



# Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HAWAII FEDERATION OF HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

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## Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial

Five Year Theme  
Embraced by the Vow  
2009 Slogan:  
In Peace and  
Tranquility



## Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 120th Anniversary

### Inside this Issue:

Federation	1
Hawaii Island	2
Honolulu	5
Kauai	7
Maui	9
Oahu	11

## MAY PEACE AND TRANQUILITY PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MAY THE BUDDHA DHARMA SPREAD

### Mother, Thank You Very Much!

In March 1961, a group of Hongwanji members from Hawai'i traveled to Kyoto, Japan to observe the 700th Memorial of Shinran Shonin. My late mother, **Misae Higashi** was one of those members. While in Japan, her mother, **Miwano Yamashiro** who lived in Hiroshima City joined the tour group. I have seen several photos of the group with everyone dressed in western clothing except for one woman in a kimono, my grandmother. While in Kyoto, there was a good possibility that my mother and other group members attended the 1st World Buddhist Women's Convention since the gatherings first began in 1961. Now we are looking to the 14th World BWA Convention.

While my mother was away, my late father, **Katsumori Higashi**, looked after my older brother and me. Most of the time, it was just he and I since my brother attended boarding school at MPI. The day after school was over in June the three of us left by plane (my first long trip and getting sick twice) for a 2 1/2 month vacation in Japan. We joined my mother and traveled together from Hokkaido to Kyushu. The yen value at the time was 360 to 1. My father returned to work after one month and my mother, brother and I remained back and enjoyed ourselves with our Hiroshima and Kumamoto cousins. This time, accompanying our mother, we returned to Hawai'i by ship since my parents wanted us to experience this type of travel too. Since the ship was quarantined in Hong Kong, we were delayed and returned a few days before I began my first year at Kalani High School. That's why even to this day, we are close to our Japan relatives.

In April 1970, on my second trip to Japan, I traveled with the late **Rev. Ryoshin Okano** and the Mo'ilili Hongwanji group. This time we toured from Tokyo to Kyoto ending at Expo 70 in Osaka and since I was part of the hula entertainment, I briefly participated in the 4th World Buddhist Women's Convention. This convention coincided with Eshinni-sama's 700th Memorial. Besides 1961 and 1970, I have been fortunate to travel to Japan nine more times.

This May 2009, in preparation for the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention to be held in conjunction with the 750th Memorial of Shinran Shonin, **Rev. Eric Matsumoto**, **Michiko Okano**, **Janet Honda** (VP) and I will travel to Kyoto for the World BWA Representative meeting. Hopefully, we will learn more about the planned events for 2011 and will share what we've learned as soon as possible. We will also participate in the overseas service of the unveiling of the Goeido's newly renovated roof and hall along with Hawai'i's **Bishop Thomas Okano**, **Rev. Koho Takata** and **Alton Miyamoto**, President of Hawai'i Kyodan.

... Donna's message continued on page 2

*Federation continued . . .*

2011 will be an auspicious year for the Hongwanji, the 750th Memorial of Shinran Shonin and the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention. I truly hope that many Hawai'i Hongwanji members will participate in this once in a lifetime event. I know my late mother laid the groundwork so that I could participate, now as a full-fledged BWA member. ***Mother, thank you very much.*** Until then, please remain healthy and strong and participate wholeheartedly in many of Hawai'i's Double Commemoration activities in September.

Metta,  
Donna Higashi, President  
Hawai'i Federation of BWAs

**BWA's 2009 Exchange Students**

This year two students will be going to Japan as exchange students of the Hawai'i Federation BWA. They will be leaving on July 29 and returning on August 11, 2009.

The two students are **Maitri Soga** and **Robyn Taniguchi**.



**Maitri** is the daughter of **Reverend Jeffrey** and **Kumika Soga** of Kahului, Maui. She has been active at both Puna Hongwanji, Kahului Hongwanji and Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji. She is a graduate of Maui High School and currently a student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa majoring in Elementary and Special Education. She plans to be a Special Education Teacher after graduation.

**Robyn** is the daughter of **Arthur** and **Barbara Taniguchi** of Hilo, Hawai'i. Robyn's temple activity is with the Hilo Betsuin.

She is a graduate of Waiākea High School and currently a student at University of Hawai'i at Hilo majoring in Accounting and also plans to get a Certificate in International Studies. She is also planning to study in Japan in Fall 2009.

**HAWAII ISLAND*****Hilo Betsuin*****Hilo Betsuin BWA welcomes 2009**

"Embraced by the Vow - in Peace and Tranquility" was the theme of the Hilo Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association's Shinnen Enkai held on Sunday, February 8. Co-chaired by **Ellen Okano** and **Kay Yonemori**, the traditional New Year's event was held in the Sangha Hall with services starting at 10:30 a.m. **Rimban Toyokazu Hagio** officiated, assisted by **Reverends Bruce Nakamura** and **Kazunori Takahashi**.

**Annie Aoki** and **Yuri Yahiro** decorated the tables with beautiful camellias and greens. **Mrs. Junko Hagio** arranged sprigs of cherry blossoms, anthuriums and camellia buds for the registration desk and also for the altar. A big mahalo to **Mrs. Haruko Abe** for the generous donation of the camellias.

Following the welcome and opening remarks by **Kay Yonemori**, a short service followed. Rimban Hagio delivered the Dharma message.

**Jane Iida**, long-time active member of the Hilo Betsuin Kyodan and the BWA was the keynote speaker. The Hilo native attended Waiākea Kai and Hilo High School. Her higher education was received at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the University of California at Berkeley where she earned her bachelor's degree. At the University of Illinois-Champaign, she earned her master's degree.

*. . . Hilo Betsuin continued on page 3*



*Hawai'i Island - Hilo Betsuin continued . . .*

Iida began her professional career as an instructor at Frostburg State College in Maryland. She later served on the teaching staffs at Honolulu Community College and at Hawai'i Community College in Hilo.

Her church affiliation began when she started attending Sunday school at Hilo Hongwanji. She was active as a Jr. YBA member during high school, and has served as a Dharma school teacher for more than 25 years.

As a very active member of the Kyodan Council, she has served as secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer and is now president-elect. She and her husband, Marvin, have two sons, Byron and Owen.

Iida started her thought-provoking speech with a quotation from Shinran Shonin. In essence, it was mentioned that we should hold the nembutsu in our hearts with the wish that there be world peace and the Buddha's teaching spreads.

She spoke of heroes of peace throughout history, mentioning leaders like Mahatma Ghandi, who always sought changes for India without violence. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez also were singled out as leaders who fought for racial equality for the African American and Hispanic farm workers. They, too, believed in non-violence and patience to change things. Iida learned from the DaLai Lama that, "inner peace is the true foundation of world peace." She believes in finding peace within oneself and that her quest for peace and tranquility began while growing up in Hilo.

Iida uses as a guide the Eightfold Path and the Golden Chain of Love, learned in Dharma School, to take responsibility for our own actions.

In conclusion, she said, "Yes, we, as Buddhist women can help spread the Buddha's teaching with the hope that peace and tranquility will prevail throughout the world."

**Rev. Nakamura** led the reciting of the BWA creed and the Sangha joined in the Nembutsu.

New officers for 2009--2010 were sworn in by **Rimban Hagio**. **Lillie Tsuchiya** will serve her second term as president; **Amy Kubota**, 1st vice president; **Ruby Maekawa**, 2nd vice president; **Etsuko Kurokawa**, recording secretary; **Janet Iida**, assistant recording secretary; **Daisy Matsushita**, corresponding secretary; **Lillian Watanabe**, treasurer; **Yaeko Kunishige**, assistant treasurer and auditors, **Ellen Okano**, **Carolyn Mizuno** and **Etsuko Mori**.

**Beatrice Isemoto**, membership committee chairperson, introduced **Junko Hagio** and **Sueko Koizumi** as the new BWA members and presented them with long-stemmed

roses and BWA name plates. **Ana Kapihe**, also a new member, was unable to attend.

**Lillie Tsuchiya**, president, called to order the general membership meeting. The Sangha joined in singing the gatha, "Garden of Asoka" followed by the president's and advisor's messages. Committee reports were accepted as circulated.

**Motoe Tada** contributed a very interesting background of the magnolia flower that was imprinted on the front of the blue tote which all attending members received as a memento. She shared with the Sangha that the magnolia, known in Japanese as "Kobushi no Hana" is Lady Eshinni's flower. Her grave is in the town of Itakura, district of Yonemasu in the Niigata prefecture. Her tomb is a five-tiered pagoda in the midst of a ricefield and it is said that from a 600 years old magnolia tree a shoot was taken and planted near the tomb. Also a grove of magnolia trees surrounded the area. "What a magnificent sight it must be when all the flowers are in bloom in the Spring", commented Mrs. Tada.

**Rev. Takahashi** offered the words of thanks and everyone was treated to a delicious o-bento capped off with the dessert of cake and jello. The delicious cakes were generously donated by **Bea and Larry Isemoto**. **Rev. Takahashi** researched through the internet and found the photos that were used as decorations on the cakes. A special thank you to **Matsuko Shimizu**, **Toyoko Ishizu**, **Shizuho Ota**, **Janet Iida**, **Ida Fukumura** and **Kay Yonemori** for the jello that accompanied the cakes. By the end of lunch everyone was ready to be entertained. MC'd by **Karen Maedo**, with her lively introductions, the program started with **Joi Nakamura** doing the ballet and also singing the beautiful "Edelweiss". **Joe Tanaka** played on his ukelele a medley of Japanese songs and including "If We Hold On Together", followed by a piano solo, "Gavotto" by Bach played by **Joyce Iwashita**, without notes. The harmonica solo by **Richard Okano**, namely, "Wakare no Isochidori" and "Koko ni Sachi Ari" certainly were sentimental pieces and brought back memories of days gone by. To top it all, the duet presentation by the **Rimban and Mrs. Hagio** of "Futari wa Wakai" surely brought the house down! Such talent amongst us; what a beautiful thing it is.

This year's booklet cover was designed by **Carolyn Mizuno** and **Wilma Kawasaka**. The elegant flower arrangement displayed on the beautiful stand was created by Mrs Hagio and the photography by **Shizu Ota** sure added class.

*. . . Hilo Betsuin continued on page 4*

*Hilo Betsuin continued . . .*

In closing, the gentlemen who helped set up the tables, served the lunches and refreshments and helped with the clean up under the supervision of **Amy Ban**, should get a great **Mahalo**. We couldn't do it without you. Seeing everyone working together quietly and cheerfully, surely brought hopes of being "Embraced by the Vow - in Peace and Tranquility".

**Honoka`a**

"EMBRACED BY THE VOW: IN GRATITUDE", the Honoka`a Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association hosted the 54th Hawai'i Island United Hongwanji Women's Association Convention, Sunday, October 26, 2008. With the attendance of about 185 BWA members, ministers and guests, the day's activities were held at the Honoka`a Temple Hall.

The day's program began with registration at 8:00 a.m. and the memorial services at 9:00 a.m., which was officiated by our resident minister, **Reverend Itaru Nozaki** and the guest ministers.

The keynote speaker was **Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer**, Associate Professor of Education at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She is also the author of the book, Ho'olu: "Our Time of Becoming", which is in its second printing. Her topic was on "Women's Role in the 21st Century." She addressed how important our role as women is in the 21st century and spoke a little about herself and experiences. Her delivery was so dynamic, that it was well received and held the audience in awe.

The General Assembly meeting followed the morning service and was presided by President, **Mrs. Etsuko Mori**. The 2009-2010 officers were installed. Also, **Mrs. Momoye Matoba** of Honomū Hongwanji Fujinkai, the only centenarian, was honored, congratulated and acknowledged for her many years of contributions to our organization. She was presented with a framed resolution and lei. Since she was unable to be present, her representative accepted the honors for her.

A delicious lunch was prepared and served by our Kyodan chef, **Kenneth Kaneshiro**, his wife, **Amy** and his efficient crew of Kyodan members. The menu for the day was "Soy Bean Rice, Lettuce Wrap, Miso Butterfish, Shrimp/Lettuce Salad, Korean Chicken" and cake for dessert, plus many other delicious desserts, which were donated by our members. Lunch was served in an attractive red bento box and was enjoyed by all.

Since October is "Breast Cancer Awareness" month, we featured a guest speaker, **Christine Hijirida**, a breast cancer survivor and an American Cancer Society

volunteer. She related her experiences as a breast cancer survivor. Each attendee was presented with a gift of a pink onenju from the Honoka`a Hongwanji BWA. The purpose of the pink onenju is to help remind everyone to do her monthly breast self-examination and her annual mammogram.

Also, to be aware of being healthy, a guest Yoga instructor, **Anita Cauley**, shared with us, some easy Yoga exercises. This certainly was what everyone needed after such a filling lunch, and all enjoyed the exercises.

Other featured attractions were the lovely flower arrangements, arts and crafts and unusual items, new and old that were displayed for members to enjoy.

The convention concluded with entertainment in various forms, such as dances, skits and singing.

The General Co-Chairpersons were **Harue Furumoto** and **Janet Murakami**. With unity, cooperation and hard work by all the committee chairpersons, and members, the convention was a huge success.

submitted by **Janet Murakami**

**Kona****Kona Hongwanji BWA Makes a Difference**

BWA ladies worked year round to sew items to distribute to several facilities in the Kona area. In 2008, they visited and presented 425 handmade adult bibs and



165 lap blankets to patients at the K o n a C o m m u n i t y Hospital Long Term Care Unit, Kona Adult Day Center, Hospice of Kona, Life Care Center of Kona, and the

Regency at Hualālai. At the hospital, 12 BWA members played bingo games with the patients and distributed prizes. They also dressed in Halloween costumes and entertained the patients with songs and dances. Community Service Chairperson **Anna Kaku** wanted to "Make a Difference" in the lives of these patients, so she works with the talented ladies of the BWA to create these simple items. It's little items such as these that are very much appreciated by the facilities and visits with the residents result in smiles and radiant faces, which are rewarding to our ladies. . . . *Kona continued on page 5*



*Kona continued . . .*

In September, Kona hosted the HIUHBWA Buddhist Education Workshop with **Rev. Eric Matsumoto** speaking and interacting with the ladies on the topic of "Living in Harmony" "Greener Hongwanji" by focusing on the 3R's. We used recyclable paper goods, and had a very healthy lunch a sandwich wrap all created by the by our women which was a change from our traditional Japanese delights. **Tamayo** (Rev's better half) also shared her recycling ideas. The ladies were intrigued by her candle and soap making projects using discarded cooking oil. We all wanted to know how to make these items, however Tamayo said she is still perfecting it both the candle and soap. The ladies asked for directions for the candle and soap making when the process is perfected. The workshop ended with a dance Mottainai Baasan Ondo", which really brought a great ending to a day of education, food and fellowship.

The women group was called to action again to assist the State Lay Convention committee in keeping the delegates fed and contented. The women also united in December and assisted with the Jr. YBA annual mochi making fundraiser.

*Puna*

In December, officers were elected: President **Helen Yamada**; Vice President, **Jean Tanaka**; Secretary **K.T. Cannon-Eger**; Assistant Secretary **Eileen Usugawa**; Treasurer **Nancy Yamada**; Assistant Treasurer **Tsugiko Uchida**; advisor **Rev. Earl Ikeda**; Immediate Past President and Advisor **Hatsume Tanaka**; Auditors **Yuki Uchida**, **Mieko Kuritani**, and **Florence Nishimura**.

Sadly, long time member **Tsugiko Uchida** passed away early in 2009. **Jean Tamashiro** was appointed Assistant Treasurer and was confirmed by the membership.

Officers were installed in February during a temple service prior to the annual Shinnen Enkai.

A festive end-of-the-year party was held in early February at Coqui's Hideaway in Hilo.

Plans are well underway for Puna Hongwanji Mission's BWA Centennial, which will be celebrated on Sunday, April 12. We also are making plans to celebrate **Lady Eshinni** and **Lady Kakushinni Day** on Sunday, April 26.

**HONOLULU***Hawai'i Betsuin*

The Hawai'i Betsuin BWA began the year with its installation of officers and a New Year's Membership meeting and Party on January 25, 2009. The members

held its installation after the ten o'clock service and retired to the social hall for the meeting and festivities.

Many of the officers are rather new to the BWA, but they boldly stepped forward to the positions of responsibility. President **Lois Yasui**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President **Sharyn Sekine** and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President **Cecelia Lindo** are in the frontline. They are supported by Past-President **Mary Tanouye**, Recording Secretary **Wendie Yumori**,



Corresponding Secretary **Kimiyo Miyose**, Treasurer **Grace Zukeran** and Assistant Treasurer **Barbara Kodama**. Auditors are **Linda Toshima**, **Hanayo Shimabukuro**, **Peggy Shintaku**, **Carol Yamamoto**, and **Fusae Kiyokawa**. **Reverend Ryoso Toshima** is the advisor and **Mrs. Toshima** is the honorary President.



The BWA presented a check for \$10,000 to **Reverend Toshima** for the kitchen renovation. New appliances and other updates have made the kitchen a more modern space for everyone to work in.

Another project that the women are working on is a mini-market where home-grown fruit and vegetables are sold to temple members for a modest sum. The money from the mini-market will go to the 750<sup>th</sup> commemoration fund drive. Hawai'i Betsuin BWA like many other units has donated \$1,000 and will be adding to that sum with profits from the mini-market.

*Jikoen*

News about our activities since September, 2008

Throughout the year 2008, we were immersed in the various events commemorating Jikoen temple's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Those that took place in the Fall were, in October:

- The Youth Dharma Retreat at Camp Timberline  
– members **Dorene Niibu**, **Ai Ogata**,



*Jikoen continued . . .*

Doris Oshiro up a tree

**Doris Oshiro** and **June Sutterfield** were four of the adult participants who plunged into the fun-and-sometimes-scary activities with as much abandon as the youngsters.

Ai Ogata &amp; Suzy Nishiyama at play.



Dorene Niibu w/ Dharma students



• **K i m o n o** dressing for the kupuna – about 20 of us ladies experienced getting dressed in *montsuki* and fancy *obi*, thanks to Sensei **Jean Sakihara** and her helpers.



Sachiko Teruya &amp; June Sutterfield Haru Okita in her beautiful kimono

• Dedication of our newly renovated columbarium – **Sachiko Teruya's family** was the principal planner and workforce for this beautiful new addition to our temple.



Betty Suenishi/Janet Sasaki waiting for mochi

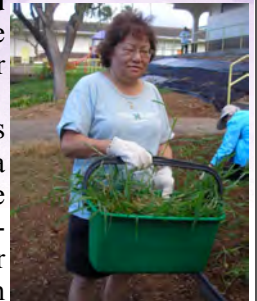
• In November many members attended the memorial Dharma Session with visiting bishop/minister the **Rev. Akinori Imai**. • We all participated in the culminating activity – the Commemoration Service at the temple, where the mochi-toss from the rooftop was a big highlight, and then

Shiz has her mochi!



the banquet/luncheon where **Kyoko Kuniyuki, Pat Shiroma, Annie Shimabukuro and Barbara Yamada** were part of the entertainment, singing a popular Okinawan song.

• In January, a big bunch of ladies joined some men on the Kapālama School campus to help the custodians plant grass in a newly-cleared area. This was our community-service project in conjunction with our 70<sup>th</sup> June Nakamasu w/ load of grass anniversary events.



On February 21, we greeted year 2009 with our annual New Year Party at the Honolulu Country Club. The highlights of the day were the installation of new officers and initiation of seven new members. Our new officers are: President **Suzy Nishiyama**, V.P. **June Nakamasu**, Secretary **Helen Asato**, Corr. Sec. **Janet Wakakuwa**, Treasurer **Annie Shimabukuro**, Auditors **Lillian Gima and Elaine Hirashiki**, and advisers **Masako Oda and Sadako Oshiro**. The seven new members are **Judith Matsumoto, Judy Muramoto, Myrna Nishihara, Ai Ogata, Betty Suenishi, June Sutterfield and Jean Yamashiro**. We enjoyed a great lunch, played games, distributed prizes, sang karaoke and had a wonderful time in laughter and fellowship.

*Kailua*

Kailua Honganji's BWA held its Bonnenkai in December at the Joyful Restaurant in Kāne'ohe. Members enjoyed the delicious food and enjoyed playing some games.

In January the new officers were installed by Reverend Yuika Hasebe at the General Membership Meeting and New Years' Party. They are President **Shirley Yanagisawa**,



Immediate Past President **Jean Fukumoto**, 1st Vice President **Elaine Fukada**, 2nd Vice President **Betty Okamoto**, Secretary **MaryLou Lomaka**, Treasurer **Janet Kukino**, Auditor **Karen Fuke** and Directors **Julie Kusumoto, Lillian Nishimura, and Chisae Sumikawa**.

Continuing activities are the monthly visits to the Aloha Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre in Kāne'ohe and members also participate in Project Dana.



### Mō'ilī'ili

Mō'ilī'ili Hongwanji's BWAers welcome in 2009 with the Obama-ish motto, "Together We Can!" Last year, we guided ourselves by the message from a Jataka tale about cooperation and agreed that just a few individuals cannot successfully carry the tasks facing a BWA group. It is the BWA Sangha together that can promote a living Dharma! Yes, in the words of Gyomay Kubose:

"Holding a warm heart,  
Together with people,  
I will move forward,  
Oh, this good year."

The BWA opened 2009 preparing delicious otoki of zenzai and o-soba for our Hoonko service in January. The shower cap gang made 100 servings for temple



It was banzai! This was only half the group.

members and homebound elders.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the Keirokai and New Member service and also the annual Shinnen Enkai (New Year's

party). In the special service, BWA member **Sue Sonoda** was honored as a keiro for 2009. Sue is a key person when it comes to all the food preparation we do. We are grateful for her expertise and ability to make large batches of anything oishii. We wish a healthy new year for Sue!



Also honored at our service with special recognitions were **Donna Higashi** and **Rose Nakamura**. Donna was



Also pictured: Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Shim Kanazawa and Kyodan President, Bert Ogasawara

our Dharma School supervisor for 24 years and has been a teacher for even more than that. We're fortunate to have her continuing to guide our youngsters in the Dharma. Fellow BWAer, youthful

**Krystal Narusaki** has taken over the supervisory role. **Rose Nakamura** was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Kyodan. Truly an inspirational woman and leader, Rose was honored at the end of 2008

with the inaugural, Midweek Magazine's "Forever Young" Award and also the national AARP Magazine's Inspire Award. Is there anyone who doesn't know Rose? At a young 80 years of age, Rose continues to give selflessly. A true myokonin!

After the service, 120 people gathered at Mānoa Treetops for fellowship and good eats at our Shinnen Enkai. We honored BWAer, **Jeanne Watari** our temple office manager who retired after 24 years of service to Mō'ilī'ili Hongwanji. She wore so many "hats" and helped everything at Mō'ilī'ili Hongwanji move smoothly. We



Can you see how many hats were put on Jeanne? Krystal Narusaki in the brown and Donna Higashi, hostess with the mostest!

truly appreciated all that she did and congratulate her on her retirement and wish for her many relaxing days to enjoy. Fellow BWA, **Anne Kawabata** who was Jeanne's right hand helper in the office, will now serve as our office manager.

Wishing all our fellow BWAers a great 2009. Remember, "Together, We Can!"

Our precious **Jeanne Watari**-24 years of service to the temple

**Lois Ohta**

### KAUAI

#### Kaua'i United

On October 19, 2008 Hanapēpē Hongwanji hosted our annual United General Membership Conference. This year's theme was "Change". Guest Speaker **Ed Nakaya**, from Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, spoke about using energy responsibly and the impact of individual conservation efforts. **Fay Tateishi**, General Chairperson for this event,



arranged for an Iris Folding Workshop led by **Takeshi Fujita**. Creativity and enthusiasm flourished as each member made a greeting card to take home.



*Kauai United continued . . .*

The annual Lonesome Grave Project on November 10, 2008 was another success. Each year, on the day before Veteran's Day, members from the Kaua'i Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association gather and place flowers



L to R: Leatrice Igawa, Myrtle Shinagawa and Chizue Teshima

on every grave at the Hanapepe Veteran's Cemetery. This year over 35 members arrived to participate. The Lonesome

Grave Project was started about 15

years ago by **Barbara Funamura** when she noticed that many Veterans did not have family who could decorate their graves. She thought these graves had an air of lonesomeness about them. The Lonesome Grave Project began with KUHWA members growing marigolds to harvest and place on graves. Today there are still members who grow marigolds, but other flower types are generously donated. It's a beautiful sight to see a bouquet of flowers honoring every Veteran!

*Līhu'e***HOMEBOUND PROJECT:**

LHWA annually assists the Kyodan in its Homebound Project. This year about 40 members who are:

- 90 years and over in age
- Living in long term care facilities
- Homebound at home taken care by relatives

These members were treated with barazushi and manju to enjoy. If they were living in a care facility, they were given a beanie for men and a scarf for women to keep them warm during the cold winter days.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009:**

Officers for 2009 were installed on Sunday, January 4, 2009 followed by a luncheon at the Wailuā Marina Restaurant. The following officers will lead the Līhu'e Hongwanji Women's Association:



President  
Immediate Past President  
1st Vice President  
2nd vice President  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Auditor

**Gail Shibuya**  
**Marion Ogata**  
**Cynthia Masukawa**  
**Carol Valentine**  
**Gladys Fujiuchi**  
**Laura Hirokawa**  
**Janet Niitani**  
**Lillian Amimoto**  
**Yoko Takabayashi**  
**Mona Lee**  
**Alice Inouye**  
**Rev. Midori Kondo**

Advisor

**VISITATION TO THE INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES (IBS) AT BERKLEY:**

After a busy Obon at Līhu'e; LHWA sponsored a tour to Berkley, California to visit the new Institute of Buddhist Studies. Twenty members and spouses from all the temples on Kaua'i (14 from Līhu'e Hongwanji, 4 from West Kaua'i Hongwanji, and 2 from Kapa'a Hongwanji) and their tour guide, Myron departed Kaua'i from June 19-26, 2008.

The tour commenced in Reno, then went on to Lake Tahoe, down through Auburn (Ikeda's), Vacaville (shopping) and on to San Francisco (Chinatown). We were fortunate to have a tour of the Institute with a short service and shopping at the bookstore.



## MAUI

### Kahului

The KHM BWA women had a very successful 2008 enjoying one another while participating in temple activities, including having fun at hosha twice a month. Diverse educational endeavors included learning how to operate household fire extinguishers and creating craft items like yarn leis and bottle openers.

The year ended on a sad note with the passing of **Geraldine Kodani**, our temple secretary for the past 25 years, and a devoted member of not only our temple BWA but also our Maui United BWA. We celebrate her life – she was precious to all of us with her spirit of kokua, she was always the go-to person who helped teach us all what needed to be done and skillfully got us together to accomplish the task at hand. As a natori of Japanese dance, she not only performed for us all on occasions, but was always the one who led the way to teaching new obon dances annually. We miss her and are grateful to her for sharing her knowledge and wisdom. We will work to use them as we seize the opportunities that 2009 brings.

### Lahaina

In place of listing the BWA events that came after the Fall Newsletter --- we pay homage to the importance of the Buddhist Women's Association. In doing so, we cite examples from Lahaina Hongwanji BWA that underline that importance.

#### *What Makes the BWA Tick? What are the A-B-C's of this time-honored organization?*

- A is for ADAPTATION. Some of the long-time, core members of Lahaina BWA have kept impeccable handwritten notes about everything from menus, preparations, itemized costs for luncheons and projects --- to detailed planning and procedures for events. Now, they encourage members with computer skills to take over such duties. Their note-keeping is not just a record to refer to, but a true history of the commitment to Lahaina Hongwanji. The younger generation can only hope to meet that level of dedication.
- B is for BACKBONE. For every Lahaina Hongwanji event, there is always a core group of Fujinkai ladies who are there days in advance to plan, prepare for, then help in the coordination of the event. It is plain to see that "unwritten assignments" have developed through the years---**Violet** makes the nishime,

**Shirley** and **Fumie** coordinate sushi-making, **Alice** is the baker, and **Emi** captains the quilt-making. The next generation BWA members are awe-struck by how smoothly things run. It's easy to see why the Fujinkai ladies are often sought out for advice, from Kyodan board members, from ministers, and from the larger general membership.



Clockwise from left: Alice Imano, Hatsumi Kadotani, Yukie Takayama, Sarah Ginoza, Ruth Otomo

- C is for CREATIVITY. The familiar scene of Tuesday Craft Club days captures the essence of BWA camaraderie and creativity. Some ladies work on solo projects while others band together to work on large quilts and other projects. BWA creations have raised funds for attending World BWA Conventions, for donations to hospitals and other community concerns, and contributions to support Headquarters, Pacific Buddhist Academy, our own temple, and so forth.



L to R: Violet Nishijima, Yumiko Nishimoto, Toshiko Watanabe, Shirley Tobita

- F is for FELLOWSHIP. You see it in members hard at work (General Cleanup, Bazaar and Obon Preparation), or at play (picnicking after hospital

... *Lahaina continued on page 10*

*Lahaina continued . . .*

visitations). It's there at Sunday services and major services, and at events such as the Maui United BWA Fall Assembly, which was held at Lahaina in 2008.



L to R: Barbie Otomo – 2008 MUBWA Treasurer; Gwen Fujie-Guest Speaker; Sharon Nohara-2008 MUBWA Secretary; Dawn Fujiwara-2008 MUBWA President; Phyllis Nakamura-2008 Lahaina BWA President

2009 is tagged to be a historical year for Shin Buddhism in Hawai'i, an acknowledgment of the 750<sup>th</sup> Shinran Shonin Memorial combined with the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hawai'i Kyodan. True to the dedication and spirit of the Buddhist Women's Association, we shall participate wholeheartedly in the scheduled events.

***Makawao***

Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association continues to support all the church activities from special celebrations to monthly clean-up to making special fundraising products. We are very fortunate that some of our members are Kula farmers who regularly share their extra vegetables with us or plant a special field specifically to donate to the church.

One of our BWA members always donates cucumbers which are made into delicious pickles to sell. Here is an easy recipe: **CRISPY CUCUMBER PICKLES**

Slice 3 cucumbers into 1/2 inch pieces and sprinkle with 2 TBSP. raw brown sugar. Let stand for 10 minutes. Mix together 1 TBSP. soy sauce, 1 tsp. salt, and 1/8 tsp. kim chee base or chopped chili pepper. Mix thoroughly. Soak overnight before serving.

We really appreciate all the ladies who wash, peel, chop, and mix to make the pickles at Makawao Hongwanji.

Makawao Hongwanji welcomed new members for 2008: **Billie Nakagawa** and **Kimie Tamura**, and for 2009: **Sharon Higuchi**, **Sharon Nagoshi**, **Lynn Pilarski**, and **Laura Taketa**. We welcomed our new members and celebrated the New Year with a luncheon on February 22, Sunday, at Cafe Ole, Maui Lani Golf Clubhouse.

***Wailuku*****OCTOBER****Maui County Fair-Wailuku Hongwanji Chow Fun Booth**

In preparation for the chow fun sale at the Maui County Fair, the BWA ladies prepped the green onions. We cleaned, cut and bagged the green onions. On Saturday, we packed chow fun for WHM members who picked up their chow fun at the church. Sunday evening was the BWA shift at the County Fair chow fun booth. We worked from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Autumn Craft and Food Fair -16 - 18**

The Autumn Craft and Food Fair is our big fundraiser of the year. This was our 15<sup>th</sup> year. The ladies started prepping the food products on Tuesday. Nishime is the biggest food item that gets sold out in about 1½ hour. This year, we doubled our nishime and so it took about 2 hours to sell out. We prepared pickled vegetables, sushi, barazushi, sekihan, spam musubi, cookies, and baked products – brownies, toffee bars, pecan tarts, manju, mango bread and many more. On the day of the fair, the ladies were in the kitchen by 3:00 a.m. The Fair hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. We had an appreciation luncheon for our helpers at the Vietnamese restaurant, Asian Star.

**Maui United BWA Fall Assembly - 31**

Maui United BWA Fall Assembly was held at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission. We had 12 ladies from our unit that attended. **Gwen Fujie**, a motivational and certified tongue-fu speaker was enthusiastic and entertaining.

Never say "...but" because that's already a "no" Never answer when you are being thanked, "No problem" because that means that was a PROBLEM!

**DECEMBER****Bodhi Day-8**

This year, we visited Roselani Place, a private assisted living quarters for senior citizens. We have several of our WHM members there. **Florence Tanaka** led the group in singing. We were very happy to "talk story" with our friends that reside there. We had a lunch of baked ham and veggies.

**BWA Memorial Service - 13**

A memorial service for five of our deceased member who passed away in 2008 was held. MC was **Nancy Oishi** and speaker in remembrance of the deceased was **Helen Tanaka**. 8 X 10 photos of the deceased were displayed. The families and members enjoyed refreshments prepared by the BWA ladies.

*. . . Wailuku continued on page 11*



*Wailuku continued . . .***New Year's Mochi Sale - 29**

This was our mochi sale day. **Rev. Murakami** is the chief mochi maker. We made mochi – regular, kasane, and a mochi for sale to our congregation. We decided about 2 weeks ago to sell mochi because the Dharma school discontinued making mochi. Therefore, we did only forty-five pounds.

**FEBRUARY****BWA Sokai - 8**

Our BWA Sokai was held at the Maui Prince Hotel in Wailea. This year, we could have a bus, free of charge because we joined the MEO Senior Council. **Kurt Miyajima**, a certified Chi Gung instructor was the speaker. He led us in breathing and simple Chi Gung exercises.

**4-H Luncheon - 22**

The WHM 4-H appreciation luncheon was held for our 80 years old and older members. They enjoyed participating in games and was served a delicious lunch prepared by the 4-H girls.

**OAHU***'Aiea*

The 'Aiea BWA has had a few busy months supporting church affiliated activities. In August 2008, members made spam musubi, tsukemono and desserts for the 'Aiea Hongwanji Mission's Judo Club Tournament, support. Thank you to **Thelma Kawaguchi, Sumiko Nakahara, Helen Takenouchi, Doris Shimizu, Elaine Yamanoha and Harriet Zakahi.**

We are grateful to **Reverend Jan Youth** and **Reverend Koho Takata** who conducted Sunday services during the month of September. October brought Halloween and our annual Hawaiian Lū'au. BWA members participated in the O'ahu Lay Association sponsored "Patch of Madness" pumpkin picking and carving activity at 'Ewa Hongwanji Mission. Later in the month, **Iron Chef Ito Kurasaki** directed his assistant cooks and we enjoyed a Hawaiian dinner. Members also enjoyed the O'ahu Buddhist Women's Association Convention at Waipahu Hongwanji Mission. The Waikiki Seniors danced beautifully during a program called *Spectacular in November* attended by Aiea BWA.

December was highlighted by our End of the Year Luncheon at Pearl Country Club planned by **Harriet Watanabe, Ethel Sekine and Elaine Yamanoha.** There was an abundance of good food, prizes and music. The



community was invited to enjoy and participate in our: *A Cultural Affair* (annual mochi pounding) led by **Chef Ito Kurasaki**, complete with hachimaki made by 'Aiea BWA members.



Kanakuri Family

**Reverend Arthur Kaufmann** was introduced to the members during our New Year's Party in January. BWA ladies helped with serving of the food.

*Mililani*

As a CARE Day activity, our members attended a four-day workshop called "Eden at Home" from September 13 to October 4 at our temple. This workshop gave us a new perspective of elders and tools to use in caring for them.

In November, we sponsored a movie night at our temple, as another CARE Day activity, with the showing of "Memories of Tomorrow." This movie is about a manager of an ad agency, played by Japanese Oscar-winning actor Ken Watanabe, who is stricken with Alzheimer's at the age of 49. After the movie, we talked about the movie in groups as we enjoyed some refreshments.

The last meeting of 2008 was a potluck dinner meeting at our temple. We welcomed new members **Kazuko Ama** and **Joy Smallwood**,

who was interested in becoming a member. As usual, we had a huge spread of food. But before we could eat, everyone had to sketch each other. Then, after dinner, each person tried to guess who the drawings



Janet Abe and Haruko Toma welcome Joy Smallwood and Kazuko Ama

*Mililani continued . . .*

Sadae Tagami and Rene Mansho trying to "Guess Who"

were of. Everyone went home with a grab bag and leftover food.

New officers for 2009 were installed in January. They are President **Joyce Ogawa**, Immediate Past President **Janet Honda**, Vice-President **Doreen Sakamoto**, Secretary **Ethel Yamashige**, Assistant Secretary **Diane Yoza**, Treasurer **Nora Hahn**, Assistant Treasurer **Twila Castellucci**, and Auditors **June Asato** and **Lorna Tanimoto**.

We were excited to hear from our sister temple, Senkoji, in Hiroshima, who sent us a box full of goodies with a letter. We are looking forward to meeting some of their members, hopefully, at this year's commemoration events and in 2011 in Japan.

*Pearl City*

In October 2008, **Rev. Shingo Furusawa** became the new resident minister of Pearl City Hongwanji Mission. He is originally from Hiroshima-Ken, has been in Hawai'i for two years, and served at Hawaii Betsuin before being assigned to Pearl City. Rev.



Furusawa not only serves as Fujinkai minister advisor at Pearl City, but is also minister advisor to the O'ahu United BWA; Pearl City Fujinkai member **Takako Desaki** is this year's president of the O'ahu United BWA.

Upon arrival, the first Fujinkai activity Rev. Furusawa participated in was the annual Craft Fair on November 1. At this event, members raise money by selling crafts, tsukemono, sushi, baked goods, plants, produce, and white elephant items. Nearly everything sold is made or donated by Fujinkai members and their supporters.

On November 30, Pearl City Hongwanji Fujinkai members gathered for their annual memorial service and rededication luncheon. The memorial service honors the memory of members who passed away in the past year. Member **Mrs. Yoko Murakami**, widow of the late Pearl City resident minister, **Rev. Toshio Murakami**, was remembered at this year's service. She passed away in

October, just five months after her husband. A rededication luncheon followed at the Kabuki Restaurant in 'Aiea.

*'Ewa, Wai'anae and Waipahu*

The 50th Annual Convention of the O'ahu United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association was held on Sunday, October 26, 2008 at the Waipahu Hongwanji Temple hosted by the 'Ewa, Wai'anae and Waipahu BWAs. Members from the three units extended a warm welcome to the participants as they arrived anticipating an enjoyable day to renew friendship and socialize with friends.

A solemn memorial service honoring our members who have passed away was held with each unit represented with candlelight (Kento), flowers (Kenka) and Offering of incense (Oshoko). **Rev. Toshio Murakami**, past minister of Pearl City Hongwanji who passed away on May 26, 2008 was remembered. The Memorial Sermon was delivered by **Rev. Jay S. Okamoto** of Waipahu Hongwanji Mission.

Keynote speaker was **Ms. Mary M. Tanouye**, President of the Betsuin BWA whose topic was **BUDDHA BESIDE ME**. BWA members were grateful to have the privilege of listening to Ms. Tanouye and to learn of her achievements in her life. We were overwhelmed by her educational, personal and leadership skills and her profound devotion to the Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i.

A delicious lunch was served followed by the General Meeting conducted by **Rev. Jan Youth**, President. At the conclusion of the business meeting, the 2009 Officers were elected and installed with



**Takako Desaki** of Pearl City as incoming president



*'Ewa, Wai`anae, Waipahu continued . . .*

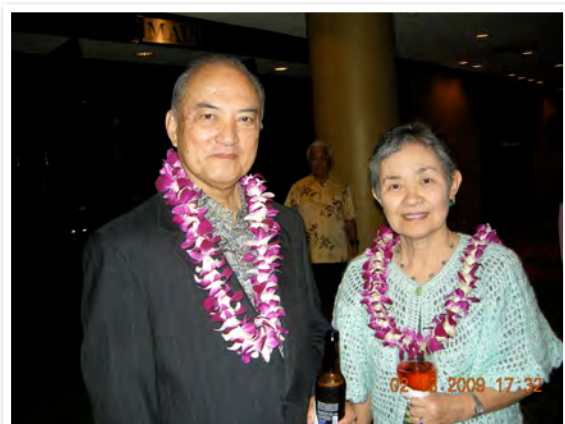
and Rev. Shingo Furusawa as minister advisor: O`ahu United BWA Officers for 2009 are:

President	<b>Takako Desaki</b>	Pearl City
Immediate Past Pres,	<b>Rev. Jan Youth</b>	Mililani
Vice-President	<b>Susan Ushijima</b>	Wai`anae
Recording Secretary	<b>Barbara Matsunaga</b>	Wahiawa
Corresponding Sec.	<b>Doris Matsuoka</b>	Wahiawa
Treasurer	<b>Thelma Kawaguchi</b>	`Aiea
Auditors	<b>Ethel Yamashige</b>	Mililani
Auditors	<b>Joyce Ogawa</b>	Mililani

Entertainment was provided by the Wai`anae and Waipahu BWA and was enjoyed by all. At the conclusion of the closing ceremony, Pearl City Hongwanji extended an invitation to the 51st Convention in 2009 and are looking forward to your participation.

The `Ewa, Wai`anae and Waipahu BWA would like to express sincere thanks to all who came to help us celebrate our half a century convention this year...

Mahalo!



Bishop Thomas and Michiko Okano



Lois Yasui and Richard Endo (BCA)



Cindy & Russell Nonaka, Rev. Arthur Kaufmann, Rev. and Mrs. Hiromi Kawaji, Claire and Warren Tamamoto



2009 Living Treasures Honorees: Col. (Ret) Bert Nishimura, Puanani Burgess, Sr. Joan Chatfield, M. M., Amy Agbayani, and Nalani Olds.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann, President Alton Miyamoto, Bishop Thomas Okano



BWA Members man the check in table at the 2009 Aloha Banquet and are still smiling.



HAWAII FEDERATION OF HONPA HONGWANJI BWAS  
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