



Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HAWAII FEDERATION OF HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

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2011 BWA SELECTS EXCHANGE STUDENTS FOR JAPAN VISIT By Ethel Shintaku, Student Exchange Chair

The BWA Student Exchange program was first inaugurated in 1971 as one of the approved World Buddhist Women's Convention resolutions. We have sent 34 girls to Japan since then and a similar number of girls have visited Hawaii to foster fellowship and goodwill. In the last newsletter, we announced the selection of two students from Hawaii to visit Japan as BWA Exchange students this summer. Unfortunately one of the students selected will not be able to make the trip since it conflicts with her work schedule. Therefore the two students going to Japan will be Emi Hashi (right) and Michelle Soga (left).



Emi is the daughter of Barbara Doi of Haiku, Maui and is a senior at Baldwin High School. She will be graduating in May 2011 and plans to enroll at the University of Hawaii Maui College. She is a member of Makawao Hongwanji.

Michelle is the daughter of Rev. Jeffrey and Kumika Soga of Kahului, Maui. She is a senior at Pacific University in Oregon and will graduate in May 2011 with a Chemistry degree. She is hoping to continue her studies in Nursing. She was a member of Puna Hongwanji and is now a member of Kahului Hongwanji and the Pacific University Buddhist Association.

Honolulu United Makes Origami Cranes for Nagasaki Memorial

The Honolulu United BWA Units were given different colored origami papers by Vice President Jean Fukumoto in September 2010 with instructions on folding them into cranes. The cranes were given to Jean in December and will be sewn together at the February 2011 meeting. The strings of cranes will be taken to the Nagasaki Memorial in May 2011 (after the 750th commemoration in Kyoto) by the Jikoen Hongwanji BWA members and will be placed there in honor of those who gave their lives in the Nagasaki bombing and in perpetuation of World peace.



Welcome, Bishop Eric and Tamayo Matsumoto!

HAWAII ISLAND UNITED

Article submitted by Carrie Luke-Knotts

The 56th annual Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Convention was held at Papaikou Hongwanji on October 24, 2010. Papaaloo and Honohina were the hostess temples but Honomu helped with the decorations and Papaikou allowed the use of their big hall. From now the four units will participate jointly as The Four Temples.. Mitsuko Takasaki made beautiful vanda orchid and ti leaf leis for the guests and Lauren Nishimoto designed and assembled the clever gifts, purple magnetic clips. Mahalo to chairperson Michie Ikemoto and all the other committee members who worked so hard.

The guest speakers were Reverend Midori Kondo and Myra Ikeda. Though Rev. Kondo has lived on this island for many years, she is originally from Pasadena, California. Her family returned to Pasadena in 1945 from the relocation camp. Everyday after working as gardeners her father and his friends came home, bathed, ate and dressed in their suits and went door to door asking for donations for the

temple they eventually constructed, such evidence of determination and gratitude for the Teachings.

Myra Ikeda gave us all a pat on the back as Buddhist women who are the backbones of our temples and are very strong links in Amida's Golden Chain. She spoke about Project Dana that helps seniors live safely in their own homes. She told us that if we expect to live in compassionate, caring communities, we must each do our part.

We also had special guests, Kiichi Kaya and Toyoko Saeki, who are the grand nephew and niece of Katsu Goto, the 19th century Japanese immigrant who advocated better working conditions for the Japanese plantation workers. Goto's niece, Fumiko Kaya, started a foundation to work towards peaceful understanding between Hawaii and Japan. She was another strong Buddhist woman quietly working within the teachings of the Dharma for peace, compassion and understanding. Patsy Iwasaki, the first recipient of the Kaya Foundation grant, wrote a graphic novel of Katsu Goto in manga format called Hamakua Hero: A

True Plantation Story.

The new officers for the Hawaii Island United Hongwanji BWA were installed. They are President, Sally Tayama; First Vice-President, Linda Nagai; Second Vice-President, K.T. Cannon-Eger; Recording Secretary, Karen Maedo; Correspondence Secretary, Maria Yano; General Fund Treasurer, Eileen Usagawa; Assistant General Fund Treasurer, Nancy Nakaishi; Scholarship Treasurer, Thelma Ryusaki; Auditors, Aiko Nakamura, Sumiko Ito, Ellen Okano, June Fujikawa and Irene Takahara; and Federation Directors, Dora Hashimoto, Linda Nagai, Nancy Nonaka, Linda Otomo and Lillie Tsuchiya.

The membership committee reported these annual statistics as of August 2010: 27 deceased, 7 moved away, 20 resigned and 13 new members, for a total membership of 787.

HONOLULU UNITED

Approximately one hundred eager participants from Jikoen, Moiliili, Hawaii Betsuin, and Kailua gathered at Hawaii Betsuin the sunny morning of Sat., Sept. 25, to board three buses for the Honolulu United BWA Field Trip to Kailua Hongwanji and Kahuku Hongwanji. Honolulu United BWA President, Irene Nakamoto, proposed this field trip to give participants an opportunity to visit Kailua Hongwanji before its current structure is demolished for construction of a new temple and to visit Kahuku Hongwanji which will be closing its doors permanently in the near future.



The buses traveled over the Pali Highway into Kailua Town and, after a warm welcome at Kailua Hongwanji, the group lined up for a photo in front of the cur-

rent temple. Then everyone was seated upstairs in the lovely Hondo and, after Irene Nakamoto led the Vandana Ti-Sarana, President Keiji Kukino gave a stimulating talk about Kailua Hongwanji's history and exciting future. On display was

a rendering of the beautiful new temple structure that is scheduled to be built beginning 2011. President Kukino explained the functional layout of the structure and

Wendie Yumori

the rationale for a day care to operate in part of it. Thereafter, the Kailua BWA ladies graciously served cold water and fruit and distributed generous bags of snacks for participants to take on the bus. Thank you to President Keiji Kukino, Kailua BWA President Shirley Yanagisawa, and Kailua BWA ladies for a memorable visit!

Then followed an hour-long bus ride out to Kahuku, affording participants the most gorgeous mountain and ocean views! When the participants arrived at Kahuku Hongwanji, a group photo was taken on the stairs leading up to the Hondo. Hosts, Barbara and Isamu Tatsuguchi, two of

continued on page 3

HONOLULU UNITED CONTINUED

the four remaining members of Kahuku Hongwanji, had decorated the downstairs social hall with a festive look and colorful tablecloths and fresh flowers were placed on the neatly lined tables to accommodate all of the visitors. They also provided chilled bottled water for the participants! The mouth-watering aroma of garlic butter shrimp filled the hall as participants started on their lunches. Barbara Tatsuguchi spoke about Kahuku Hongwanji whose original membership consisted of sugarcane plantation workers. She said that the temple will close permanently in two years and that the present challenge is to find new homes for altar pieces, furnishings, etc. Barbara and Isamu provided each participant with a door prize ticket and winners received prizes of fruit and Kahuku corn! After

lunch, participants went upstairs to the delightfully airy Hondo and, while admiring the views outside, some reminisced about the times they had come to Kahuku Hongwanji and had stayed overnight in the temple for retreats. Thank you to Barbara and Isamu Tatsuguchi for such warm hospitality!

The next stop was the North Shore Marketplace in Haleiwa where participants could stroll and visit unique stores and galleries. After this very pleasant interlude, it was time to return to Honolulu, back to Hawaii Betsuin.

At the end of this very satisfying outing, Honolulu United President Irene Nakamoto noted that the success of an activity is not determined just by outcomes. It's also about the valuable process of working with and getting to know others during the planning

and coordinating. The closely-bonded Field Trip Committee members included Irene, Wendie Yumori, Sets Takashige, and Cheryl Sora. The bus leaders, in their blue, red, and yellow shirts, Setsu Takashige, Florence Wasai, Cheryl Sora and Sharyn Sekine deserve thanks for doing a terrific job of noting the schedule and making sure they had everyone accounted for on their buses. And the participants were wonderful -- punctual, cooperative, and appreciative! Kudos to Ruth Tokumi who documented the day's events with priceless photos. Thanks to everyone's efforts, this Honolulu United BWA field trip was most enjoyable and truly memorable!

OAHU UNITED: BWA 2010 Convention

Words of welcome could be heard well before 8 a.m. as Wahiawa Hongwanji opened its doors to host the 52nd Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA convention on October 24, 2010. With "Path of Entrusting: Seek Truth" as its theme, the day began with registration and coffee hour. One hundred thirty three members, six ministers and three guests attended this event.

A solemn memorial service provided the setting to honor the fifteen members from seven temples who had passed away last year. Five ministers participated in the service with Reverend Kevin Kuniyuki delivering the memorial sermon.

The general membership meeting was conducted by Oahu United president Janet Yoshida. It included the consideration of, and action on, two proposed amendments to Article VII, Election, in the OUHHBWA Bylaws. The first proposed the elimination of the nomination of officers on a rotational basis. The second proposed a cap of three consecutive one-year term for holding an

office. Both amendments passed, effective upon adoption.

The subsequent nomination and election of officers reflected the changes in the bylaws with the slate filled by volunteers. Joan Masaki of Pearl City BWA was elected president for 2011. During the installation ceremony, new directors as well as outgoing officers and directors were recognized.

Our keynote speaker, Reverend David Nakamoto of Kailua Hongwanji, spoke on "The BWA of Hawaii Meets the Challenge." He cited pertinent examples of how the BWA has met the challenge at different periods in the history of this organization. Throughout the years the BWA has embraced the Buddhist teachings through humanitarian activities, overcoming obstacles and hardships in the spirit of Dana. The role of the temple as a center for meeting the social, cultural, and spiritual needs of a community has changed over time, but challenges continue to exist. Guided by the Dharma, BWA can meet them by further strengthening the fellowship, providing leadership, learning and growing

Betty Miyamoto

together, and understanding ourselves in the process. When demonstrating the spirit of caring in all activities, BWA leaves, by example, an important legacy for future generations. HOSHA, "Hopes and Dreams," a letter to youth in OKAGE SAMADE, other individuals of note were references included in Reverend Nakamoto's informative and thoughtful presentation.

After enjoying a tasty bento of favorites, everyone viewed a PowerPoint presentation, "Kokoro no Furusato." Then Waianae BWA treated the audience to a dance, "Genroku Chushingura." At the closing ceremony, June Asato from Mililani BWA invited members to the October 22, 2011 convention at Mililani.

A time to remember departed loved ones, a time to renew friendships, a time to create new relationships, a time to acquire new understandings, a time to give thanks for a day well spent.

KAUAI UNITED

At our October 10th, 2010 Kauai United BWA Fall Conference our new slate of officers were elected. They are: President, Gail Shibuya; Vice President, Edith Ushio; Secretary, Takako Hashimoto; Treasurer, Yoshiko "Dimples" Kano; and Auditor, Ramona Lee. Following our meeting a slideshow of Founder's Hall was shown which helped to get everyone excited about the 14th World BWA Convention. After the slideshow guest speaker Teresa Qunitero, Lead Dietician from Wilcox Hospital, spoke about eating healthy. We were served a wonderful lunch and then Ms. Ciss O'Dell lead us in some gentle exercise for the elderly (photo on right). It was an enjoyable day!

November 10, 2010 we participated in our annual "Lonesome Grave Project" (photo on left). Lonesome graves was started many years ago

MAUI UNITED

Maui United Spring Representative Assembly will be held on April 2, 2011.

Visitation to adult care facilities: Hale Makua, Kahului and Wailuku; Kula Hospital. Lanai BWA to visit Lanai's hospital. General meeting and luncheon at Maui Tropical Plantation

The following temples will be participating in the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service and 14th World BWA Convention in May 2011: **Kahului** Hongwanji and **Wailuku** Hongwanji Missions; Twenty two members and friends will attend the Kyoto events. After

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by Barbara Funamura after she noticed that many graves at Kauai Veterans' Cemetery didn't have flowers or were lonesome on Veterans' Day. This year our volunteer flower growers raised flowers by the bucketful! Volunteers worked as one, placing the flowers at every grave. The Kauai United Jr. YBA and the Kapaa, Lihue and West Kauai Hongwanji Dharma school stu-



dents also gave us a helping hand. Two Lihue Hongwanji Ladies brought energy bars and water which was thankfully enjoyed. When we were done the Veteran's Cemetery was a sight to see with beautiful bouquets at every grave!

Kyoto, they will tour Hiroshima, Kumamoto, Aso, Beppu, Matsuyama, Takamatsu, and Tokushima. Tour Director: Rev. Shinkai Murakami.

Makawao Hongwanji Mission: Nine members and Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani have a May 9th departure to Narita International Airport, Tokyo. Pre-tour includes Tokyo (Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace, Asakusa), Hakone and Nagoya to visit Yoshiko Umitani's parents' temple and tour the Toyota factory). We will also go to Kyoto (Golden Pavilion, Kiyomizudera, Nijo Castle, Kyoto Handicraft Center, Imperial Palace) and Nara (Deer Park, Todaiji Temple, etc.). After the events in Kyoto, they will tour Osaka (Osaka Castle and

shopping in Nakamichi). They depart May 18th from Kansai.

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission: Lahaina's travel group totals twenty-five members, relatives, and friends for Kyoto. Fourteen Lahaina BWA members will attend the World Convention, plus three BWA ladies from other temples. Eighteen of the travel group will attend the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service, plus four from other temples. The Lahaina group will depart on May 13, 2011, arriving in Kyoto May 14th. After the Kyoto events, the group will travel to Hokkaido. The itinerary includes Hakodate, Noboribetsu, Sapporo and Sounkyo.