during obon was very popular and a huge success. Mrs. Pauline Higuchi and Mrs. Doris Shimizu worked diligently every week to have the items ready for sale.

Members who attended the 13th World Buddhist Convention were busy, but had a good time, too. They had a special treat when they met Reverend Harold Nobuo Oda of Los Angeles, who is the son of the late Reverend Hakui Oda, who served Aiea Hongwanji Mission for 26 years (1933-1959). He was a classmate of Kikue (Aburao) Higuchi and the late Tadashi Tasaki. Sweet memories!

Ten members from Aiea attended the 48th convention of the Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA on October 21, 2006. The 2007 convention will be hosted by the Aiea BWA.

A fitting activity to celebrate a successful year was the year-end luncheon. It was held at the Shogun Restaurant on December 14, 2006.

EWA BWA

On January 27, we celebrated the New Year at our Shinnenkai Celebration Luncheon. Also, honored were Elaine Yoshioka and Mitsue Kawamoto, who have reached the golden milestone of being 80 plus years old.

MILILANI BWA

With a prediction of rain in the forecast, the day turned out perfect for the 48th Annual Convention of the Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA that was held at Mililani Hongwanji on Saturday, October 21, 2006. Under the leadership of President Janet Honda, the members worked hard in planning and organizing this event for the expected 148 people.

To show our appreciation to those who helped at the World Convention, a mahalo luncheon was held on November 26, at our temple. Pizza, salads, and desserts were enjoyed by the kyodan and junior YBA members who attended.

The year ended with a membership drive dinner meeting on December 6. Four interested women attended. A huge spread of onolicious food was brought by members. June Asato made the evening fun with her games and prizes.

On January 14, 2007, following our Hoonko service, the officers for 2007 were installed by our new minister, Rev. Mary David. This was followed by everyone enjoying the zenzai made by the ladies of the BWA.

In 2007 we will continue to do hosha at our temple, visit Wahiawa General Hospital's long-term care patients monthly, collect and donate toiletries for charitable organizations, and clean the Ehime-maru memorial. And, please support our annual sushi sale in May.

PEARL CITY BWA

On November 26, 2006 the Pearl City Hongwanji BWA held its annual memorial service for members who passed away this year: Chino Tanikawa, Ichino Ishii, Kumiko Matsuoka, and Toshiko Kobashigawa. In his memorial message Rev. Toshio Murakami noted that these women will be sorely missed, especially during the coming holiday season; however, families can still cherish the happy memories of good times enjoyed with their departed loved ones.

Immediately following was the initiation ceremony, during which new member Tazuko Kanagawa was welcomed and presented with gifts by President Yukie Ouchi.

OAHU...continued

The rededication luncheon afterwards was held at Gyotaku Restaurant where members relaxed and enjoyed delicious food, fellowship, and a lucky number drawing. There were prizes galore--thanks to generous donations by members, as well as a special group of "omiyage" prizes given by our 13th World Convention visitors from Japan

Out-going President Yukie Ouchi thanked everyone for their unfailing support and cooperation during her term of office. She also reviewed the highlights and accomplishments of the past year, which included: hosting the annual Oahu Seminar, holding a successful fund-raising craft fair, and participating in the 13th World Convention. Incoming President Yuriko Minakami then asked for continued support and participation in future endeavors.

Thanks to Rachel Sakai and her tireless committee for making the Pearl City BWA Memorial Service, Initiation, and Rededication Luncheon a special day of remembrance, relaxation, and fun for all who attended.

WAHIAWA BWA

Sunday, October 1, 2006, was the day for a memorial service honoring our deceased members. Reverend Kevin Kuniyuki served as officiating minister. For this year's service, there was an addition of seven members who had passed away between August 1, 2005, and July 31, 2006. In his sermon, Reverend Kuniyuki reminded everyone that a service such as today's gives us a valuable opportunity to express gratitude to deceased members who in the past gave much effort to uphold our temple. Furthermore, it gives us all a precious moment to once again hear the Teachings.

Following the service, everyone was invited to the social hall for refreshments. There was much conversation and laughter, giving the impression that people were joyously connecting with each other.

Now, for the New Year 2007. Our first BWA meeting was held on January 14, opening with an installation ceremony for the 2007 officers. Then, as the meeting continued, there came an exciting announcement--we were gaining five new members: Hanako Hiroe, Patsy Kaya, Dixie Kurihara, Alice Nagai, and Tere Tanda. They were happily welcomed with cheerful applause!

Could there be a better way to greet the New Year?

WAIALUA BWA

As there are several members who are no longer able to actively participate in activities, the few, who are still able, continue to clean the temple and prepare food for special occasions. They also make time to visit the members who are being cared for in nursing homes.

WAIANAE BWA

The Waianae Hongwanji Fujinkai officers for 2007 were installed by Rev. Toyokazu Hagio on January 14, 2007, after the family service. Karen Hanabusa was the M.C. for the event. The officers were called for oshoko, candles were lit by the reverend, and the oath was recited. The officers are:

President: Mitsue Hanabusa
 Vice President and Immediate Past President: Lillian Hasegawa
 Secretary: Susan Ushijima
 Treasurer: Dorothy Yamada
 Auditors: Saddie Hanafusa, Mabel Saito, Irene Urada

This year there are four honorary members. They are Tsuruko Tamura, Ayako Tanaka, Doris H. Yamada, and Toshi Yamasato.

A recycled bottle painting workshop was held at Waianae Hongwanji for Fujinkai members in January. Those who participated enjoyed the event and fellowship, as they came up with ideas and shared their talent. Lani Ng taught them how to be brave and bring out our courage and

"The teaching of Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin gives us power to live together understanding the pain of others as our own, and further, it gives us power to reflect on the people of the future who do not yet exist in the present. The spread of this teaching will surely contribute to world peace."

Lady Noriko Ohtani

Pictures from Oahu United



*Oahu Convention
2007 Oahu United BWA Officers
and Reverend Ai*



*Mililani BWA Officers
for 2007 with Reverend
Mary David*



*Waianae Fujinkai
members painting
recycled bottles*

BIG ISLAND UNITED BWA

PAST EVENTS FROM HIUHBWA

Puna Hongwanji will host the Gatha Fest on February 25, 2007. Guest speaker will be Lee Ikeda.

Kamuela Hongwanji is busy preparing for their activities in conjunction with the Cherry Blossom Festival which will be held on February 3.

Naalehu Hongwanji honored five 90+ year old members at their membership dinner held on January 27, 2007.

Pahala BWA sponsors a sumie class once a month.

Honokaa Hongwanji BWA submitted the following: "Humu Papa" lei making classes were held in September and November, 2006. Mrs. Ayako Uehana Of Kohala Hongwanji Mission was the instructor.

After a memorial service and general membership meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2007, Honokaa BWA installed their officers. The outing for the day was brunch at the Hapuna Prince Hotel.

NEWS FROM HIUHBWA

Article by: Carole Tsutsumi

The 52nd Annual Convention of the HIUHBWA, hosted by the Kamuela Hongwanji BWA, was held on Sunday, October 22, 2006, at the Honokaa Hongwanji Social Hall. Theme of the convention was "Embraced by the Vow: In Harmony-Hand in Hand." Chairperson Nancy Nonaka and the various committees put together an excellent program.



Peanut Butter Ministry group

Keynote speaker was Kyoko Nozaki who told of her experiences with depression and touched the hearts of all those present. She is the wife of Rev. Itaru Nozaki, minister of the Honokaa, Kamuela, Paauilo and Kohala Hongwanji Missions and is presently majoring in psychology at the University of Hawaii Hilo.

On display in the hall were quilts by Emi Wakayama who created a Sagarifudi sashiko quilt especially for the convention and Marvis Yanagisawa who displayed a quilt created in response to a challenge by her guild, the Mauna Kea Quilter's Guild. Also on display were samples of the uses of furoshiki by Yukie Oye.

After a bento lunch prepared the men of Kamuela Hongwanji, the convention was entertained by performers from the various temples. Mrs. Isao Yamashita, a centenarian member, was presented with a resolution of appreciation and congratulations.

Installed to lead the organization for 2007-08 were President Etsuko Mori (Hilo), 1st V.P. Nancy Nonaka (Kamuela), 2nd V.P. Sally Tayama (Papaikou), Recording Secretary Jane Iida (Hilo), Corresponding Secretary Masako Sakata (Naalehu), General Fund Treasurer Lillian Watanabe (Hilo), Asst. G.F. Treasurer June Fujikawa (Kona), Scholarship Treasurer Janet Watarida (Puna), Auditors Janet Iida (Hilo), Jane Uyeno (Honohina), Sue Ito (Honokaa), Hazel Maedo (Kona), Irene Takahara (Pahala), and Federation Directors Motoe Tada (Hilo), Sally Tayama (Papaikou), Harue Furumoto (Honokaa), Nora Koyanagi (Kona), and Masako Sakata (Naalehu).

The 53rd Convention, to be held on Sunday, October 28, 2007, will be hosted by Papaikou Hongwanji BWA.

HILO HONGWANJI BETSUIN BWA

The Hilo Betsuin BWA went on record to be one of the sponsors of the long-standing Peanut Butter Ministry originating at the Hilo Methodist Church to "Feed the Hungry and Needy." They prepare about 100 meals twice a week and are celebrating their 25 years of service. We felt that it became necessary for us to be visible in the community and public service is very important for the BWA and the Temple.

A group of volunteers from our BWA and friends have been helping for the past 5 years under the leadership of Elaine Sugai and listing themselves as Buddhist Women. Preparation of the dinner is done once a month on the fourth Thursday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Hilo Methodist Church. Carole Tsutsumi is the coordinator. We welcome anyone to volunteer.

BIG ISLAND...continued

HONOMU FUJINKAI

Two dedicated Fujinkai members passed away in 2006: Hisayo "Miki" Shishido on Sept. 17th and Mitsue Matsuura on Oct. 22nd. We are thankful for all their contributions to our Fujinkai.

A successful Mini-Bazaar was held on Sat., Nov. 4th. We had a special area, organized by Rev. N. Kato that sold selected items such as kimonos, vases, beautiful oriental dishes and other "antique" items. Many of the unsold items were later donated to the Goodwill and Salvation Army Stores.

Other activities winding up the year were: General Meeting (Election of Officers) and Annual Sokai (year-end luncheon and fellowship) on Sat., Dec. 2nd and Care Homes visitation and distribution of lap blankets and aprons (bibs) on Fri., Dec. 15th.

NAALEHU HONGWANJI

On Saturday, January 27, 2007, the Naalehu Hongwanji held their annual Shinnenkai at the Naalehu Hongwanji temple. Though the attendance was small, everyone present enjoyed the warm New Year gathering.

Several noteworthy presentations were made at this time. Keirokai members 90 years and beyond were given special recognition with a short narration of each member along with a lei and Valentine gift. Ella Sakamoto, Momoyo Guela, Takeshi Yonemitsu, Kenichi Miyahara, and Toshiyuki Takaki were the honored guests.

Dana Committee presentation of check to Administration of Hale Ho'ola Hamakua, Mr. Romel Dela Cruz, by Mrs. Janet Murakami of Honokaa Hongwanji Mission.



Special recognition was awarded to Gladys Yonemitsu with a beautiful floral arrangement for her devotion and dedication in serving the Hongwanji for 27 years as President of the Fujinkai and Chairperson of the Women's Affairs Division.

Two indispensable members, Iwao Yonemitsu and Takumi Shirakawa were also recognized for their willingness to serve as perpetual Naalehu Hongwanji presidents; and also to Rev. Earl Ikeda for having served Naalehu Hongwanji with great sincerity and devotion. (Earlier in the month Alice Yonemitsu was recognized for her exceptional gifts of Love and Devotion to needy members and community people.) Lastly the entire membership was presented with a beautiful protea arrangement for their support and cooperation throughout the years. The beautiful floral arrangements were generously created by Marla McCasland, Jim Anderson and Connie Stanton of Hawaiian Flowers of Kau.

The delicious dinner was prepared by Le Shirakawa (whose son donated the huge onaga, poke and sashimi) Gladys Yonemitsu, Hana Miyahara, and Nancy Yanagawa. We were grateful for the participation of the Puna Hongwanji and Pahala Hongwanji guests which added to our small attendance. Puna Hongwanji members Carol Tsuneyzumi tried out everyone's commercial skill with a fun game and Hatsumi Tanaka did "Name that Gatha" on the keyboard which stumped everyone memory as they recalled the tune but couldn't come up with the title. The evening ended with happy feelings as everyone carried their gifts and happy memories home. We were only sorry that more could not make it to the function.

MAUI UNITED BWA

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BWA

Makawao Hongwanji is looking forward to our 100th Anniversary celebration on October 20-21, 2007. Our altar has been sent to Japan for refurbishing and our kitchen renovation is underway. BWA President Diane Kosaka and member Karen Ishizu are co-chairs for this event. BWA members chairing committees are Alison Nakagawa, Pearl Yamamoto, Marilyn Morikawa, and Lois Nishikawa.

At the World Convention, Makawao Hongwanji BWA members met Rev. and Mrs. Toro, Mrs. Umitani's parents from Okazaki, Japan.

In December, BWA members joined the Dharma School Bodhi Day visitation to Kula Hospital followed by a luncheon at Kula Lodge. January was our annual New Years Party, where the beautiful flower arrangements were created by the BWA.



BWA ladies enjoyed creating the flower arrangements for the New Year's Party.

KAHULUI HONGWANJI BWA

We welcome the New Year with a fresh set of officers serving our KHBWA for newly adopted annual terms. They are President - Earlyn Ginoza, Immediate Past President - Charlotte Wilkinson, First Vice President - Geraldine Kodani, Second Vice President - Reiko Kondo, Secretary - Ellen Nishimura, Assistant Secretary - Diane Lee, Treasurer - Patsy Saki, Assistant Treasurer - Irene Imada, Auditors - Harriet Toyama and Joan Yokoyama, Directors - Mabel Domae, Yvonne Kishi, Yaeko Matsuda, Lillian Sakuma, Bernadine Tagomori, and Arleen Yoshimoto. Serving as our Maui United BWA director is Geraldine Kodani. The ambitious members are excited to embark on this activity filled year, to include an off island trip or two, assisting at temple events and also enjoying the fellowship through participating in visitations, community events and at our annual luncheon. Imua BWA!



2007 KHBWA officers at their recent installation.

Federation of BWA's Purposes:

- to unify and cooperate with all United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Associations in the State of Hawaii;
- to perpetuate and expand Jodo Shinshu (Pure Land Sect) in the State of Hawaii;
- to promote the development of Buddhist women's organizations; and
- to participate in the promotion of Buddhism throughout the world and to work for world peace.

More pictures from Makawao



World Convention – Rev. and Mrs. Toro Umitani



Diane Kosaka and Karen Ishizu unveil the Makawao Hongwanji 100th anniversary t-shirt.

“Although growing in a muddy pond, the lotus remains pure, not defiled by its environment.”

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BWA

Wailuku Hongwanji BWA news January 2007. A survey of the membership shows there are about seventy members who are 80 years and older. The total membership is 104. Having more "seniors" than active members, the BWA will not be able to participate in the kyodan sushi sales and the selling of sushi at the annual Autumn Craft and Food Fair will be discontinued. The problem of selecting officers is one of the BWA's concerns. 2007 will have Margaret Honda and Sylvia Ishikawa as presidents, Nancy Oishi and June Amaral as vice presidents, Mary Tokumaru as secretary and Grace Hamasaki and Lillian Satoshige as treasurers. Sharing leadership roles has helped the BWA. One of the highlights of the year was the annual Sokai which was held at the Maui Prince Hotel, Wailea on February 11. Mr. Robin Tanaka, administrator of the Kaunoa Senior Services spoke on retirement and volunteerism. The popular Kaunoa program has a variety of activities that has captured the enthusiastic group of Maui seniors.

Maui United BWA news January 2007 Every year there are new officers for the Maui United BWA. Each temple unit takes turns to be in charge of the activities for the year. This year it is Wailuku's turn with Sylvia Ishikawa as president, Margaret Honda as secretary and Stella Kuwae as treasurer. The other officers are immediate past president: Joan Yokoyama, 1st vice president: Dawn Fujiwara, 2nd vice president - Diane Osaka, 3rd vice president: Setsuko Mendes, assistant treasurer: Diane Lee, auditors - Shirley Tobita, Bobbie Nakagawa. Directors are Hedy Sentani, Geraldine Kodani, Catherine Nohara, advisors: Mrs. Minae Murakami, Rev. Kumika Soga, Rev. and Mrs. Toshiyuki Umitani and Rev. Daien Soga. Shuji is Wailuku's Reverend Shinkai Murakami. A spring general assembly will be held in April.

MAUI...continued

LAHAINA HONGWANJI BWA

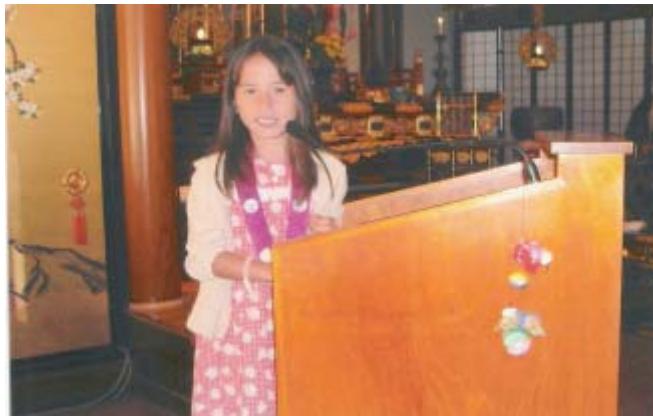
Rather than news giving a list of Lahaina Hongwanji BWA's events it may be of greater interest to talk about what concerns our BWA in the year 2007?

How many BWAs in Hawaii are experiencing this same dilemma? The congregation is dwindling; therefore the number of active BWA members is sadly decreasing as well. There are fewer and fewer of us to go around to meet the needs -- general cleanup days, preparation of concessions for the Bazaar and the Obon, assisting with funerals and other major services, etc.

Most of our active BWA members are in their 70's and 80's. They are amazing models of fellowship, faith, duty, plain old hard work, and tradition. These dedicated ladies are "slowing down", and some are encountering health problems. The handwriting is on the wall -- if a core group of about 20 are responsible for all the BWA-related duties --- what's to happen in the not too distant future?

Our BWA has taken a few steps toward a solution: 1) A few of the longtime BWA members have been instrumental in recruiting new members from the next generation. 2) The slate of BWA Officers for 2007 is almost all 'younger' or 'newer' members. The old-timers wisely urged this on, and they kindly promise to guide the newcomers along in their duties. 3) Hosha duties that had been the weekly responsibility of 7 rotating groups, then 6, then 5 -- are now being handled by two larger groups that rotate bi-monthly.

A charming story to interject here gives a small yet hopeful glimpse into the future. The photo shows 8-year-old Tavi Viela, granddaughter of Aileen Cockett, Lahaina Hongwanji's Kyodan President.



At our Bodhi Day service, in anticipation of the coming New Year, our interim Resident Minister's Aide, Rev. Kumika Soga, asked each person to state one resolution for 2007. Tavi, probably in admiration of her grandmother's key role at church functions, proudly stated, "I want to emcee!" Well, Tavi met her goal at the next Sunday service. She did a superb job of announcing the program -- with a minimum of cues from Grandma Aileen. Bravo!

Here's an account of all that goes into a fund-raising project. The project, since we're in Lahaina is PICKLED MANGO. Ono! From April through early September of 2006, the "mango crew" met practically each week, sometimes twice a week.

The first task was to scour the neighborhoods for just the right mangoes--green, but just soft enough to be cut in half. Then there was the peeling, cutting, making batches of pickling juice, measuring and filling mangoes into containers for selling. You could tell whom some of the "mango crew" was -- they could be caught "red-handed"! Lotta work, but the proceeds from sales helped to fund airfare, registration fees, and hotel rooms for delegates to the World BWA Convention in Honolulu! Although Lahaina Hongwanji BWA has a limited number of active members, these ladies accomplish a lot throughout the year. It would be a shame not to have a succeeding generation to carry on this great tradition of fellowship, faith, and service.

A "feel good" story relates to the 2006 World BWA Convention. The photo shows Lahaina BWA members Jane Agawa and Violet Nishijima with Tsuneyo Kagawa of Brazil. Mrs. Kagawa was a tablemate of Jane and Violet at the 2002 World BWA Convention. A good reunion and warm memories.



In closing, the issue of smaller and smaller congregations is, by information on the Internet and from temple newsletters on the mainland and in Canada, a hot topic. There is too much fellowship and benevolence in all BWA and in Buddhist churches -- we must keep it "alive and well". IN GASSHO.

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