



2010 SPRING EDITION Volume XL, Issue 1

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HAWAII FEDERATION OF HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

HONORARY PRESIDENT-MICHIKO OKANO•PRESIDENT-DONNA HIGASHI•MINISTER ADVISOR-REV. ERIC MATSUMOTO

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The World of Dew

Kobayashi Issa (1763-1828) wrote the following haiku after his first-born son and then his second child, a daughter died: Tsuyu no yo wa tsuyu no yo nagara sari nagara

The world of dew—

Is a world of dew, and yet

And yet. . .



I'll leave the interpretation to each of you but the lesson is life is temporary and fragile, like a dewdrop. The Buddhist Women's Association recently lost two fine individuals that served the Hongwanji to their fullest, namely Cynthia Masukawa, 56 of Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association and Lois Yasui, 68 of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin BWA.

While battling cancer for close to a year, Cynthia continued serving in her many Hongwanji positions until she passed away on January 13, 2010. She served many positions on the Hawaii Federation of BWAs Board, most recently as its Recording Secretary and United BWA of Kauai's President. Lois passed away suddenly on February 25, doing what she enjoyed, representing Hawaii at a BCA Hongwanji meeting in San Jose, California. She was serving her second year as President of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin BWA. Our deepest sympathies go out to both of their families and friends.

Now as I begin my second term as the Hawaii Federation of BWAs president, I would like to wish all BWA members and Hongwanji ministers the best of health in 2010 and to ask you to live each day to the fullest in peace, harmony and gratitude.

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

Oahu United BWA 2009 Convention

On October 25, 2009, Pearl City hosted the 51st Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA Convention at Waipahu Hongwanji Mission. There were 142 delegates from 6 temples, along with 6 ministers and 3 guests. Theme for the Convention was "Embraced by the Vow: In Peace and Tranquility."

After registration and coffee hour, the day began with "Aloha Kakahiaka, E Komo Mai" by Convention Chairperson Yuriko Minakami. This was followed by a memorial service to honor the twenty-four Oahu BWA members who passed away in the last year. The memorial sermon was delivered by Rev. Shingo Furusawa, minister advisor of the Oahu United BWA.

The Convention keynote speaker was Coach Hayashi, a funny guy, with lots of advice and tips on how to avoid threatening situations—in the parking lot, elevators, cars, streets, and even at home. His eye-opening lecture with a twist of humor certainly seemed to have caught everyone's attention. There was much laughter throughout his funny and practical presentation. His three "L's"—LISTEN! LOOK! LEAVE!—were a sure winner.

General membership meeting was conducted by Oahu Rengo President Takako Desaki of Pearl City. Installation of officers for 2010 followed, with Waipahu's Janet Yoshida as President-elect.

Delicious bento lunch and dessert were enjoyed by everyone, followed by entertainment by Waianae and Waipahu. Waianae presented a skit, "Bokyo Hore Hore Bushi" and a dance "Hyakunensai," while Waipahu's number was a solo rendition of "Haha" by Janet Yoshida.

At the closing ceremony, Roseline Yano of Wahiawa invited the assembly to the 2010 Convention to be held in October at Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission.

BWA's 2010 Exchange Student Program

In 2011, two students from Hawaii will be going to Japan in late July and early August as exchange students from Hawaii. We are currently accepting applications. All temples should have received information on this Student Exchange Program. The Federation deadline is May 20, 2010. Each United was asked to set its own deadline. All application will have to be turned into the United and then forwarded to the Federation in order to meet the May 20 deadline. The judging will sometime in June or July this year. This will allow the exchange students sufficient time to make plans for their visit to Japan next year.

This year we will be hosting two exchange students from Japan. Rev. Eric Matsumoto received word from Headquarters that the two exchange students from Japan will be visiting Hawaii from August 9 - 17. Oahu will not be hosting the students but we encourage the Oahu BWA members to join Honolulu in welcoming and seeing the exchange students off at the airport. As of now we do not have the names of the exchange students we will be hosting or where they are from.

We will keep the Exchange Student Committee Chairs of each United informed of any additional information we receive.



HAWAII ISLAND

Hilo Betsuin

The Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association welcomed the new year on Sunday, Feb. 14 with a lovely gathering of members and guests at the Sangha Hall. The service started at 10:30 a.m. with Rimban Toyokazu Hagio officiating. The event was chaired by Valerie Galacgac and Ellen Okano.

The hall was beautifully decorated with mini kado-matsu arrangements on the tables. Ellen Curry and her committee did a wonderful job of gathering and creating the foliage which was generously donated by Vernon Inouye of Floral Resources Hawaii, Inc. and Albert Estabilio.

After opening remarks by M.C. Lily Kuroyama, sutra chanting and singing of gathas lead by Rimban Hagio and the Revs. Bruce Nakamura and Yuika Hasebe, BWA president Lillie Tsuchiya and Kyodan president Jane Iida offered incense. Rimban Hagio delivered the Dharma message which brought across the importance of humbleness in our daily lives.

Focusing on this year's slogan, "Path of Erika Masaki An shared her feelings Buddha before we can seek truth. As her deepened, including her studies at Ryuthe religion and through her various ex-humbled, feeling close to the origins of sho, "Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life." What a beautiful ending to a very enlightning message.



Entrusting, Seek Truth" our guest speaker, that we must entrust ourselves to Amida knowledge of the history of Buddhism koku University, she came to appreciate periences as she visited temples she was Buddhism. She said in her closing Gas-

Lani Yamami introduced four new BWA members - Le Bel, Vivian Hiramoto and Setsuko Okido. Amy Tsuchiya was unable to attend. Beatrice Isemoto presented them with flowers and their ID pins.

President Tsuchiya called the general membership meeting to order. The secretary's report, as well as the treasurer's and Rengo and Renmei reports were accepted as circulated. Forthcoming events, including the State BWA convention in May, Treasures of Hongwanji and the BWA's world convention in Kyoto were briefly discussed. Adjournment was followed by words of thanksgiving by the Rev. Yuika Hasebe.

After a most generous bento lunch and delicious dessert, the guests were treated to a very interesting multi-cultural program. Emceed by our most affable Karen Maedo, we were entertained by talented Kathy Okunami with her solo and also together with Sayoko Watanabe with a paranku (drum dance). Richard Okano, with his harmonica rendition of nostalgic songs brought back memories and thank you to Amy Kubota for her soothing piano solo, "Pachelbel Cannon in D". In closing the program, Sachi Imaizumi and Carole Oshiro led the group singing of "Koko Ni Sachiari".

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Junko Hagio for the altar arrangement, to Suemi Yamauchi for the scrubbers and to the ever dependable men - Hardy Iida, John Pascual, Byron Fujimoto, Richard Onishi, Art Taniguchi, Richard Okano, Burt Tsuchiya, Ivan Nakano, Stanley Fujiyama and Steve Yamami for facility set-up, clean up and PA system. To Judy Fujiyama and Sandy Hiyoto, thank you for publishing such a special booklet and to Itsuko Murakami for the artistic flower arrangement on the cover. Shizuho Ota's photo made it so professional.

Hilo Betsuin continued

Not only was this our 2010 Shinnen Enkai celebration, but it was Chinese New Year and best of all Valentine's Day! As Erika mentioned, I'm sure all of us went home feeling the warmth and connection with Amida Buddha's compassion.

HONOLULU

Hawaii Betsuin

Members of the Betsuin BWA met on Sunday, November 1, 2009 to elect and install new officers and to initiate new members. Rev. Ryoso Toshima installed the following officers: Immediate Past President—Mary Tanouye, President—Lois Yasui, 1st Vice President—Sharyn Sekine, 2nd Vice President—Cecilia Lindo, Recording Secretary—Wendie Yumori, Treasurer—Jo desMarets, Assistant Treasurer—Grace Zukeran, Auditors—Hanayo Shimabukuro and Peggy Shintaku.



HHHB BWA 2010 Officers: Newly installed officers for 2010 (left-right): Rev. Toshima, Hanayo Shimabukuro, Cecilia Lindo, Lois Yasui, Sharyn Sekine, Jo desMarets, Grace Zukeran, Peggy Shintaku, Mary Tanouye.

The Betsuin BWA gained 7 new members with the initiation of Doris Abe, Joyce Henna, Kazuko Takamatsu, and Eileen Yoshino. New members Diane Kawamoto, Cheryl Sora, and Faith Takenaka were unable to attend.

To celebrate the end of the year 2009, 58 BWA members and 8 guests gathered on December 13th

Hawaii Betsuin continued

at the Hale Ikena at Ft. Shafter for their Sunday Brunch.

Through the generosity of our BWA members who donated door prizes, orchid centerpieces, and favors of hand-made onenju, everyone in attendance went home a winner. Door prizes were given out to everyone, musical exercises led by Mrs. Mitsuyo Saito energized us and the luncheon ended with the singing of "Asoka Garden" led by members of the Betsuin choir. The delicious food, fellowship and festiveness of the holiday season made for an enjoyable celebration.



The BWA mini market is gaining in popularity. It is open in the Betsuin social hall after our

Sunday services whenever there are enough items to offer. Temple members donate their garden fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, and baked goods to be sold at bargain prices. Florence Wasai, chairman of this fundraiser, is very grateful for the response. January 2010's market saw three tables laden with piles of lemons, zabon, oranges, mizuna, chayote, mixed vegetable pickles, star fruit, flowers, sekihan, cookies, pizzelles, baked mochi and home-sewn shower caps. Proceeds from the mini markets made it possible for the BWA to donate a second check of \$1,000 to the 750th Commemoration fundraiser during the BWA Dana service on February 14th.



Our annual temple visitation on Sunday, February 21st also included a "hanami." The day started early as our BWA ladies boarded a bus to travel to Wahiawa Hongwanji to participate in their service, followed by fellowship with their members, and to view the beautiful sakura blossoms along the roadside. After leaving Wahiawa, we headed to Helemano Plantation for a delicious buffet lunch.

Hawaii Betsuin continued

Helemano Plantation offers training and employment opportunities in a "real world" work environment for the developmentally disabled in their restaurant, gift shop, bake shop and farm. It was a wonderful day spent enjoying the beauty of nature and of the human soul.



Sadly, our BWA suffered a terrible loss with the sudden passing of our president, Lois Yasui on Feb. 25th. Her last day with our BWA was on our "hanami" excursion on Feb. 21st.

Her passing has left a huge void in our BWA, Hawaii Betsuin and the Hawaii Kyodan, but her memory lives on because of the many people she touched in her dedicated service to the Hongwanji. To fill the vacant President's seat, Sharyn Sekine, who was the 1st Vice President, was elected President by the executive board.

Our annual Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day service was held on April 25th. Through the efforts and cooperation of many BWA members and assistance from our Betsuin choir, this delightful and heartwarming service filled with beautiful music and flowers was dedicated to the memory of our late BWA President, Lois Yasui. A magnificent magnolia blossom placed before the portrait of Eshin-ni Sama provided the finishing touch. To celebrate this special day, a delicious snack, which included cold somen and a decorated sheet cake, was served to all attendees of our three services of the day. While partaking of their snacks, our BWA members attended our second general membership meeting for the year.



Jikoen

Instead of the usual summary of our activities since the last issue, (not that we haven't been busy with the usual temple doings such as our participation in the Double Commemoration, BBQ chicken fundraiser, special Dharma Session with the Rev. Masao Kodani and our New Year party) this time we feature three remarkable ladies who although they are in their 90's, are still active in our organization.



Shigeko Gushiken was born on Maui but moved to Okinawa with her mother when she was three years old. After attending elementary and high schools there, she returned to Hawaii at age 23. After her marriage to James S. Gushiken who owned and operated a hotel, she

started coming to Jikoen at the old Houghtailing address because he was a very close friend of the Rev. Chiro Yosemori, its founder.

She remembers all the oldtimers of those days and the activities such as making andagi and sushi, helping at their annual fair, feeding college students from Okinawa and going on day trips around the island to visit other temples.

She moved to Japan to live with her daughter Amy Saito and her family in the 1978 to help care for her newly-born granddaughter Ai and returned to Hawaii with them in the early 1990's.

Today, although wheel-chair bound, Mrs. Gushiken still attends Sunday services and special activities such as our Shinnen Enkai, thanks to the loving care of her family, especially granddaughter Ai. Also regularly attending our services is Ai's toddler, Elise, making FOUR generations of the Gushiken family present at all our functions – what a great distinction for Jikoen! *see Jikoen on next page.*

The Betsuin's Eshini-ni / Kakushin-ni Day speaker, Kaethe Kauffman, Ph.D..

Jikoen continued

Gladys Higa has lived on Oahu all her life, in Waianae, Wahiawa, Waipahu, and now Mililani. Until only a few years ago, she did all her own driving.

She joined Jikoen temple in the early

1960's when the late Rev. Jikai Yamasato was the minister. For a time she served as the recording secretary of the BWA. Some of the earlier activities she participated in are the annual carnivals held on the Kapalama School grounds, picnics and an excursion to Ho'omaluhia Gardens of which she was the chairman.

Among the old-timers she fondly remembers are Agnes Asato, Chizuko Kishimoto and Chiyoko Shiroma, who contributed so much to Jikoen as cooks and seamstresses.

Today, Gladys attends all our Sunday services and related activities; she was an enthusiastic participant in the 12th World Convention held in Brazil in 2002. At our recent annual New Year party she won a big prize in the jan ken po contest.

Her parting thoughts about Jikoen includes the following: "I hope Jikoen will be successful with its plans for the Adult Day Care Center...I am very grateful and happy that I am a member of Jikoen..."



Harue Uechi began her life at Hilo's Yamanoha hospital, but because she was her family's first grandchild, her grandpa took charge of her early upbringing on his pig farm in Alae on the Hamakua

coast. Her strong ties to her grandparents continued even after she moved to Honolulu with her family, with visits back to the Big Island every summer.

Kalihiwaena, Fern and Kalakaua Intermediate were the schools she attended as a youngster. Instead of going on to McKinley High, she enrolled at the Honpa Hongwanji Japanese school for girls while also working at the Hasegawa book store.

Her first contact with Jikoen was when Rev. Yamasato began holding services in the old clubhouse deep in Kalihi Valley. She remembers going on picnics with the group, which included old friends like Hiroko Shimabukuro and Shizuko Uezu.

When Jikoen's first temple was built on Houghtailing Street, Harue and her husband were one of the first couples to be married there in a very simple ceremony. However, after the children were born, she became too busy with them and her work to attend services. Later after the move to the present location on School Street, she resumed her temple

Kailua



The 2010 officers of the Kailua Buddhist Women's Association were installed after the Kailua Honganji's Annual General Membership Meeting in December. The officers are President Shirley Yanagisawa, Vice President Jean Fukumoto, Secretary MaryLou Lomaka, Treasurer Janet Kukino, Auditor Karen Fuke, and Directors Julie Kusumoto, Lillian Nishimura and Chisae Sumikawa.

Our Bonnen Kai was held in December after our General Membership Meeting. Members enjoyed the buffet at the Tsukiji jRestaurant at the Hookipa Terrace, Ala Moana Shopping Center. Everyone returned to the Temple where door prizes were given.

Kailua continued

All participants had a very relaxing and enjoyable time.

In January KBWA members enjoyed making their own onenju with the help of Kyodan President Keiji Kukino.

On February 16 five members of our BWA, Elaine Fukada, Agnes Kagawa, Nancy Kikuchi, Janet Kukino and Shirley Yanagisawa along with Rev. David Nakamoto and several members of the Kailua Honganji Ohana went to Wahiawa to view the beautiful sakura in bloom. Everyone gathered at Wahiawa Hongwanji where Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki and Ms. Dale Shimaura warmly greeted us. We were given a tour of the Temple grounds. Other members of the Wahiawa BWA and Hongwanji Ohana soon arrived and we all exercised on the temple grounds led by Rev. David Nakamoto. Several of the Wahiawa la-



dies served as guides on a tour of the homes that had the beautiful sakura blossoms in bloom. They took us to the Wahiawa Botanical Garden where we were able to enjoy seeing the various flowers that were in bloom such as the green and red jade and the mysore clockvine. A visit to the Wahiawa Open Market followed and our members were able to buy some vegetables and fruits. Everyone had a wonderful time socializing with the Wahiawa Ohana who were so gracious and helpful.

We were able to continue socializing when the BWA ladies and members of the Wahiawa Ohana joined us for lunch at Dot's Restaurant. Our Kailua Ohana had a most wonderful time in Wahiawa. We are grateful to the wonderful ladies of the Wahiawa BWA and their Hongwanji Ohana for their warm and gracious hospitality.

Moiliili

Old News Is Still Good News! Moiliili's BWA continues to work with the untiring, dedicated spirit of a BWA!



Moiliili's BWA wholeheartedly supported the Double Commemoration in attendance to the Ohana Conference and in donating "Eco Soap" sale proceeds to the Double Commemoration.

Hopefully some of you were able to purchase the wonderful Eco Soap through the Annon Café or Annon Festa. This all natural soap was handmade by our own Tamayo Matsumoto. All 500 beautiful bags were sewn by Helen Hamasu from leftover

material. Talking and laughing, 8 ladies bagged all the soap in 3 hours. It was a "feel good" soap useful for the body and face.

No temple services in August provides time to enjoy other fun fellowship. On August 2nd, eight members of Mililani's Lotus Connection provided a relax-



Moiliili continued

ing card making activity for about 21 ladies in our temple annex. The hardworking LC members got all the materials ready and kindly stood by to guide the card-making. We were most appreciative of their generosity in letting us keep all the wonderful cards we made! We ended this most enjoyable get-together with a delicious bento lunch.



Here we are with the Lotus Connection ladies and gentleman!



Most recently, we opened the new year making mochi, and serving otoki - soba and zenzai at our January Hoonko service. Thirty homebound temple members also had the otoki delivered to them and expressed their gratitude for the very special New Year's treat!

We are looking forward to another grrreat year of the Tiger!

Kauai United



In September Kauai United's Dana Project Committee were pleased to present a check to a local charity. The donation will allow three at risk teen girls from Kauai the chance to attend a camp where they will learn self-empowerment.

On October 18, 2009 Kapaa Hongwanji hosted our annual United General Membership Conference. This year's theme was "Peace & Tranquility". Mrs. Yoshiko "Dimples" Kano was the General Chairperson and M.C. for this event. A representative from Kauai Economic Opportunity spoke about their Weatherization Assistance Program, and energy conservation. New officers were elected and

installed. The 2010 officers are: President Gayle Shibuya, Secretary Takako Hashimoto, and Treasurer Dimples Kano.

October 19, 2009 Hanapepe Hongwanji's Fujin Kai celebrated their 55th Anniversary. Although the Hanapepe Fujin Kai are members of the West Kauai BWA, they enjoyed the chance to get together to celebrate this milestone. Their eldest members, Rev. Shimabukuro and Shigeko Masuda, were special guests and were presented with framed quilts as a "thank you" for the selfless sharing of all their talents. The quilts were made by Ayame Taketa.

Kauai United continued

The annual Lonesome Grave Project on November 10, 2009 was another success. Each year, on the day before Veteran's Day, members from the Kauai Hongwanji BWA gather and place flowers on every grave at the Hanapepe Veteran's Cemetery. This year over 45 members arrived to participate. It's a beautiful sight to see a bouquet of flowers honoring every Veteran!

Lihue Hongwanji BWA did a project called "Home Bound" in December. They made barasushi and manju to distribute to home bound members. Those in care homes were presented with snugly handmade sweatshirt jackets.

In January a memorial service was held for Cynthia Masukawa who passed away on January 13th, 2010 after battling cancer. Always generous with her time and talents she most recently held the position of Kyodan president in 2009, and was elected Kauai United BWA President in October 2009. She will be greatly missed at her home temple, Lihue Hongwanji, and by the entire Kauai United BWA.

MAUI**Kahului**

The women of KHBWA have started the year with renewed strength and serenity in their service to others. A project to crochet nylon scrubbers to be used as favors for the Maui United BWA Spring Assembly sounded simple but quite the contrary; it is a trying endeavor. The women have taken on the challenge and the project continues with the help and determination of many.

Reverend Jeffrey Soga conducted a computer awareness session for the BWA. He explained terminology and the various uses for a computer. Internet safety was also an important part of the session. He has volunteered to assist in shopping upon request.

Our members are looking forward to our upcoming trip to Oahu for the State Membership Conference in May. Last year's successful sale of hapi will help to defray the members' registration fee.

The club will be embarking on some fundraising this year to assist with the expenses to attend the 2011 World Convention in Japan.

Kauai welcomes new members

Earlyn Ginoza, 2010 Maui United President and Kahului memebers

Lahaina

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission has an annual bazaar that is held in March. This year the Buddhist Women's Association introduced the idea of having a Fall Bazaar – the impetus being fundraising to help defray part of the cost of attending the 2010 State BWA Conference on Oahu in March. The BWA members helped to make the Autumn Fest a big success – working hard to prepare food items and managing the rummage sale.



The care facilities visitation that Lahaina Hongwanji does each November is not something new to BWA members who participate in the event annually. It is always news-worthy, however – because it speaks of the core values of compassion and dana. We visited with residents at three care facilities and made monetary donations as well as crafted items such as stretch-knit caps.



A 'tack-on' activity to the care facilities visitation was a visit to the Hashimoto Persimmon Farm in Kula. The exquisite colors of the kaki and leaves gave us a feeling of autumn – which is rare for folks who live in Hawaii.



In January, 2010, Lahaina Hongwanji commemorated its 105th Anniversary (official month was October of 2009). As part of the celebration program, a group of Fujinkai ladies "chair-danced" to "Kan-Kan Musement". The photo shows ladies practicing for the big event with dance sensei, Earl.



BWA members also attended events relating to the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial / 120th Anniversary Hawaii Kyodan in September of 2009. Members will also attend the State Federation BWA Conference in May, 2010 and are have plans underway for the BWA World Convention in Kyoto, 2011.

MAUI continued**Makawao**

President Diane Kosaka and Makawao Hongwanji BWA members hosted the Fall General Assembly on October 31, with guest speaker Rev. Eric Matsumoto. The fall was also busy with Bingo at Hale Makua-Kahului, Senior Fair, 100th Anniversary Commemorative Wall unveiling, church clean-up, mochi tsuki, and New Years party. We have also begun planning for Makawao BWA 100th anniversary in 2011.



Rev. Matsumoto with Makawao and Lanai BWA members

The following is a favorite recipe for VEGETARIAN PIZZA:

- Crust: 2 tubes crescent rolls Unroll crescent rolls and lay flat on cookie sheet.
- Bake: at 375 for 8 min. till golden brown. Cool and put topping.
- Topping: 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 Tbsp. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix Mix together and spread on cooled crust.
- Vegetables: Variety of vegetables (peppers, broccoli, olives, mushrooms, etc.)
- Cheese: Cheddar or mozzarella cheese, grated
- Sprinkle on finely cut vegetables, press into cream cheese, and sprinkle with cheese.
- Cut into squares and enjoy.

OAHU**Mililani**

Mililani BWA forges relationship with the PBA

June Asato and President Joyce Ogawa with Head of School Pieper Toyama and State Jaycee President Patrick Tomiyasu with the banner following the presentation of a check by the Mililani BWA



As part of the Jaycees Adopt-A-School project, the Mililani BWA decided to "adopt" the Pacific Buddhist Academy and provide some kind of assistance to the school. Sunday, October 11, 2009 was designated as the official nationwide Adopt-a-School Day when thousands of community groups and individuals across

Mililani continued

America did some service for a school—some provided supplies or tutoring, some painted buildings or cabinets while some helped raise funds or made donations. Because it was a busy year with double commemoration events we decided to visit the school to help with their fundraising since we did not have time to plan any activity with them. The staff and students were excited to host the women from the country and were joined by the president of the State Jaycee organization and chair of the Hawaii project for 2009, Patrick Tomiyasu who happened to be a Hongwanji Mission School alumnus. We visited on a weekday when school was in session and the students and faculty provided information about the school and its mission and accomplishments, hosted a lunch, and partnered with the women in competition in Wii Bowling. They then took the ladies on a tour of their facilities and visited the classes in session before heading back to Mililani before the rush hour traffic. Actually seeing what was going on at the Pacific Buddhist Academy brought this Hongwanji project closer to the women from Oahu, and inspired them to become ambassadors for the Hongwanji project as well as to make financial contributions to the school.

For a slide show of this activity go to

<http://www.photoshow.com/watch/Kq9jN9db>



On Wednesday, April 21, 2010 the Mililani BWA was invited by the Service Learning Council of the PBA to participate in their project to foster intergenerational relationships—we were the elders. They chose to “teach” us hanafuda, a Japanese card game, and set up a tournament in which teams from the PBA and teams from the BWA played matches of 3 games until a the champion team (PBA students Jimmy Chen and Kevin Ikebe) emerged. One BWA team made it to the semifinals. With the whole school involved, the BWA (augmented by friends) the day was well spent. The matches gave lots of time for student/elder communication and teams eliminated early got to practice and play for fun. Some students got pointers from some of the elders who had played the game during their childhood. Others were introduced to Wii Bowling, Tennis and other games and found out how much fun tech things could be. Some ladies were planning to drop big hints on what they might enjoy for Mothers Day. Once again the BWA and PBA had a mutually rewarding day which was capped off with lunch.

Pearl City

On October 25, 2009, Pearl City hosted the 51st Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA Convention at Waipahu Hongwanji Mission. There were 142 delegates from 6 temples, along with 6 ministers and 3 guests. Theme for the Convention was “Embraced by the Vow: In Peace and Tranquility.”

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Pearl City continued

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Delicious bento lunch and dessert were enjoyed by everyone, followed by entertainment by Waianae and Waipahu. Waianae presented a skit, "Bokyo Hore Hore Bushi" and a dance "Hyakunensai," while Waipahu's number was a solo rendition of "Haha" by Janet Yoshida.

At the closing ceremony, Roseline Yano of Wahiawa invited the assembly to the 2010 Convention to be held in October at Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission.

Waipahu

The annual Dana Day Service was observed at Waipahu Hongwanji on February 6, 2010, sponsored by the Waipahu BWA. The guest speaker was Ms. Cyndi Osajima who is on staff with Project Dana and who also serves as the organization's volunteer project coordinator. Her inspiring message gave us more insight on the significance of Dana, the act of selfless giving, and how it can be spread.

Cyndi lived in Los Angeles until 1993 when she arrived in Honolulu to enroll at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Campus. She received her Master's Degree in Public Health with an interest in gerontology, a study of the aging process. She said that upon receiving her degree she found the perfect job for herself, joining Project Dana, assisting and supporting the frail and elderly people in the community.

One part of her job involves receiving requests for assistance and then matching the needs of the elderly with appropriate Project Dana volunteers. She finds much satisfaction and fulfillment being a volunteer herself, as it provides her the opportunity to assist and interact with the elderly. She shared a heartwarming Dana experience written by a caregiver who described her feelings of frustration, understanding and appreciation.

Dana, the act of selfless giving, is a standard practice of Buddhism and is expressed in many ways and in many places. At Waipahu Hongwanji there are groups of members who come to the temple regularly to assist with maintenance, beautification, communication and all other needs. They were acknowledged with appreciation for their expression of Dana.

more from the Big Island... Honohina

On Saturday, December 5, 2009 the Honohina Hongwanji held its Bohdi Day Service at 7:30 a.m. Rev. Kenn Koizumi gave a short Dharma talk. We had breakfast cooked by the Kyodan members. Later we all cleaned the church inside and outside with big help from the members of the United Jr. Y.B.A. of Hawaii. Later Kyodan and BWA held their own meetings. The following officers were elected for our Fujinkai: President-Kikue Sueda, Vice President – Ellen Fujimoto, Secretary – Caroline Doi, Treasurer – Lauren Nishimoto, Corresponding Secretary – Jane Uyeno, Auditors – Nobue Oba and Helen Maesato. Our advisors are Rev. Kenn Koizumi and Mrs. Masayo Koizumi. Note: Kikue Sueda is serving her 34th year as Fujinkai President.



As of November, 2009 close to 450 members, family and friends have signed up for 15 different "pilgrimage" tours. It is not limited to BVWA members only, so if you or know of someone who is interested and hasn't signed up yet, please contact one of the group leaders for more information as soon as possible since the accommodations in Kyoto are very limited. The group listing is shown on our website. www.hawaiiwvwa.org Click Japan 2011

Shinshu followers to travel and to learn the dharma together.

Under the coordination of HHMH HQs, plans are progressing for Hawaii's participation at the World Wide observance of the 750th Memorial of Shinran Shonin at the Hongwanji in Kyoto in 2011. May 15th has been set aside as the official day for members of the Overseas District. Also, the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention will be held on May 16-17 at the Hongwanji and Pulse Plaza Kyoto. Tours range in cost and length of stay and may include travel to various Buddhist related and scenic Japan sites. We will have a wonderful opportunity as Jodo Shinshu followers to travel and to learn the dharma together.

Let's Go to Japan in 2011



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