



Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HAWAII FEDERATION OF HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

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"Are you busy?" "Isogashii desu ka?" At a recent Sunday service at Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji, **Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani** posed that question to the audience. He said the word "Isogashii" is made up of two Chinese characters "kokoro" heart and "shinu" to lose, pass away or to die. So if we become too busy, we will surely die earlier. How tragic. However, he also said we could live each day by living mindfully. Be aware of what you are doing and do it well. Now that's what I'm trying to do because as Hawaii Federation of BWAs president since March 2008, I have become very, very busy representing the Federation at Honomu Hongwanji BWA, Wahiawa Hongwanji Centennial celebrations, funeral service for the late **Rev. Toshio Murakami** of Pearl City Hongwanji, Aloha luncheon for past Hawaii Kyodan President **Fred Nonaka** and new president **Alton Miyamoto** and attending numerous gatherings and meetings.

For close to 47 years, the World Federation of BWAs has adopted many resolutions which have also become part of the program for our Hawaii Federation, United Districts and unit levels. Here are some implemented programs:

Honolulu United Education Workshop with theme "Living In Harmony With Our Environment Mottainai Koto Shitenai Kai? (Are we being wasteful?)" In late July and August, the Student Exchange Committee selected two young women from Hawaii for the 2009 Exchange program and welcomed two young women from Japan. It was a busy two weeks but everyone also had fun. In September, in observance of the 2nd Anniversary of Peace Day in Hawaii, programs are being held throughout the State and the BWA members are once again involved. You will read about more programs in the District and unit news articles.

With the 750th Memorial Observance of Shinran Shonin and the 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Kyodan in mind in September 2009, we should take on the task of promoting new and stronger membership in the BWA. With our excellent programs and continuous support to the temples, we can take on this big challenge. Let's continue to be "mindfully busy" each day of our lives and not just "isogashii."

**In Gratitude,
Donna Higashi**



BWA Exchange Students

STUDENTS TO JAPAN

Five students applied for the student exchange program before the May 15 Federation deadline to go to Japan next year. Since one of the students was out of town on the day of the oral interview, a special telephone interview was held for her. An oral interview in person was held for the other four students. The two students selected were: **Maitri Soga** of Kahului Hongwanji and **Robyn Taniguchi** of Hilo Betsuin. Maitri is the daughter of **Rev. Jeffrey and Kumika Soga**, a graduate of Maui High School and currently a student at the University of Hawaii. Robyn is the daughter of **Arthur and Barbara Taniguchi** and graduated from Waiakea High School in May 2008. Maitri and Robyn will be going to Japan as exchange students sometime in July-August, 2009.

Inside this Issue:

Federation	2
Hawaii Island	2
Honolulu	4
Maui	7
Oahu	9

JAPAN STUDENTS IN HAWAII

Two exchange students from Japan visited Hawai'i from 7/29/08 to 8/6/08. They were **Kayo Fujiwara**, a 23 year old elementary school teacher from Osaka and **Marisa Toyoda**, a 22-year old student from Fukuoka.

They arrived on July 29 and were greeted at the airport by **Rev. Eric Matsumoto** and BWA members from Honolulu and Oahu. After a short service at the Betsuin, they had lunch at Ala Moana Park and checked in at Ala Moana Hotel. That evening, **Bishop and Mrs. Thomas Okano** hosted a dinner for the students. Kayo-san did the "Nankin Tamasudare" and Marisa-san showed her artwork. The following day the students visited Jikoen and Kailua Honganji, had a tour of Lili'uokalani Garden, Kalama Beach Park, Mōkapu lighthouse, Hanauma Bay, the Buddhist Study Center and ended at Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji for a chili potluck dinner hosted by the Honolulu United BWA. They did the hula and learned a song on the ukulele from the Happy Strummers. After breakfast, they left for Kaua'i.



Marisa Toyoda and Kayo Fujiwara

After being greeted at Līhu'e Airport, they visited Līhu'e Hongwanji Mission, played the organ, visited the preschool and had lunch at a restaurant overlooking Kalapaki Bay. After checking in at the hotel, they went on a boat ride up Wailuā River. That evening the Kaua'i United Hongwanji BWA hosted a dinner and the girls played the ukulele. The following day, they went to Kōke'e and swam and snorkeled at Po'ipū Beach. That evening they went to a bon dance at Hanapēpē. They left the following morning for Maui. **Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani**, her



family, **Diane Kosaki** and **Peggy Kono** greeted the students at the Kahului airport. They went to Kahului Hongwanji and had lunch there. Following lunch the girls wanted to go ukulele shopping and went to the Sugar Cane Museum and visited a heiau. That evening they attended a hatsubon service at Wailuku Hongwanji and danced. The following day they went to see the sunrise at Haleakalā in 45-degree weather. Following breakfast, they attended service at Makawao Hongwanji. After service, the girls decided to purchase the ukulele so they went to Cannery Mall at Lahaina. While in Lahaina they were able to walk on the beach and have refreshments at Lahaina Jodo Mission. That



evening along with 27 BWA members and Maui Hongwanji ministers, they attended the Royal Lahaina luau. After breakfast the following morning, they left for O'ahu.

Mitsue Hanabusa and **Sue Ushijima** were at the airport to greet the girls when they

arrived. After lunch at Genki Sushi at Pearl City, they stopped at the Arizona Memorial Museum. They swam that afternoon at the Ko Olina Lagoon. That evening they had dinner at Roy's at Ko Olina. The following day the girls visited Chinaman's Hat, Waimea National Park, Kahuku and Wai'anae Hongwanji. Dinner was at Wai'anae Hongwanji hall. Besides Kayo-san's "Nankin Tamasudare" and Marisa -san's artwork, the girls entertained the group with their newly acquired ukuleles. That evening the girls stayed at the Mākaha Golf and Resort. After breakfast, they went to the airport where Rev. Eric Matsumoto and some ladies from O'ahu and Honolulu were there to say their final good-bye.

HAWAII ISLAND



Hilo Betsuin

Home and Home Get-Together

On Saturday, June 7, 2008, the Hilo Betsuin BWA hosted the Home and Home Get-Together. Co-chairs **Toyoko Ishizu** and **Matsuko Shimizu** created a wonderful event which was shared by representatives from all of the Hāmākua coast units and Hilo BWA members. The day began with a service in the temple which was followed by a refreshment break and a mixer which led to making new friends. **Steven Yamami** and **Myra Ikeda** gave a presentation of the Eden at Home program which made us realize that the bulk of suffering among our elders is caused by loneliness, helplessness and boredom.

After a generous bento lunch, **Laurel Nishimura**, a licensed physical therapist with the satellite facility of Rehab of the Pacific in Hilo, spoke on the importance of exercises to maintain our balance and physical therapy. Everyone participated in the hands-on activity of making a pretty and useful pincushion and an exercise set to singing. A most enjoyable program concluded with the singing of 'Hawaii Aloha'.



Pincushion Activity

*Hawaii Island continued . . .***Garage Sale**

Saturday, August 2, 2008, was the annual gigantic Hilo BWA garage sale. Veteran chair **Amy Ban** coordinated a large group of dedicated volunteers to stage the



yearly event. The long line of people outside the YBA Hall waited patiently well before the 7 a.m. opening. Thousands of items were donated by church members and friends so there surely was something for everyone. Proceeds from the garage sale benefit the ongoing programs of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin.

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The long line of people outside the YBA Hall waited patiently well before the 7 a.m.



Doreen Akita, Annie Aoki,

Kazue Kaide

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Flower Arrangement Classes

On the first and third Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. beginning September 17, 2008, Mrs. Junko Hagio will be offering flower arrangement classes for all church members.

Honohina

In preparation for our annual O-Bon services, our Fujinkai ladies and their spouses participate in an annual Omigaki prior to our Aug. 23rd Honohina O-Bon services. **Rev. Bruce Nakamura** conducted a graveyard service at 5:30 p.m. followed by a church service at 6:00 p.m. O-Bon Dancing commenced at 7:00 p.m. through 9:30 p.m. Dancers came from as far away as Kohala, Waimea, Honoka'a, Pa'auilo, Hilo, and our four temple members (Pāpa'aloa, Honomū, and Pāpa'ikou). We have an old fashion dancing area on the temple's yard where dancers dance around a lighted chochin hung from a bamboo pole. After the cool, breezy, and rain free outdoor dancing, everyone was invited to eat the delicious food including desserts, pupus, and drinks provided by church members, family, and friends. Okage sama de as it was a joyous O-Bon celebration.

On October 22nd, the Fujinkai will have the Hoonko Service at 6:00 p.m. **Rinban Hagio** will be our guest speaker. The service will be followed by a pot luck dinner.

Honoka'a

The Honoka'a Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association is the hosting unit of the 54th Convention of the Hawai'i Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association. The event will be held at the Honoka'a Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on October 26, 2008.

The keynote speaker will be **Dr. Manulani Meyer** of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Her topic is "Women's Role in the 21st Century."

Rat-tail cording lei making workshop was held on February 15, 2008. The instructor was **Tomoe Oketani**.

BWA members participated in the Alzheimer's Disease presentation which was provided by the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, at the Hale Ho'ola Hamakua Hospital on May 23, 2008.

As one of our community services, BWA members volunteered to help serve breakfast at the Hāmākua Lions Club Annual Breakfast fund-raiser on March 30, 2008, which was held at the Honoka'a School Cafetorium.

Our "Garage Sale Fund-raiser", co-chaired by **Maria Yano** and **Janet Murakami**, was held on June 22, 2008. In spite of early morning showers, the fund-raiser was a huge success. Many happy customers went home with bargain purchases.

On September 21, 2008, the Honoka'a Hongwanji Kyodan will be sponsoring the Annual Peace Parade Festival and the BWA will participate in the parade and sponsor a food concession booth.

Honomū

Honomū Hongwanji Fujinkai commemorated its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, April 27, 2008. **Bishop Thomas Okano** was our guest speaker. **Mrs. Michiko Okano** read the congratulatory message from **Lady Noriko Ohtani**. Also attending were **Donna Higashi**, BWA Federation President; **Etsuko Mori**, HIUHBWA President; **Ivan Nakano**, Hawaii Kyodan Vice-President and Hawaii Lay Association President; and BWA and Kyodan representatives from twelve temples on this



island.

Former Ministers of Honomū Hongwanji present were **Rev. & Mrs. Junkai Toyoura** of Hiroshima, Japan and **Rev. & Mrs. Toyokazu Hagio**, Rinban of Hilo Betsuin. Interim minister for Honomū, **Rev. Earl Ikeda** of Puna Hongwanji was also present. We are truly grateful for the time each of these ministers spent at Honomū.

Group picture taking, lunch and entertainment by the Hilo Okinawa Cultural Club followed the Centennial

Hawaii Island continued . . .

Service.

It was truly a memorable day for all of our members. We were blessed with a nice, sunny day and wonderful fellowship – “Embraced by the Vow – In Gratitude”.



**Mrs. Junkai Toyoura, Mrs. Itaru Nozaki, Mrs. Toyokazu Hagio
Kamuela**

The Kamuela Hongwanji BWA, through the request of Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, invited 24, 15-16 year old girls from the Jissen Girls' School in Tokyo who were spending a week at HPA-Lower Campus. The HPA summer school staff requested that the girls and teachers, who accompanied them visit the temple to learn about Buddhism and the Japanese immigration to Hawai'i.

Thanks to **Rev. Nozaki**, who was out of state on the scheduled date, for preparing information on immigration in Japanese for the teachers' use. We provided flyers with information about the history of the Kamuela Hongwanji BWA and the upcoming 2009 commemorative statewide activities. After introductions and a short history of Jodo Shinshu in Hawai'i, students were served refreshments in the social hall. Our photo albums, books, news articles on immigration were placed on the tables for the students to look at and also to “talk story” with our members.

We also participated in the “Peace Parade” activities in Honoka'a on September 21st. We created and sold “peace tea cups” (origami cranes in tea cups) and distributed flyers about the symbol of the cranes.

Pāpa`aloha**Pāpa`aloha Hongwanji Ukulele Class**

The Papaaloha Hongwanji Fujinkai has started a ukulele class with **Mr. Tsukasa Sugiyama** as instructor. The class of 10-12 beginners meets every Monday from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. and the students have learned to strum the basic keys and sing old favorites which are basically in the key of C.

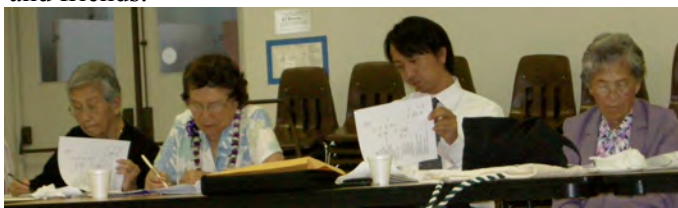
Puna

The annual Bibs and Blankets Project was co-chaired by **Mitsuye Toma** and **Hatsuko Yamashita**. Bibs and blankets were cut and sewn by members and presented to the 3 Hilo Care Centers. Contributions of material,

money, time and labor made it possible to deliver the bibs and blankets on April 15, 2008 to Hilo Life Care Center, Hilo Medical Center Extended Care Facility and Hale Anuenue Restorative Care Center.

On Sunday, April 20, 2008, we honored the memories of Lady Eshinni, Lady Kakushinni and the members of our BWA who passed away between April 2007 and March 2008 (**Mrs. Hideko Furukawa** and **Mrs. Yasue Watarida**). Guest speakers were **Masako Sakata**, **Alice Yonemitsu** and **Marla McCasland** of Nā'ālehu Hongwanji Fujinkai.

Plans for our centennial which will be held on April 12, 2009 began in 2007 and are still ongoing. Invitations will be sent out shortly, but invitations to the Big Island Kyodan presidents and Fujinkai officers will be delayed until after their temple elections. We look forward to celebrating our centennial with our members, colleagues and friends.

**HONOLULU*****Honolulu United***

The first quarterly meeting on February 2nd was hosted by the Mō'ili'ili BWA.

The second quarterly meeting was held on June 14th in tandem with our annual Education Workshop hosted by the Mō'ili'ili BWA with the theme *Living in Harmony with our Environment*. A variety of activities kept 100+ participants busy, entertained and enlightened about being informed and active consumers. Healthy snacks and sandwiches were served; each participant brought her own mug for beverages, eliminating the need for the ubiquitous Styrofoam cups and plates. A total of \$825 was collected for the Ministerial Training Fund.

The third quarterly meeting was held on September 27th after the annual General Meeting hosted by the Betsuin BWA. The theme was *Living in Gratitude and Harmony: Our Precious Water*. A speaker from the Board of Water Supply was the featured guest.

In late July, the hosting of the two Japanese Exchange Students was led by United President **Suzy Nishiyama**, Federation President **Donna Higashi** and Exchange chair **Jean Fukumoto**. Together with a few other BWAs, they helped the two visitors with their arrival and departure, sightseeing and meals. They were put up at the Ala Moana Hotel where they could easily shop at the Center at their leisure. Honorary Adviser **Mrs. Michiko Okano** also hosted them at a dinner at the Bishop's residence.

*Honolulu continued . . .***Hawai'i Betsuin**

The good ladies of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin have been tapped deeply since the spring of 2008. They prepared for and managed the thrift shop for the temple's annual bazaar which was held on March 30; they made rolls of sushi and trays of inari and bara sushi; they pickled vegetables; and put up jars of jams and jellies. Right on the heels of that big event, they plunged into making hundreds of tray favors to distribute to residents of nursing and care homes to celebrate Hanamatsuri, adorned the hanamido for the Buddhist Council's Hanamatsuri observance. Then they catered food and refreshment for the Temari's annual textile fair as part of BWA's fundraising initiative. Finally to cap April off, we invited the Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji BWA ladies to our special Eshinni/Kakushini musical service and lunch. In May, we went to the Academy of Arts to view the sacred arts of Bhutan.

In June, the ladies helped with the food preparation for the bon dances and set up and operated the 'things Japanese' boutique. In July, we performed our traditional role of serving refreshments to individuals

and families who attended the temple's bon mairi services. Then early in August, 26 ladies and 2 guests took the superferry to visit Makawao and Wailuku Hongwanji Missions where we attended their bon services and participated in their bon dances. Other ladies joined the BWA ladies of Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji for a fellowship luncheon at the Maple Gardens.

The Betsuin BWA initiated a compassionate care project in September to coincide with Care Day. We used paintings by **Shigeko Miyashiro** to make into greeting cards. These were enhanced with Buddhist sayings or

**Sandwich prep for morning services**

thoughts composed by **Rimban Toshima**. The ladies also made 'pocket Amida' and oshibana mementos to include in the cards which were given to residents when our 'ambassadors of compassion' go on their monthly dharma service at the nursing and care homes.

Looking ahead to the final quarter, the BWA will be having its general meeting on October 12, at which time the biennial election of officers will take place. October 19 will mark the kick-off for our annual food drive. Then in November, we will be remembering our sister members who died in the year with a special Ho-onko service. The last month of the year will be marked by another Dana Deed. On the 6th of December, the ladies will again be



making cheerful tray favors to honor Bodhi Day and distribute them to residents of nursing homes and care homes. We end the year with our annual year-end luncheon and general meeting on December 21.

Jikoen Women's Society

The main focus for us for the rest of the year is Jikoen's 70th Anniversary celebration. On September 28th, we presented a karaoke festival *Kohaku Utagassen*, or the Red and White Song Contest at the Waikīkī Sheraton, with over 750 guests in attendance. Okinawan community leaders, karaoke sensei **Marion Arakaki** and retired KZOO radio personality **Keiko Ura** were co-chairs of this unique event which featured song and dance performances by many well-known artists.

Coming up next are the dedication of our newly-renovated columbarium, the Youth Dharma Retreat at Camp Timberline, an adult kimono-dressing activity, mochi-making for a good-luck-mochi toss, seminar on Buddhism, and the commemorative service and banquet at the Mānoa Grand Ballroom in November.

Honolulu Country Club was the site of our annual New Year's Party in February. Co-chairs **Dorene Niibu** and **Pat Shiroma** planned a great program which included games, prizes, dancing, and a delicious buffet.

We hosted the United's 33rd annual general membership meeting in September, 2007, featuring the well-known motivational speaker **Gwen Fujie** who made a PowerPoint presentation on the theme *Living in Peace and Harmony* which stressed ways by which we can be more thoughtful and tactful in our communication with others. **Alice Tokuda** was the general chair of this very successful gathering. We collected \$1,200 for the Ministerial Training Fund.

Honolulu continued . . .

Suzu Nishiyama was our Eshinni/Kakushinni Day speaker in April.

Jikoen Kyodan's annual New Year's Party, the bazaar and Bon Dance were all part of our busy schedule, as usual. Our first-time-ever trip to Las Vegas in August to help the Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha celebrate its 20th annual Bon Dance was a great experience. It was a pleasant surprise to find such a



Anniversary Planners: Rev. Nishiyama, Morris Moribe, Doris Oshiro and general chair, Dorene Niibu.

even Hilo Betsuin. As expected, this trip was a double pleasure for the many members who travel to Las Vegas quite often for other reasons.



2008 Officers - - Missing President Barbara Yamada

Kailua

The energetic ladies at Kailua Honganji BWA continue with their traditional monthly duties of maintaining the temple weekly with beautiful flowers from their gardens,



serving refreshments after service and keeping the spirits of the residents at the Kāne'ohe Aloha Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre alive and upbeat. With the

mantra, "Life is Short, Time is Fleeting", the focused ladies decorated the hanamido for Hanamatsui, welcomed Rev. Juliet Lee as speaker for the

vibrant group of Hongwanji devotees in the midst of a gambling metropolis. Many of our ladies joined in the dancing along with the "natives" and other visitors from Oregon, Idaho, California and



Eshinni-Kakushinni service and prepared the refreshments for Hatsubon and our post bon dance meal. With the graying of the membership, we have reluctantly decided to discontinue the yearly garage sale held in November. In its place we held an Obon mini-bazaar selling fresh vegetables, takuan, cucumber kim chee, happi coats and crafts donated by members. On August 14th, a group of students from BCA visited the temple and enjoyed Rev. Nishiyama's delicious curry with side dishes by the ladies and conducted a short service.

Mō'ili'ili

We have been fulfilling busy these past few months...

At our June 1st general membership meeting, we had a wonderful

surprise from our special quilting ladies (Helen Hamasu, Liz Matsumoto, Susan Morishige, Shuku Najita, Sue Sonoda, and Itsuko Takamura).



They presented the BWA with their most recently completed quilt that they named "Joy!". Beautifully appliquéd, this quilt will be used as a fundraiser for our BWA. A committee will be formed to decide how the fundraising will be done. The price tag? Priceless! We are so very grateful for the over 1 year work effort of these women and their generosity in presenting this beautiful quilt to our BWA.

On Saturday, June 14th, our BWA successfully hosted the United BWA's education workshop, "Living In Harmony With the Environment-Mottainai Koto Shitenaikai" at the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin.

Wasteful?, "mottainai ba-chan kuruzo!"

Ninety-two participants from Betsuin, Kailua, Jikoen and Mō'ili'ili enjoyed a day of learning and fellowship. Participants received good tips from Hawaiian Electric's Bryan Law and Joanne Ide. Other break-out



groups provided even more information about reducing, reusing and recycling and fun interaction with fellow BWAers. A "Mottainai Ba-chan Ondo" at the end of the day left us in high spirits and reminded us to not be

Honolulu continued . . .

wasteful.

July 4-5 The shower cap gang returned to provide



oishii gochisou for Mō'ili'ili's Bon Odori workers and dancers! What would we do without them?!

On August 3rd, we enjoyed a fun and relaxing social outing with 17 Betsuin ladies at Yen King Restaurant. No cooking...no cleaning! While playing some fun mixers, we discovered that four Mō'ili'ili BWA women top 90+years of age. Shows you that active BWAers stay healthy!



1st row: Chika & Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Dr. Carl Becker, Dr. Akiko Ochiai, Rose Nakamura. 2nd row: Tamayo & Kaden Matsumoto, Amy Hirohata-Goto, Miyoko Sato & Lois Yasui

MAUI*Kahului*

The women of KHBWA continue to reflect the Buddha's light by sharing their wisdom in fellowship. The more seasoned members are teaching the others how to make traditional foods including preparing sushi, tsukemono and mochi while others are sharing on local fare. The featured recipe becomes part of the Kyodan's monthly newsletter and that delicious item is served after service on BWA Sunday, generally the third Sunday of the month.

Our speaker for the annual Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service was **Rev. Kumika Soga** with the annual



luncheon meeting following at the Kā'anapali Beach Hotel. The BWA selected the KHM Dharma School as the recipient of this year's monetary award. The women enjoyed the buffet brunch and door prizes. **Patsy Saki** and **Geraldine Kodani** spearheaded the event.

Lahaina

Aloha means "good-bye" and, also, "welcome". At the end of February, we said farewell to **Rev. Kumika Soga**. Sensei Kumika, wife of **Rev. Jeffrey Soga** of Kahului Hongwanji, served as Lahaina Hongwanji's Minister and our BWA's advisor for 15 months. We are so grateful for her tenure, on temporary assignment---especially because she also had to serve as "okusan" at Kahului Hongwanji, and had the countless drives to/from Lahaina for Sunday and major services, funerals, and all other traditional events.

*Dharma student, Tavi Viela and Rev. Soga*

In March, we said "Aloha" to welcome **Rev. Mariko Nishiyama** to Lahaina. Rev. Mari is originally from the prefecture of Fukuoka, on Kyushu Island. She served as an Associate Minister at Hilo Betsuin from March of 2003 to the end of February, 2008. Sensei Mari is an energetic presence in the hondo, and her dharma messages bring out a 'buzz' in the congregation.

Bazaar: The annual Bazaar was held on March 29th, and typically, BWA members were at the forefront of the 'friendly frenzy' of food preparation and finalizing of craft projects.



Maui continued . . .

Eshinni-Kakushinni: April brought the good fortune of having **Ms. Ann Ishizu** as our guest speaker for the Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service. She is the former Youth Specialist for Honpa Hongwanji Mission. Her heart-warming and informative dharma message graced the commemorative service that is an especially significant one for Shin Buddhist women.

MUBWA Fall General Assembly: Plans are underway for the Assembly / Luncheon to be held November 15th at Lahaina Hongwanji. The guest speaker will be **Gwen Fujie**, who will speak on a topic related to her seminar series of workshops titled Tongue Fu.

Aloha to all of our BWA sisters in Hawai'i. We are getting a sense of solidarity as we look forward to the next BIG event, the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention in 2011.

Lāna'i

Several members gathered with new members and Gojikai members on January 10 to show how the mochi maker works and to sample different ways to serve mochi.

On April 12, seven members attended the Spring General Assembly.



Members visited the Lāna'i Hospital on April 13. **President Karen Mendes** presented the patients with 2 bottles of Lubriderm each. We were able to

spend time with our longtime member **Mitsue Osako** just a few months before she passed away.

Our annual Mother's Day luncheon was on May 11 at the Mānele Bay Clubhouse. Members enjoyed a delicious lunch and everyone received a door prize.

On July 2, **Rev. Shinkai Murakami** officiated at our Obon Service. The dance followed with the Maui ladies assisting as usual. We were also very happy to have a Honolulu Taiko group brought over by a Lāna'i alum, **Wallace Onuma**. The BWA ladies with help from visiting "children" of former members, worked hard to provide food for sale.

We are very excited about plans for a Dharma class to be held monthly starting in September. **Rev. Jeff Soga** has agreed to come to Lāna'i to meet with us.

Our yearly New Year Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. on December 31st. The ladies of the BWA will provide refreshments, including the traditional soba noodles.

Makawao

Makawao Hongwanji BWA has been excited about utilizing their newly renovated kitchen for making pickled peach, various daikon sanbaizuke and takuwan, baking manju, and preparing nutritious meals for the Senior Program as well as for church functions such as clean-up days, seminars, and celebrations. BWA members and Mrs. Umitani with pickled



vegetables at Obon.

In the spring, the BWA sponsored Bingo Night at Hale Makua, Kahului, and later visited the residents, sharing flower vases and



tissue holders with them. Summer

was busy with our annual bazaar and Obon in July, and the Maui County Senior Fair in August. The BWA with **Kono Family** and **Umitani Family** hosted the Japanese exchange

students, **Marisa Toyoda** and **Kayo Fujiwara** on Maui.

Maui United BWA donations were given to the Project Dana groups on Maui.

Wailuku

It was O-bon dancing at Hale Makua, Kahului and Wailuku on September 5th and 11th. For one hour, the elderly residents at the senior residential facility clapped their hands and swayed with the live taiko and dance music. The Japanese residents were especially pleased with familiar obon music. There were many in wheelchairs who were pushed around the "dance circle", smiling and doing their hand motions. This annual O-bon dance is sponsored by the Maui United BWA. The dancers were from the community – Lahaina, Makawao Kahului and Wailuku BWA ladies participated. This year, WHM BWA was in charge of O-bon at the facilities.

During our WHM O-Bon on August 2nd, members of Honpa Hongwanji BWA and the two exchange students

Maui continued . . .

from Japan participated in the festivities. The Honpa Hongwanji ladies enjoyed Saturday night dinner, a service on Sunday and a breakfast fellowship before leaving Maui on the superferry. The Honolulu group was led by **Mary Tanouye**, whose brothers, **Stanley and George Okamoto** are very active at Wailuku. The two exchange girls from Japan were given lighted fans for dancing by the WHM BWA. We enjoyed the Royal Lahaina Luau with the Japanese visitors and some of the Maui United BWA members. An interesting item at the Luau was that there was a sudden downpouring of rain. We were provided with panchos and just continued with our eating of delicious luau food.

O'AHU*O'ahu United*

The 35th Annual Seminar was held on April 12, 2008, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Mililani Hongwanji. The anticipated attendance was 153. It was a beautiful Saturday morning with BWA members and ministers starting to arrive before 8:00 am from the other eight temples of the O'ahu district. They were happily greeted by the ladies of Mililani and directed to the Educational Building, where they enjoyed baggies of homemade cookies with some hot tea or coffee, as they sat at tables that were decorated with vases of colorful garden flowers and greenery.

During the opening service in the temple, we listened to Mililani's **Rev. Mary David's** message about the role of women in the Hongwanji. She challenged us to become more active in the activities of the Kyodan.

Following the service, **Bishop Thomas Okano** spoke about the commemoration projects planned to celebrate the Hawaii Kyodan's 120th Anniversary and the 750th Memorial of Shinran Shonin. Six million dollars will

need to be raised, and he encouraged Hawaii Kyodan members to contribute at least \$1,000 over a four-year period.

"Embraced by the Vow: In Gratitude" was the theme that

Reverends Richard Tennes and Jay Okamoto focused on in their lectures in English and Japanese respectively. Rev. Tennes said that true gratitude is not thinking of one's self. It is without self-consciousness or with jinen, being made so through Amida's Vow. He referenced several writings, such as the Ondokusan and the

Shoshinge, which expresses gratitude. Rev. Okamoto also referenced the Shoshinge in explaining the meaning of Namo Amida Butsu. As Buddhists, we should respect and follow the teachings and entrust ourselves in Amida.

Following these lectures, everyone gathered in the Educational Building for lunch, a bento that consisted of teriyaki steak, shrimp tempura, karaage chicken, yakisoba, sweet kidney beans, gyoza, and rice with konbu. A spring mix salad, water and cake were also served.

The Seminar concluded with words from Advisor Minister, Rev. David, and OUHHBWA President, **Rev. Jan Youth.**

'Aiea

The ladies of the 'Aiea BWA in March and April were treated to a colorful Lion Dance in conjunction with 'Aiea Hongwanji's Preschool and Lotus Adult Day Care Center. They participated in a Valentine's Day Card/Favor activity hosted by Mililani's Card Group, and attended a dental hygiene program. Our ladies also attended Hanamatsuri Service and took part in the second annual O'ahu District Songfest. In addition, April 27th was the day we honored Eshinni-sama and Kakushinni-sama with a Sunday Service, followed by refreshments.

The highlight for May was the Gotan-E Service with speaker **Mr. Alan Goto**. The service was well attended and the BWA prepared refreshments for the 45 participants.

Activities in the social hall and parking lot went full blast during the July 19th chicken and sushi sale, supported by the preschool, adult day care center, judo club, shamisen club, Kumon and Aerobics classes and fellow O'ahu district temples. Funds raised are earmarked for the renovation of the kitchen in the social hall.

The BIG event for August was our Bon Dance and Service. As usual, the night was well attended. The BWA held a craft fair during this time.

'Aiea's BWA is fueled primarily by members in their eighties and early nineties. They would really like to welcome younger citizens to enliven our organization!

Mililani

Mililani's BWA is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. In April 1978, a year after the Mililani Hongwanji

O'ahu continued . . .

was organized, a group of women formed the Wisteria Club. Until the temple was built, meetings were held at **Ruth Shintaku's** house and at the Mililani Recreation Center II. In the 1980's, the club's name was changed to Fujinkai and became part of the rengo or the O'ahu district's fujinkai. At our annual luncheon meeting, which was held at Schofield's Nehelani in March, we recognized the charter members. We enjoyed the variety of food at the buffet and reminiscing, especially when we viewed a historical slide show, which was put together by one of the original members, **June Asato**.

On April 12, Mililani hosted the 35th Annual Seminar of the Oahu United BWA. Our BWA members, as well as some of the men of our temple, worked hard to make this seminar interesting and enjoyable.

Thru our sale of inarizushi and takuwan in May, we were able to raise funds to present a \$1,000 scholarship to Lorna Tanimoto's daughter, KeiLyn. She is a junior at the University of Northern Colorado, where she found the strength to overcome her loneliness thru her faith in Buddhism. She has been active with the Junior YBA and was involved in several community organizations in leadership roles and as a volunteer. We congratulate her and wish her the best in fulfilling her dream of becoming an elementary teacher.

Pearl City

Pearl City's Kyodan and Fujinkai ladies have been participating in Honpa Hongwanji's Taste of Hongwanji for many years and this year was no different.

Our booth was a very popular one, with many homemade and handmade items. The customers, with scrips in their hands, eagerly awaited the signal to start buying. There were ono baked goods, fresh produce, such as watercress, pak-choy, mustard cabbage and green onions. There were sushi, other rice dishes, jams and jellies, tsukemono, peanuts and soybeans, prune mui and okara. This year we even had honohono orchids, phalaenopsis, and desert roses.

Another crowd-pleasing section of our booth was the Crafts-futon, lap blankets, vests, and potholders. For this year only, some potholders were nezumi-shaped in honor of the Year of the Rat.

It took many hours of love and hard work to prepare for this occasion but the men and women came home at noon, with a big sigh of relief and a smile on their face-contentment!! It certainly was a satisfying morning.

With the passing of Rev. Toshio Murakami, the Fujinkai has been helping with the altar flowers.

Wahiawa

On May 22, 2008, members of Kahuku-Waiialua-Wahiawa visited the Aged to Perfection adult day care center in Wahiawa. This was part of the annual

OUEHBWA Elder Care Visitation.

Waiialua BWA:

**E u n i c e
W a t a n a b e ,
Mieko Tanaka,
Sumie Tanaka,**



Masako Watanabe who danced the hula.

A monetary gift of \$100 from OUEHBWA was presented by **Roseline Yano** to **Harrison Peters**, director of the center. A case of facial tissues was also given by the three BWA units.

Entertainment included two hula dances, gracefully performed by **Masako Watanabe**. Songs in Japanese were beautifully rendered by **Patsy Kaya** and **Dorothy**

Yanagida. **Rev Kevin Kuniyuki** sang a Hawaiian song accompanying himself on the guitar, and joined in by **Judith Kakazu** and **Eleanor Nishi** on the ukulele.



Wahiawa BWA Bon Dancers: **Ethel Nakagawa, Mildred Segawa, Judi Kakazu Doris Matsuoka**

When the BWA members performed three well-loved bon dance numbers, a few seniors accepted the invitation and participated. Others seemed to be happy clapping and moving to the rhythm of the music.

At the conclusion of the visit, BWA members mingled with the audience, exchanging greetings and handshakes. This worthwhile activity, we believe, gave everyone a good mixture of fun and fellowship.

Waipahu

Rev. Jay Okamoto and his family have been with us for almost a year but we missed the opportunity to introduce them until now. Rev. Jay also services two other temples; Ewa and Wai'anae Hongwanji and is very busy keeping up with all of the Sunday services, meetings, memorial services, funerals, hospital visits, etc.

His wife, Tomoko is also the backbone of the family, supportive and raising three young children is a big task; Yoshino, age 3; Issei and Kanako, 1 year old twins (boy and a girl). We are very pleased to have Rev. Jay and his family at Waipahu Hongwanji Ohana.

