



Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HAWAII FEDERATION OF HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

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Aloha, fellow BWA members,

On March 1, 2007, when my husband, Rev Thomas R. Okano, became the 15th Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, it became my responsibility to assume the position of the Honorary President of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association. With your warm support, I was able to carry on the duty for the past one year to which I am very grateful. During the year, I have had the opportunity to participate in several temple special services as well as other significant BWA events.

Next year, 2009, Hawaii Kyodan will be observing Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Services combined with 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Kyodan. We are anticipating that Monshu and Lady Ohtani will be gracing the events with their presence, not only in Honolulu, but also on each of the neighboring districts.

Mrs. Okano's message - continued on page 2

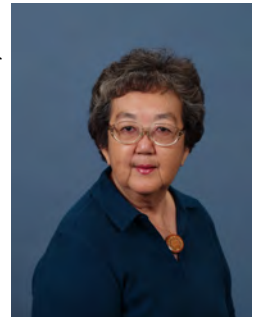
Welcome BWA Members and Friends,

It is with sincere pleasure to greet you as your new Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations president for the next two years. I am joining a distinctive group of three women, who are my dearest friends and mentors, the most recent former Hawaii Federation of BWAs' presidents. They are **Carol Yamamoto** (2004-2007), **Rose Nakamura** (2000-2003) and **Fusae Kiyokawa** (1994-1999). I thank them for continuously encouraging and supporting me and also for being strong staunch leaders of our association and the Hongwanji. Of course, I could not forget another outstanding woman, the late **Toku Umehara** who served as president from 1975-1993.

At this time I also wish to thank the former officers, directors, committee chairs and the many minister advisors who served the Hawaii Federation and especially thank **Bishop Chikai** and **Mrs. Chihoko Yosemite** and **Rev. Shigenori Makino** for their valuable help with the execution of the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention. Beginning this year, I look forward to working with **Bishop Thomas** and **Mrs. Michiko Okano**, **Rev. Eric Matsumoto** and the new officers, directors and committee chairs.

Historically, our Hawaii Federation is one of 5 World BWA Districts composed of Japan, Buddhist Churches of America, Buddhist Churches of Canada, South America and Hawaii with **Lady Noriko Ohtani** serving as our World BWA President. Most recently she joined us in Hawaii at the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention in September 2006. Likewise we are composed of 5 United island Districts. They are Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai with 34 temple BWA units and a little over 2,550 members in 2007. How fortunate we are to be part of this world wide Sangha and Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

With the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention behind us, we look forward to implementing the programs of the World Federation of BWAs at the Federation, District and Unit levels. They include DANA, Hosha, CARE Day, Peace activities, Student Exchange programs, as well as supporting our youths and honoring Eshinni-sama and Kakushinni-sama, wife and daughter of our founder Shinran Shonin, whose 750th Memorial we will celebrate in September 2009. Let us work together to carry out our four Federation purposes*.



In Gratitude,
Donna Higashi

*Five Year Theme
Embraced by the Vow
2008 Slogan:
In Gratitude-*

*Federation of BWA's
Purposes*

- To unite 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.

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Michiko Okano's message continued from page 1

These combined observances are once in our life-time events, and many special projects are being planned for the occasion. These projects are for the future of the Hongwanji, and a major fundraiser is being held to carry on these projects. BWA and all temple affiliated organizations are vitally needed to understand and support the Kyodan's efforts in fulfilling the dreams for the future.

At times like these, when there is a need to come together for a common goal, I am reminded of a well-known anecdote that I learned as I was growing up in Japan.

It is about a Samurai Lord Mori Motonari (1497 ~ 1571) and his lesson on the three arrows. Mori Motonari showed three arrows to his three sons, and told them, "Each of these arrows will break easily one by one, but when bundled together in one accord, they will be strong and will not break. Likewise, you three brothers must come together and live strongly."

For the sake of the future of the Hawaii Kyodan, let us work together, and with oneness of heart, strive for the brighter future of our Hongwanji in Hawaii. We will have many interesting and meaningful programs that are being planned by various BWA units for the coming year. Let us fully participate in these programs as proud BWA members.

ITEMS FOR SALE:

Montoshikisho (Hawaiian design) \$25.00

Bag for Montoshikisho (13th World BWA label) \$5.00

Special Offer: Montoshikisho and Bag \$25.00

Koa Pendant with Sagarifuji \$8.00

Koa Keychain with Sagarifuji \$8.00



HAWAII FEDERATION OFFICERS AND ADVISORS (2008 - 2009)

Honorary President - Michiko Okano

President - Donna Higashi

Imm. Past President - Carol Yamamoto

1st V.P. - Janet Honda

2nd V.P. - Rose Nakamura

Rec. Secretary - Cynthia Masukawa

Asst. Rec. Secretary - Fay Tateishi

Corresp. Secretary - Sylvia Ishikawa

Treasurer - Grace Zukeran

Asst. Treasurer - Mary Tanouye

Auditors - Twilla Castellucci and Etsuko Mori

Honorary Advisor - Bishop Thomas Okano

Advisor - Rev. Eric Matsumoto

United District Presidents (2008)

Kauai - Fay Tateishi

Hawaii - Etsuko Mori

Honolulu - Suzue Nishiyama

Maui - Dawn Fujiwara

Oahu - Rev. Jan Youth

United Minister Advisors (2008)

Kauai - Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

Hawaii - Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Honolulu - Rev. Shindo Nishiyama

Maui -

Oahu - Rev. Mary David

Directors (2008)

Kauai - Cynthia Masukawa

Hawaii - Harue Furumoto, Nora Koyanagi, Masako Sakata, Motoe Tada, Sally Tayama (3 only)

Honolulu - Mary Lou Lomaka and Lois Toyama

Maui - Diane Kosaka

Oahu - Takako Desaki and Helen Sasaki

Committee Chairs (2008 and 2009)

Bylaws - Joan Yokoyama

Finance - Fusae Kiyokawa

Membership - Rose Nakamura

Social - Sets Takashige and Sharyn Sekine

Projects - Janet Honda

Newsletter - Claire Tamamoto and Tamayo Matsumoto

Education - Edith Ushio

Student Exchange - Ethel Shintaku

Historian - Jean Fukumoto

HAWAII ISLAND

Hawaii Island United

The Hawaii Island BWA Board met on Saturday, January 6, 2008, at the Sangha Hall Conference Room at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, at which time the announcement of coming events was made:

Big Island Gatha Fest hosted by Kona Hongwanji - Feb. 28, 2008.

Buddhist Education Seminar hosted by Kona Hongwanji BWA - Sept.13, 2008.

54th HIUHBWA Convention hosted by Honokaa Hongwanji - Oct. 26, 2008.

Honumu Hongwanji BWA's **Centennial Celebration** will be held on April 27, 2008.

Dana Committee Chairperson **Diane Imada** announced that \$702 was donated to the Yukio Okutsu Veteran's Home, a 95-bed long term care home for eligible veterans, which was dedicated on November 12, 2008.

Hilo Betsuin

Hilo Hongwanji BWA held its annual Shinnen Enkai on Sunday, February 10, 2008. Co-chaired by **Ruby Maekawa** and **Lani Yamami**, the event focused on the theme, "Embraced by the Vow - in Gratitude." A service in the Sangha Hall began the day's events. The rimban, the **Rev. Toyokazu Hagio** officiated and was assisted by the **Rev. Bruce Nakamura** and the **Rev. Mariko Nishiyama**.

Sadami Hamamoto, a long-time Hilo Betsuin and BWA member, was the guest speaker. She shared her years of difficult times as an internee in the Rohwer, Arkansas camp. BWA President **Lillie Tsuchiya**, conducted a short business meeting and introduced new members. After lunch, a great program was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, March 2, 2008, **Mrs. Hiroko Takayama** will conduct a workshop on "Making Magnetic Bracelets."

In December and January, workshops on "Nenju Repair" were conducted by the **Rev. Bruce Nakamura**. Due to the workshop's popularity, another one is being planned.

BWA members baked fresh pumpkin pies and made yomogi dango for the Annual Pie and Dango Sale on February 18, 2008.

Naalehu

On Monday, February 11, 2008, the Naalehu Hongwanji Mission held its annual Shinnen Enkai gathering at the Naalehu Hongwanji. Besides the Fujinkai-prepared scrumptious dinner, foremost on the

program was the installation of officers, introduction of new Fujinkai members, **Marla McCasland**, **Jackie McMurray**, and **Connie Stanton**, and the recognition of some outstanding members.



Gladys Yonemitsu, a devout Fujinkai member and leader for many, many years was awarded special recognition. She first started as a young Fujinkai president and led the Issei women in the early years doing many fun Fujinkai related activities. She continued to lead the women's group in the local capacity and diligently represented our organization in the district and state levels until her retirement in 2008. We are grateful for her many years of service devoted for the perpetuation of Jodo Shinshu.

Papaikou

The Papaikou Hongwanji BWA hosted the 53rd Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Convention on October 28, 2007.

With the theme and slogan "Embraced by the Vow, In Deep Listening" as an inspiration, about 275 Hawaii Island BWA members, Ministers, and guests assembled at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

A memorial service to pay respects to deceased BWA members opened the Convention. It was officiated by the **Rev. Nobuharu Kato** and guest ministers.

Rev. Mrs. Kumika Soga of Maui gave the keynote address. Her address centered on her personal experiences with family and friends and was well received by all.



HIUHBWA President, **Mrs. Etsuko Mori**, conducted the General Assembly meeting. In a moving tribute, **Mrs. Hideko Motoyama**, a centenarian of Hilo Hongwanji, was honored and presented with a framed Resolution and a lei for her contributions

Hawaii Island continued . . .

to the BWA. A buffet lunch and varied entertainment of skits, dances, and vocal selections concluded the Convention.

The highly successful event was chaired by **Mrs. Mitsue Okimoto** and **Mrs. Helen Shiota Benevides**.

Puna

Puna Hongwanji BWA had a busy fall season with a very successful baking of fresh pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. This project, an annual event, was chaired by **Tsugiko Uchida** and **Masako Sanehira**. Through experience, we learned that regular hand blenders could not handle the continuous use necessitated by so much pumpkin pulp. The generous donation of two heavy-duty blenders by **Gladys Nakamura** made the task much easier.

Our holiday gift wrapping project at Puna Fresh Foods from December 12-24, 2007, chaired by **Gladys Nakamura** with members volunteering their time in three shifts, was very successful. We were able to meet the needs of the community and their generous donations showed their appreciation for this service.

The 2007 Year End Party, chaired by **Dora Hashimoto**, was held on February 2, 2008, at Michelle's Hale. Thirty seven members enjoyed a delicious buffet followed by fun and games.

The Puna Hongwanji Mission Shinnen Enkai Party will be celebrated on February 17, 2008. The BWA members will be singing "The Gatha of Aging" as its contribution to the program. This song, sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic", was inspired by the "Battle Hymn of the Aging" written by **C. Zukeran** (Keaau High School). A few lines of his lyrics were used but the chorus and the rest was written by **Helen Yamada** to fit the Fujinkai's particular circumstances.

HONOLULU***Honolulu United*****New Officers for 2008**

Suzue (Suzy) Nishiyama will be serving as president for another year. Other officers elected and formally installed at our December 2007 meeting are:

V.P.: **Shizue Miyasato** (Jikoen)

Rec. Sec.: **Mary Lou Lomaka** (Kailua)

Corr. Sec.: **Jean Fukumoto** (Kailua)

Treas.: **Alice Shiroma** (Betsuin)

Auditors: **Fujiko Motobu** (Betsuin)

Alice Tokuda (Jikoen)

Imm. Past Pres.: **Esther Fujioka** (Kailua)

Honorary Adviser: **Michiko Okano**

Dates and hosts for the four representative quarterly meetings are:

February 2 (Moiliili), June 14 (Kailua),

September 27 (Betsuin) and

December 13 (Jikoen).

The annual general membership meeting will be held on the same day as the third quarterly meeting in September. At press time, there were no plans for the education workshop this year.

Hawaii Betsuin

The year 2007 came to an exciting end on December 16 with a GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, followed by a YEAR-END PARTY at Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki. The general membership meeting included installation of officers for year 2008 and the initiation of new BWA members. The new members are **Norie Freitas, Barbara Kodama, Nora Matayoshi, Edna Muneto, Joyce Nishioka, Keiko Okazaki, Iris Omura, and Hanayo Shimabukuro**. The officers are serving their second term, led by **Mary Tanouye**.

The NEW YEAR began with a bang, and the BWA started with a general membership meeting on January 20, followed by our annual New Year's luncheon. The calendar of events was passed out to all. It showed another year full of activities for each month. In March, BWA will host three exchange students, high school girls from Miyoshi Hiroshima, Japan, our sister temple. Next year, we shall send our students to Miyoshi. This exchange program was just initiated as a Hawaii Betsuin BWA program.

Presentation of the ASOKA AWARD began in 1999 at Hawaii Betsuin, to recognize outstanding members who have shown generosity, dedication and constancy in Jodo Shinshu teachings. The award is named for King Asoka, who was a great supporter of Shakyamuni Buddha. The



2008 recipients were five BWA members; **Suzue Koizumi, Shigeko Miyashiro, Miriam Morimoto, Yasuko Nakamoto, and Alice Tando**. Averaging 40 years of service per member, they have contributed 200 years of service to Hawaii Betsuin. Congratulations to all.

Honolulu continued . . .

The BWA will sponsor the annual FRIENDSHIP BREAKFAST at Hawaii Betsuin on Sunday, February 17th. This is a money making project for Hawaii Betsuin. All the profit is donated to the temple each year and BWA has been a champion in making the most money. This year, instead of the traditional Japanese miso soup, rice, and eggs breakfast, it will be American French toast and eggs. This type of breakfast should be appealing to many people who do not have time to make them at home. Have a wonderful time and "eat up".

Our annual BAZAAR will be held on March 30th. Come and join us.

Jikoen

Celebrating Jikoen's 70th Anniversary

Jikoen temple is 70 years old! We have embarked upon a year-long celebration with a full slate of special activities and events, beginning with a string of lay speakers who will touch upon our history and culminating in a two-day program of a seminar, a commemorative service and banquet in November, at which time we will kick off a capital fund-raising program to finance an ambitious plan for further renovations of our temple, the pre-school and grounds. In between there are plans for a two-day retreat for Dharma School students, a goodwill golf tournament, a karaoke festival and a Las Vegas bon dance tour. The JBWA ladies will all be actively involved in these exciting activities.

JBWA's 2008 New Year Party

About 50 JBWA ladies and special guests gathered at the Honolulu Country Club on February 16 to celebrate the new year with a sumptuous buffet lunch, games and entertainment. **Dorene Niibu** and **Pat Shiroma** were the co-chairs of this fun-filled activity.

There was a brief moment of silence to honor those members who passed away since our last party: **Masako Nakasone, Rachel Ige, Tsuruko Kaneshiro, Hilda Nakasone and Masuyo Nakatani.** They shall be missed.

Also on the program was the recognition of officers who will serve another year.

Barbara Yamada will continue to serve as president until the end of the year.

Paranka Activity
Violet Ogawa-sensei,
Shizu Toguchi and



Shizu Toguchi with her paranku.

Grace Ueunten were vital to our Dharma School students' recent *paranku* activity.

They helped the youngsters to make the small hand-held Okinawan drums out of cardboard, white paint and red duct tape, then taught them the rhythmic strokes and some Dharma students Kaycie Moribe and basic dance steps. Shanna Nishiyama with their paranku.



To add to the activity, some students were even dressed in colorful dance costumes. These lessons came to good stead when some students joined the adults in the parade of participants that began Jikoen's annual bon dance in July.

Bon Dance Excursion to Las Vegas

Great interest has been shown among our members in the proposed trip to Las Vegas in August, 2008, when we will be joining the LV Buddhist Sangha for its annual OBon festivities. Two different groups will be spending five busy days there to enjoy a Sunday service and luncheon, the bon dance at a local high school's air-conditioned gym with craft and food booths, bus tours, shopping, night shows, and of course the casinos. **Dorene Niibu** is the general chair of this unique excursion.

Shichi-go-san Fundraiser

A very successful kimono-dressing event was held in November under the supervision of Sangha member



Jean Sakihara. In all, 37 children and three adults were dressed in beautiful kimono and *hakama*. There was even a hairdresser for the girls. All

participants had their pictures taken in front of the altar, and the proceeds (\$1070) were donated to Jikoen. **Suzu Nishiyama** coordinated the event with the help of **Ann Moribe, Carol Nagata and Ai Ogata.**



Masako Oda

Kailua

In November, Kailua Honganji welcomed **Reverend Bert Sumikawa** who has been assigned to Kailua Honganji and will assist **Reverend Shindo Nishiyama** with ministerial duties. **Rev. Sumikawa** received his tokudo along with **David Fujimoto, Sol Kalu, Richard Tennes** and **Juliet Lee**.

The annual garage sale of clothing, house wares, plants and **Mr. Kukino's** delicious takuwan was held on November 3rd. All unsold items were donated to Cerebral Palsy with **Elaine Fukada** coordinating the pickup.

126 items for our Thanksgiving canned goods project were taken to the St. Anthony Outreach program. The annual poinsettia sale was a great success again this year thanks to **Mats and Betty Okamoto's** hard work. This year's poinsettias were full of color.

In December, **Reverend David Fujimoto** shared his time conducting Sunday service with **Rev. Sumikawa**. His youthfulness and commitment was an inspiration to everyone.



On December 16th, the ladies of Kailua BWA



In January, **Reverend Juliet Lee** conducted Sunday services with **Reverend Sumikawa**. Her dharma talk on our Human Bill of Rights was thought provoking.



enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch at the Joyful Garden restaurant for their annual Bonenkai luncheon. All diners brought canned goods in lieu of a grab bag.



On Januray 20th, **Reverend Nishiyama** installed the 2008 Kailua BWA and Board officers who were elected at the general membership meeting. After the installation,

the temple members went to the New Chinese Garden Restaurant for a delicious luncheon.

Moiliili

Tock, Mush, Stir, Slurp!

Those were the sounds emanating from Moiliili's Hongwanji's grounds, kitchen and annex hall as the BWA Ladies participated in mochitsuki, making mochi, cooking zenzai and taste-testing the o-soba which became the refreshments for the annual Hoonko service on January 13th. Over 135 servings were served to members including delivery to 40 homebound seniors. Everyone enjoyed the special New Year's foods which was gratifying for the hard working BWA ladies.



l to r: Shuku Najita, Cyndi Osajima, Lily Muraoka

In early February, we had our keiro recognition. Can you imagine, these vivacious gals; **Michi Motooka, Ethel Shintaku** and **Rose Nakamura** are 80 years old. We should all hope to look this vibrant and alive when we hit that wonderful age.



Submitted by Lois Ohta and Donna Higashi

KAUAI

Kauai United

On October 14, 2007, Lihue Hongwanji hosted our annual General Membership Meeting. Our Guest Speaker was **Mel Rapozo**, Kauai County Council Member who spoke to the membership about "Identity Theft." **Edith Ushio**, General Chairperson for this event planned a Flower Arranging Workshop which culminated with a contest. After a brief talk everyone was divided into one of seven groups and each person was given one flower or greenery with a pair of shears. One by one each person in

Kauai United continued . . .

that group placed their stem into a vase. The arrangements were then judged and the picture shown is the winning arrangement.



Arrangements were then taken to the hospital and care homes.

We also had our installation of Officers for 2008 to 2009. President, **Fay Tateishi**, Vice President, **Dimples Kano**, Secretary, **Gail Shibuya**, Treasurer, **Leatrice Igawa**,



A u d i t o r **Thelma Oda**, Immediate Past President, **Cynthia Masukawa**, and Minister Advisor, **Reverend Kojun Hashimoto**.

Lihue

Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association assisted in the Kyodan Homebound project. The ladies sewed lap blankets for those members who are in nursing homes or care homes. Those members who are over 90 years of age and/or being taken care of by relatives at home were given a plate of barazushi and manji.

We did our annual Omigaki and cleaned the social hall kitchen and cabinets, cooked lunch for the General Cleanup and polished the ornaments in the temple.

We also installed new officers, followed by a luncheon at Wailua Marina Restaurant. The Officers are President, **Gail Shibuya**, 1st Vice President, **Cynthia Masukawa**, 2nd Vice President, **Carol Valentine**, Recording Secretary, **Gladys Fujiuchi**, Corresponding Secretary, **Laura Hirokawa**, Treasurer, **Lillian**

Amimoto, Assistant Treasurer, **Yoko Takabayashi**, Auditors, **Alice Inouye** and **Mona Lee**, Minister Advisor, **Reverend Midori Kondo**.

Kapaa

Kapaa Hongwanji Women's Association hosted a baby shower for **Mrs. Yagi**. They do not know if it is a boy or girl yet. They want it to be a surprise!!

MAUI

Kahului

The members of the Kahului Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Women Association continue to serve in gratitude in numerous activities throughout the year. One activity that has been well received is sharing a recipe in the monthly KHBM newsletter and we will continue with this submission.

The new officers for the year 2008 are **Charlotte Wilkinson**-President, **Earlyn Ginoza** - Past President, **Geraldine Kodani** 1st Vice President, **Reiko Kondo** - 2nd Vice President, **Ellen Nishimura**- Secretary with **Earlyn Ginoza** assisting, **Patsy Saki** Treasurer with **Irene Imada** assisting, **Harriet Toyama** and **Joan Yokoyama** as Auditors, and Directors are **Mabel Domae**, **Yvonne Kishi**, **Yaeko Matsuda**, **Lillian Sakuma**, **Bernadine Tagomori** and **Arleen Yoshimoto**. **Rev. Jeffrey Soga** and **Mrs. Kumika Soga** will advise.

Serving on the Maui United BWA Board are **Earlyn Ginoza** as 2nd vice president, **Reiko Kondo** as auditor and **Geraldine Kodani** as director.

Lahaina



The big news for Lahaina Hongwanji's BWA is that it is our turn to head the Maui United Buddhist Women's Association (MUBWA). Installation of MUBWA officers was held on

November 17th, 2007 at Maui's Fall General Assembly. 2008 officers from Lahaina are: **President Dawn Fujiwara**, **Secretary Sharon Nohara**, and **Treasurer Barbie Otomo**. The guest speaker at the MUBWA Fall Assembly



Lahaina continued . . .

was Mrs. Michiko Okano, wife of Bishop Okano. Mrs. Okano emphasized that "our inner lives reveal ourselves on the outside", and that "the life of the Nembutsu is reflected in our lives". Good dharma for all of us to adopt.

Another important event to report on occurred on Sunday, August 26th. Five Lahaina Hongwanji members attended the 5th Anniversary celebration of Project Dana at Kahului Hongwanji Mission. [Note: The beginnings of Project Dana at Lahaina Hongwanji can be attributed to Sensei Kumika Soga's influence with the BWA ladies and her inviting Rose Nakamura to be guest speaker at Lahaina Hongwanji's Hanamatsuri in 2007.

Guest speaker at Kahului's Project Dana anniversary was Dr. Michael Chang of the University of Hawaii. Dr. Chang did a lot to raise the consciousness of those present --- on the subject of caregiving of the aged population.

Although any temple member may volunteer for Project Dana, the participation at Lahaina Hongwanji is still in the fledgling stage. A good goal for our BWA in 2008 is to encourage more interest and volunteerism for the project.

2011 is still a long way into the future. However, we BWA ladies are already committing ourselves to attending the combined 750th Shinran Shonin Commemorative event and the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Japan. Fond memories of the 13th World Convention in Honolulu will spur us on to meet this goal.

Makawao

Makawao Hongwanji BWA participated in many activities commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Paia Hongwanji, which later became Makawao Hongwanji. The refurbished altar was dedicated last June and the new remodeled



kitchen in September.

On October 20-21, a gala 100th Anniversary celebration was held with a memorial service, affirmation rites, planting of a

bodhi tree, commemorative service, mochi toss, and celebration luncheon program.

Over 150 Keirokai members were honored for their years of dedication to our temple. We were especially happy to see our past ministers, Rev. and Mrs. Chikai Yosemite with JoAnn and Eric and their families, Rev. and Mrs. Shigeaki Fujitani, and Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Kobata. It was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all who attended.



Thank you to our anniversary co-chairs, who were BWA President Diane Kosaka and program director Karen Ishizu.

OAHU

Oahu United

Aloha fellow BWA Shin seekers,

This is a landmark year for our Hongwanji as we embark of major endeavors in preparations for the 125 years of Honpa Hongwanji in Hawaii as well as the 750th Shinran celebration in 2011. Throughout this year, the ladies of the BWA may be called upon to serve in several leadership roles. This is not unusual, for throughout the history of the Hongwanji, the women's groups have been one of the pillars of the organization. Through the years, to extend and maintain the dharma has been and continues to be of greatest importance for the BWA.

Being among the leaders of the BWA is humbling. I thank the members of the Oahu temples for their continued support and sincere dedication for they are the ones who make things happen with such ease and grace. The success of the Oahu BWA is the result of selflessness among the members combined with the support of their Sanghas.

I look forward to year filled with meaningful activities that make a difference in our communities. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

In gassho-
Rev. Jan Youth

Aiea

Year End and Year Beginning Activities

Two thousand seven ended with a luncheon at Tsukiji Restaurant. Forty-one members and friends enjoyed a delicious lunch, together with favors and lucky numbers. Then, on the twenty-ninth of December, the BWA

Aiea continued . . .

collaborated with the Kyodan for mochi pounding. The public was invited and there were plenty of mochi cakes to go around. New Year's Eve was celebrated with a service and a treat of soba prepared by **Mrs. Megumi Hironaka**.

Officers for 2008-2009 are: President, **Thelma Kawaguchi**; Vice President, **Dorothy Nanbara**; Recording Secretary, **Harriet Zakahi**; Corresponding Secretary, **Harriet Watanabe**; Treasurer, **Elaine Yamanoha**; Asst. Treasurer, **Clara Kanno**; Auditors, **Charlene Asato, Lynette Onaka, Helen Takenouchi**; Advisor, **Pauline Higuchi**. Craft Day is continuing on Thursdays. Everyone had a good time at the New Year's Party when the current officers were installed.

*Kahuku*

Kahuku has kept busy throughout the year by holding monthly meetings, keeping the temple clean, helping at the annual huli chicken fundraiser, visiting the Crawford Convalescent Home and Pond's Nursing Home, sponsoring the annual Bon Dance, planning the New Year's party and lately adding an exercise for the elderly activity called Qi gong (chee kung). Qi gong is taught monthly by **Tom Yoshizawa** of Mililani Hongwanji and is well received by the Kahuku Hongwanji members and friends.

Mililani

On September 28, we made our second visit for the year to the Ehime-maru monument to clean it and pay our respects. Then we went to the nearby Kulia Grill at the University of Hawaii's School of Medicine building, where we ate lunch. Some of us had to try the once rated the best cheeseburger in town. One thing for sure, the blueberry scones were really good. Type to enter text

We continue to collect toiletries quarterly to donate to homeless shelters. The people at the various sites are very appreciative of these useful items.

In November, Mililani Hongwanji celebrated its 30th anniversary with an Eitaikyo and Keirokai service and program. About eight BWA members were honored; and as a CARE Day activity, some of them shared stories about themselves with dharma school children and other temple members.

Rain and power outages in Mililani caused us to postpone our Membership Dinner Meeting for a week. The purpose of this gathering was to introduce potentially new members to Mililani's BWA. They were enticed by lots of good food brought by members and fun games.

This year of the rat is our 30th anniversary. We will be honoring the charter members at our luncheon meeting in March.

Mililani will be hosting the 35th Annual Oahu United BWA Seminar on April 12, 2008. Two young ministers, **Reverend Richard Tennes** and **Reverend Jay Okamoto**, will be speaking on "Embraced by the Vow – In Gratitude." **Bishop Thomas Okano** will be the keynote speaker.

*Pearl City**Memorial Service, Initiation Ceremony, Rededication Luncheon*

The Pearl City Fujinkai held its annual Memorial Service, Initiation of new members and Rededication Luncheon on Sunday, November 25, 2007.

The Memorial Service and Initiation Ceremony emceed by **Yukie Ouchi** was held at the temple. **Rev. Toshio Murakami** in his Memorial Service message stated, "Fortunately, we have not lost any members this year. We honor and miss those who have passed on." He also said that we should rededicate our lives as Buddhists by showing love and kindness to others in our daily lives.

At the Initiation Ceremony, new member **Kathleen Fukushima** was initiated. **Rev. Toshio Murakami** and **President Yuriko Minakami** presented the gifts and welcomed her as a member of the Fujinkai.

Our luncheon was held at Gyotaku Restaurant with a delicious selection of miso soup, salad, tempura, misoyaki salmon, chicken karaage, kinpira gobo, rice and soft drink or tea. **Rev. Murakami** gave the "Shokuzen no Kotoba" before lunch was served.

After the luncheon, lucky number prizes were given out. There were prizes galore because of generous donations made by **Michiko Kato, Yoshie Tanaka, Betty Shimizu, Amy Oshiro, Dorothy Ogawa, Evelyn Ikeda, Taeko Murakami, Kathleen Fukushima, Gladys Okayama, Yukie Ouchi, Chizuko Kawaji, Yuriko Minakami** and **Alice Yamanaka**.

Mrs. Yuriko Minakami, President, thanked everyone for their unfailing support and cooperation. She thanked the members for working hard for the craft fair, Obon, sushi and tsukemono making. She also thanked chairperson, **Alice Yamanaka** and her committee, **Yukie Ouchi, Kathleen Fukushima** and **Gladys Okayama** for their efforts in making the day's activity a success.

MC **Alice Yamanaka** concluded the luncheon with, "The committee was overwhelmed with the generous donations given by the members. Therefore, we had more prizes than anticipated and the lucky persons were able to receive 2 or 3 prizes. We hope everyone had a good time."

Wahiawa

Fun Time for Wahiawa BWA

Highlight: Cooking lessons from **Reverend Earl Ikeda**, of Puna Hongwanji Mission, on Saturday, November 3, 2007, making sekihan in the morning session and mochi in the afternoon.

New understanding of and techniques gained in making sekihan served us well. Sekihan was the osettai offered to the congregation following the Eitaikyo service on Sunday, November 4, at which time **Reverend Ikeda** was the guest speaker.

Sunday, December 30, was the Kyodan's mochi project day, and once again Reverend Ikeda's sharing of his expertise served us very well. New ways



Jane Carlson and Sarah Nagai learned from him broadened our thinking and helped in the whole process of making mochi. It was great!

Sakura Time in Wahiawa



There are sakura trees here and there. One such place: go straight up California Avenue (yes, that's the name of the avenue) and just after the curve as the street straightens out, you'll see a number of trees in full bloom on the right-hand side. Hope you'll have a chance to see them next year!

Waiialua

We are truly grateful that some of us are still able to be of service to our temple. Due to illness, injuries and family obligations, the number of able-bodied BWA members has been reduced to only a dedicated few. However, with the help from Kyodan members, we are able to keep the temple cleaned on a regular basis, prepare refreshments for our after-service fellowship, help during Kyodan chicken fundraisers, etc.

We are always mindful and grateful for the encouragement and support we received from our Oahu United BWA sister units. With Amida's blessings, Mahalo.

Waipahu

With little fanfare but deep pride, Waipahu Hongwanji Mission had an anniversary celebration of the Kyodan's 105th and the Fujinkai's 95th anniversaries on November 18, 2007. Undertaking a significant anniversary project has been a long standing tradition for our temple, and for this occasion, replacing our 75 years old columbarium altar was the goal. Our new altar was dedicated in a ceremony held on July 29, 2007, with **Reverend Ryoso Toshima** and **Reverend Toyokazu Hagio** officiating.

With **Reverend Hagio's** departure in August, 2007, Waipahu Hongwanji Mission was without a resident minister until December 1, 2007. The interval allowed the members time to renovate the parsonage and with everyone's cooperation, the residence was ready by the arrival date of **Reverend Jay Shingo Okamoto**. He and his family, wife **Tomoko**, and children **Yoshino**, **Issei**, and **Kanako** have comfortably settled in, and the children's energy and exuberance at services and temple activities have energized the members in turn!

Aloha Care Nursing Home



Bonekai at Joyful Garden



Bonekai at Joyful Garden



Snapshots of Kailua Honganji

