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Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

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President's Message from Donna Higashi

To Live (Ikiru)

In gratitude for yesterdays I've seen, In gratitude for gift of life today, In gratitude for my tomorrows yet to be, I bow in Gassho, Namu Amida Butsu.

The words from the above gatha, "To Live", expresses my deep appreciation to all of the members of the Hawaii Federation of BWAs especially the members of the Representative Assembly for 2008 – 2011 as I near the end of my second term as your president. How quickly the years have passed and I was most fortunate to learn from so many wonderful mentors: Michiko Okano, Tamayo Matsumoto, Carol Yamamoto, Rose Nakamura, Fusae Kiyokawa and Janet Honda. Of course I cannot forget Bishops Thomas Okano and Eric Matsumoto and Rev. Shindo Nishiyama. Domo Arigatou Gozaimashita.

Back in September 2006, Hawaii hosted the 13th World BWA Convention and for five years we looked forward with anticipation to the next World Convention. But who could've predicted Japan's earthquake, tsunami and power plant episodes in March of this year. Plans and numbers were drastically changed from every overseas district. Finally in May, 58 members out of the

estimated 300 from Hawaii attended the 14th World BWA Convention and the memory of that event will remain in our hearts for a long time. (See Hawaii Federation of BWAs website for photos and more reports). To gain a better view of our BWA membership, we will inaugurate a new BWA membership policy: Counting both active and associate members starting in 2012. Today we have long time members who are unable to at-

tend current functions due to age and circumstances. Some might not even pay dues to the unit. We must not forget them and now each Unit will count them as associate members. Likewise to remain vital I ask each Unit BWA to strive to offer religious, educational and charitable programs to attract new active members. We women will remain strong and united in the dharma.



HAWAII ISLAND UNITED

Hilo

Our "Super Garage Sale" held on August 13, 2011, and chaired by veteran Amy Ban, was a huge success because of the generous donations of newly-made craft items, household goods, clothing, furniture, toys, books, records, plants, etc., received from members of our Sangha and the community. Etsuko Mori and her food committee also sold BWA-prepared food that helped us in reaching \$13,000 plus in net income. This will enable us to further support our

Honokaa

We were very fortunate this year to have recruited eight (8) new members. The new members are Mary Mich, Rona Nakamura, Jennifer Kilgour, Marian Rapozo, Bernadette Ruis, Sachiko Toma, Tamara Trost, and Brenda Vida. On February 20, 2011, at our Annual General Membership Meeting, the new members were presented with their name pins, onenju and were welcomed to the club. After the meeting, they were honored at our buffet luncheon at Daniel Theibaut's Restaurant in Kamuela, Hawaii. The program, including door prizes, lucky number drawings and fellowship, was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, May 1, 2011, the Honokaa Hongwanji BWA ladies assisted in serving breakfast for the Hamakua Lions Club at their Annual Chuckwagon Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, which was held at the Honokaa School cafeteria. This was one of our annual community service projects. Then in October on "MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY", bibs for patients at Hale Ho'ola Hamakua will be donated. Bibs were

temple's projects and donate to others as well.

Leftover clothing, linen, etc. that amounted to about 10% of all goods received were donated to the homeless shelter and various charitable organizations in Hilo. Thank you again to all donors, workers and patrons for your generosity and support.

On August 21, 2011, we held a "Healthy Eating" demo featuring Mrs. Audrey Wilson, HTH columnist and cookbook

sewed by our members.

On Sunday, June 26, 2011, we observed Eshinni/Kakushinni memorial. Our guest speaker was Lillie Tsuchiya, a member of the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. Mrs. Tsuchiya's message was very interesting and enjoyed by all.

Thursday, August 18th, at the Hale Ho'ola Hamakua facility, Reverend Yagi held a short O'Bon service and Bon dancing by the BWA members followed. We were able to have some of the patients keep time to the music, put smiles on their faces and bring much joy to them. Some of the Kamuela Hongwanji BWA ladies joined us in the festivity.

Every second Saturday of the month, we participate in the NHERC, North Hawaii Education and Research Center "Community Rummage Sale". This event is open to the public for both buying and selling. All proceeds we make will go towards our donation to the Japan Disaster Relief Fund.

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publisher. Matsuko Shimizu and Toyoko Ishizu co-chaired this event, which proved to be very informative regarding the use of spices in flavoring our food. Mrs. Wilson touted the health benefits of each spice and shared a "Five Spice Chicken Salad" recipe that we all got to taste. It was nutritious, light and delicious.

Our BWA will be more than happy to share this recipe with anyone interested.

On Sunday, September 18th, 2011, we will be participating in the Peace Parade Festival, which is being sponsored by the Honokaa Hongwanji Mission. We will have a food booth, selling both vegetarian and meat chili with rice. We also will participate in the parade and the afternoon activities.

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, we will prepare bento lunches and deliver to our elderly members and their caregivers. The purpose of this gesture is to let them know that they are still important members of the temple and are not forgotten.

Pearl City cont. from page 4

A delicious bento lunch was welcome following the light exercise of the yoga session. After the closing service, attendees left with a sense of a day well-spent. New and enlightening learning experiences were mixed with the pleasure of meeting with old and new friends from various Oahu BWA units.

HONOLULU UNITED

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Hawaii Betsuin Field Trip To Bishop Museum and Myohoji Temple



It was a lovely Saturday morning on August 27, 2011 as over 50 Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association members, spouses, family, and friends gathered at the Betsuin to participate in a field trip organized by the Betsuin BWA Program Committee. Laughter and happy voices surrounded us as we greeted each other, signed in, and boarded the bus. We arrived at Bishop Museum before 9:00 a.m. and immediately took our places for picture-taking. When the museum doors opened at 9:00 a.m., we were eager to enter and begin the

tour. Mr. Claude Tazawa, Sales Manager Visitor Services of the Bishop Museum, took us to the beautifully-renovated Hawaiian Hall. After we received an overview of the museum and its exhibits, we were divided into three groups and each group was led by a docent to a different floor of Hawaiian Hall. Our group went up

to the second floor where the docent described how people here lived, worked and played in the past. Then we went up to the third floor to hear the docent speak about Hawaiian chiefs from the time of King Kamehameha I. On the first floor, the docent engaged us with the legends and beliefs of pre-contact Hawaii. In a rotational fashion, all three groups were able to tour all three floors. We were impressed with the knowledge and aloha spirit of our docents

and some of us smiled in recognition when we saw the Big Whale and Shark hanging from the ceiling and the Hala Hut on the ground floor. Promptly at 11:00 a.m. everyone moved to Café Pulama for lunch. The colored name tags and matching color on the bentos made lunch distribution quick and easy. After lunch, many of us headed off to visit the other halls. Some went to see the Dinosaur exhibit (with impressive moving body parts) and others took in the Richard Mamiya Science Adventure Center (with hands-on

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OAHU UNITED

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click on Oahu District*

Change of Minister Advisor for Oahu United BWA

Oahu United BWA minister advisor Rev. Kenn Koizumi of Pearl City Hongwanji Mission, informed the Oahu United BWA of his resignation from Hawaii Kyodan to return to Japan to join his parents at their Yokohama temple. He will assist his father in ministerial duties there. After serving six months as Oahu advisor and nine months as Pearl City Hongwanji resident minister, Rev. Koizumi's resignation took effect on June 1, 2011.

At the Oahu United BWA regular quarterly meeting on May 29, Rev. Koizumi was presented with a farewell gift and lei by Oahu President Joan Masaki of Pearl City. In her message she stated that while his time with us was short, he had participated in many of the activities of the Oahu United BWA, starting with his introduction and installation as the incoming minister advisor at the October 2010 annual convention. On behalf of the Oahu United BWA Board of Directors and all BWA members in the

district, she thanked him for his service and wished him well in this new phase of his life. Also at that meeting, Rev. Jay Okamoto of Waipahu Hongwanji Mission was introduced as the new minister advisor for the Oahu United BWA for the remaining seven months of 2011. The Oahu United BWA Board of Directors look forward to working with Rev. Okamoto for the rest of this year.

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HONOLULU UNITED: Kailua



On a beautiful Friday, February 18, 2011, five members went to Foster Botanical Gardens to see some beautiful and unusual plants in bloom. Nancy Kikuchi, Janet Kukino, Prudence Kusano, Betty Okamoto and Shirley Yanagisawa enjoyed seeing the unusual flowers. A few of them were the Buddha's Hand, a citron plant, the Cannon Ball flower, the Napoleon's Hat and the Calabash nutmeg flowers. It was a very interesting and educational day.

What a beautiful Hana Mido to celebrate Buddha Day! The hardworking members helped to make this possible

with flowers donated by KBWA members and the Kailua Hongwanji Ohana on April 2. Elaine Fukada, Marjorie Ikeda, Nancy Kikuchi, Janet Kukino, Miyuki Masuda, Patsy Michihara, Lillian Nishimura, Betty Okamoto, Chisae Sumikawa and Shirley Yanagisawa were responsible for the beautiful Hana Mido that graced our Buddha Day Service on April 3!

Jean Fukumoto, Prudence Kusano, Mary Lou Lomaka and Joy Nishida enjoyed the HUUHBWA Education Workshop on June 18, "Path of Entrusting: Listen and Reflect" sponsored by the Moiliili BWA. The activities for the day, Dharma Gifts in Music and discussions about the Nembutsu and Dharma gifts made for an enlightening and interesting day.

The Honolulu temples began participating in the Family Promise Project as one organization in August. KBWA members participated in the planning of the

menus and activity for our assigned evening and morning. It was a very successful first attempt because of the hard work of members Marjorie Ikeda, Janet Kukino, Joy Nishida, Chisae Sumikawa and Shirley Yanagisawa and temple president Keiji Kukino, our Rev. David Nakamoto and John Nishida.

Members led by chairperson Prudence Kusano are busy planning the General Membership Meeting for the HUUHBWA which will be held on September 24 at the Hawaii Betsuin.

Members have also been busy coordinating the Train Ride in Kapolei after attending the Kapolei Sangha Service on September 25. This activity is open to the Kailua Hongwanji Ohana.

Our BWA members are also busy packing BWA, kitchen and temple items in preparation for the demolition of our present building and the construction of a new temple which may start at the end of this year.

OAHU UNITED: Pearl City

On Saturday, April 23, 2011, Pearl City Hongwanji BWA hosted the 38th annual seminar of the Oahu United BWA at the Pearl City Hongwanji Mission. In attendance were 120 BWA members and five ministers from seven Oahu district temples.

At the opening service, Pearl City BWA President Myra Matsumoto welcomed everyone to the newly renovated and refurbished temple and altar of Pearl City Hongwanji Mission. Rev. Kenn Koizumi, Pearl City resident minister and Oahu United BWA minister ad-

visor, delivered the sermon and welcomed everyone as well.

After the service, attendees broke up into two groups for Buddhist Education lectures based on the day's theme, "Path of Entrusting—Listen and Reflect." The English lecture was presented by Rev. Jay Okamoto in the Lotus Room, and Rev. Hiromi Kawaji delivered the Japanese lecture in the temple. Both speakers were well-received by members.

The keynote speaker for the general education portion of the seminar

program was Helen Nakano, who presented a lecture-demonstration on "Chair Yoga for Seniors." Although Mrs. Nakano is more well-known for her part in creating a revival of interest in Hanafuda, the Japanese card game, she is also a yoga instructor. Following a short talk on the benefits of yoga, especially for senior citizens, she demonstrated some breathing and stretching exercises which participants did right along with her either sitting or standing at their seats—hence, the term "chair yoga," a class she teaches to senior citizens with limited mobility.

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OAHU UNITED: Wahiawa

The BWA members participated in the Wahiawa Pineapple Festival parade on May 14, 2011. It was a sunny and breezy day, which the members marched for about 2 miles from Kaala Elementary School to the Wahiawa District Park. Members who participated in the march were part of the Wahiawa Hongwanji marching group. The eight "Young-

At-Heart" BWA members were: Ethel Nakagawa, Barbara Higa (Matsunaga), Doris Matsuoka, Mildred Segawa, Judy Kakazu, Emiko Tamayose, Patsy Kaya and Dale Shimaura. We also had a cheering section outside the church to cheer for the marchers as they got closer to the park. This was a good opportunity for our members to be involved in a community event.

After our brief business meeting on July 10, 2011 we had some fun activities. Some members learned to play "Solitaire" with the Hanafuda cards. The other members played "Left, Right, Center" using dice which required some skills and lots of luck. After playing games, we enjoyed fellowship and refreshments of Azuki filled mochi and hot tea made by Ethel Nakagawa, who chaired this fun activity.

Waipahu, Ewa, and Waianae

BWA members from Waipahu, Ewa and Waianae visited with the elders at the Waipahu Hongwanji Mission Adult Day Care Center on Monday, June 6, 2011. The ladies greeted the elders at the center and had a short fellowship time. The program portion began with everyone singing familiar children's songs. This activity brought smiles on the faces of the elders as they happily recalled their younger days as well as the days spent singing the same songs with their children and grandchildren.

The sweet voices of Reverend Jay Okamoto's children, Yoshino, Kanako and Issei made the group singing even more enjoyable. The ladies from Waianae gaily sang one of their favorite songs and encouraged everyone to sing along with them. Janet Yoshida, a Waipahu member, sang a solo number. Noboru Yamauchi, a Waipahu Hongwanji member, assisted with the audio and also sang a solo number for the group. The program concluded with the entertainers and members of

the WHMADCC staff dancing two Bon dances, Ashibina and Zumpa.

Gifts of pocket pack tissues were given to each of the elders. Coloring books were also left for them for use during activity time. Alexa Olaivar, Operating Manager for WHMADCC accepted the \$100 check from the OUHHBWA with much appreciation.

This visit was very gratifying for the BWA members as we witnessed the cheerfulness and appreciation of the elders.

KAUAI UNITED



Kauai United BWA is busy preparing for its Fall Conference to be held on October 16th and hosted by West Kauai Hongwanji. We look forward to getting together to make new friends and to become reac-

quainted with old friends.

We were honored this summer to have presented scholarships to **Tina Aoki and Malia Koerte (right)**. Both girls demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as Jr. YBA members. We wish them well as they embark on exciting new futures this fall!

Congratulations to long-time Kapaa Hongwanji BWA member **Yoshiko "Dimples" Kano (left)** who was honored as a Kauai "Living Treasure" at a banquet on Saturday July 9, 2011. One of five people receiving

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the award, Dimples was honored for her Exemplary Community Service. We are so proud of Dimples who has given so much of herself to organizations like the Kauai United Way, Kauai Salvation Army, and Zonta Club of Kauai.



MAUI UNITED

Golden Chain Grant

Maui United BWA has completed the Golden Chain Grant by distributing lap blankets, wash towels, wheelchair bags, catheter bags, scarves, beanies, and carry-all bags to adult assisted living facilities (Kula Hospital, Hale Makua-Kahului/Wailuku, Roselani Place) The evaluations from the facilities were overwhelming positive such as "provides dignity and style for those who use catheter bags", "residents will use blankets to keep warm" Lanai's Golden Chain Grant recipient was Lanai Hospital with neck pillows and bibs for their patients.



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Lahaina



What keeps the 'energizer' Buddhist women going and going? Yes, you can account for some of it through a history and tradition of hard work. However, the photos selected for the 2011 Fall Newsletter seem to indicate an underlying theme of COMPASSION ... GRATITUDE ... and WISDOM

There is compassion warmly expressed in the yearly tradition of hospital visitations in April and again in November. This year, the BWA Craft Club also made sewn items that were needed at a local adult daycare center.

Gratitude is exhibited in many ways by BWA members. The photo on the right shows final decorative touches being made for the luncheon to follow the Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service. Homage and gratitude are bestowed in remembrance of the important contributions of Eshinni-sama and her daughter Kakushinni.



Emi Hashi and Michelle Soga

Wisdom comes in as the Fujinkai ladies traditionally support events such as the Federation BWA-sponsored Student Exchange program with Japan. This year, both students happened to be from Maui: Emi Hashi of Makawao Hongwanji and Michelle Soga of Kahului Hongwanji. Lahaina BWA members joined up with BWA groups from Makawao, Kahului and Wailuku to give the young ladies a warm send-off this summer. Emi and Michelle are BWA 'ambassadors' as well as the future of Buddhist women in Hawaii.



Gratitude is again felt and expressed in the care given to decorating for Obon --- in honor of and in appreciation of members memorialized at Hatsubon and for all others who continue to guide us.

Lahaina Hongwanji also expresses compassion for Japan, in the aftermath of the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear reactor disaster. As well, we are grateful for all of the people who represented Hawaii Kyodan and Federation BWA in Kyoto in May.

MAUI UNITED

Wailuku

The Wailuku Hongwanji BWA recently participated in several dana projects, three of which touched the lives of victims of the devastating March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The BWA ladies cut out one hundred thirty 5" by 5" squares of Hawaiian fabric and along with members of the kyodan wrote messages of support on each one. The squares of aloha were donated to the Aloha Mai Maui project, whose mission is to sew the squares together to make patchwork blankets for the disaster victims. The blankets will send aloha and best wishes from Maui to Japan.

During Obon, the BWA sponsored a t-shirt sale to benefit the Soma Children's Education Fund founded by the Soma council. Soma City is located on the northeast coast of Fukushima-ken. The money raised

will help pay for the education expenses of fifty children ages one to sixteen who were orphaned when the town was hit by the large tsunami.

The BWA hosted a luncheon for twenty five Aloha Initiative guests from Japan and their host families. The visitors are victims of the March disaster in Fukushima, and were invited to home stays on Maui to lift their spirits. An entertaining program of bingo, song and exercise was planned. Highlights of the program were a performance by shakuhachi (nose flute) artist Mark, and a piano number rendered by four year old Cody, a guest from Fukushima. The luncheon provided fun and fellowship for all.



Closer to home, the BWA sponsored a meal at Ka Hale A Ke Ola, Maui County's Homeless Resource Center in Wailuku. Members prepared and served a delicious turkey dinner to approximately 60 clients at the shelter. The ladies were rewarded by the happy faces of children who appreciated and thanked them for their efforts. It was our way of helping those in our community who are less fortunate.

HONOLULU UNITED

“Among the most wonderful resources available to BWA ladies are BWA ladies themselves! Let's share our stories with each other! Let's listen, reflect and appreciate the Dharma Gifts we are given every day”

Moiliili Hongwanji's BWA hosted a very successful Honolulu United Education workshop entitled “Dharma Gifts” on Saturday, June 18th at the Hawaii Betsuin. The five-year theme of the Hawaii Kyodan: Path of Entrusting and this year's slogan “Listen and Reflect” guided the program format. A total of seventy-six people from four BWA units: Hawaii Betsuin, Jikoen, Kailua and Moiliili

gathered together for this workshop. We sang two newly translated gathas by the Hawaii Kyodan Music Committee “Amida Within My Heart” and “Thank You!” and learned “Nembutsu” which came from Seattle Hongwanji. Mrs. Mitsuyo Saito, choir director of the Hawaii Betsuin Choir, taught us the new songs and helped us enjoy not only the beautiful melodies, but also the Dharma filled lyrics.



The group also experienced sharing and reflecting through the small group discussion topics: “When do you say the nembutsu to yourself? What do you feel? What is a Dharma Gift? Have you ever received such a precious gift?” It was an enlightening and fulfilling day for all!

Honolulu United Betsuin continued

activities).

At 1:00 p.m. we boarded the bus for the next field trip destination, Myohoji Temple (Nichiren) on Nuuanu Avenue. Myohoji sits beside a quiet wooded area with the Nuuanu Stream running through it. Wendie Yumori had heard that the minister at Myohoji, Rev. Takamasa Yamamura, was a superb opera singer who had trained in Japan and Italy. She arranged our visit to Myohoji as well as a short performance by Rev. Yamamura. When we arrived, Rev. Yamamura greeted us cordially, posed with us for picture taking, and invited us inside the Hondo where we offered incense. He explained features of the altar and the Peace Tower and also answered our questions. We then went upstairs to the social hall where there was a rare treat in store for us. The first piece that Rev. Yamamura sang in his beautiful and rich tenor voice was the Japanese song, Sen no Kaze ni Natte; this song moved many to tears. His next piece was in Italian, O Sole Mio. At the close

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of this piece, with Rev. Yamamura's amazingly extended high notes, everyone leaped to their feet to give him a standing ovation! His encore piece was a popular American favorite, Over the Rainbow. Rev. Yamamura was accompanied on the piano by Wendie Yumori. After his performance, many said simply, "Wow!"

We took a brief walk through the temple grounds and seeing and hearing the delightful Nuuanu Stream, was a perfect way to end our excursion. We had a spring in our step as we boarded the bus for the return trip to the Bet-

suin. It was a wonderful day and a field trip to remember.

Special thanks are extended to the Program committee who planned this event, Sets Takashige, Mary Tanouye, Wendie Yumori, and Irene Nakamoto; to photographer Ruth Tokumi; to the BWA group leaders, Sharyn Sekine, Wendie Yumori, Cheryl Sora, and Irene Nakamoto (assisted by Marion Urata); and to all participants for making this activity so special with your aloha and gratitude!

Hilo and Jikoen BWA tour groups with World BWA

