

# Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

**HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**

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## Federation Selects Student Delegates for Japan Exchange

Suzue Nishiyama, Student Exchange Chair.

The Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will once again send two student delegates to Japan in late July to early August. This is in compliance with a resolution adopted by the 3rd World Buddhist Women's Convention in June 1967, to nurture "future leaders for Jodo Shinshu women's activities... and as a mission of good will." The two student delegates are Koki Atcheson from Honolulu and Cristina Gervais from Hakalau, Hawaii.

### Koki Atcheson



Koki Atcheson is in her senior year at Pacific Buddhist Academy. She moved here from Seattle, Washington four years ago. In Washington, she attended Seattle Betsuin and Dharma School for 6 years. She was also a member of Seattle Betsuin Jr. YBA for 3 years. Now, she is member of Ho-

nolulu Betsuin Jr. YBA. Koki is a very athletic person devoting much time to cross country running and paddling. She is also a member of Hyakusen Kikai Taiko group at PBA and a beach clean-up organizer.

### Cristina Gervais



Cristina Gervais is a member of Hilo Betsuin Jr. YBA, 4H Cloverbuds. She has been a Dharma School assistant teacher since 2012. She graduated from Hilo Hongwanji Gakuen (Japanese School) in 2010 winning the Japanese Language Award in 7th and 8th grades. She is also a very athletic person. She is a competitive gymnast and swimmer. She also enjoys dancing the hula and body boarding. She participates in community service projects, such as Holiday Project, Feed

the Hungry, beach clean-up, Food Bank Drive, Blood Drive and many other services. Presently, she is home schooled and she plans to attend UH Hilo from this August.

Koki and Cristina are both looking forward to going to Japan for this unique cultural exchange program. They hope to gain increased knowledge and understanding of Shin Buddhism through their experiences and interactions with other participants in Japan. Also, Koki and Cristina feel that this experience will have meaningful influences for their future as Buddhist women.

The Student Exchange Committee is presently planning an orientation meeting as a means to assist Koki and Cristina to prepare for their trip. Final details such as flight information are forthcoming and will be forward to the Uniteds so that Hawaii, Honolulu, and Oahu members will be able to give them an appropriate send-off.



## HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

One of the Hawaii Island United's BWA, HONOKAA, led by President Janet K. Murakami, is featured here because of their extremely busy 2014 calendar. Foremost, like all BWAs, is their support of the Buddha Dharma by attending and helping at weekly Sunday services. This year they bid aloha to residence minister Rev. Yagi and his family (transferred to Aiea Hongwanji) at the Eshinni/Kakushinni service where recent Student Exchange recipient Megan Pascual spoke. The following month they welcomed Rev. Furusawa to the Honokaa Hongwanji residence.

Their year was "sandwiched" by a "Healthy Cooking Class" in March and a Pie Baking Workshop in November for members and a great number of fund raisers were held throughout the year in conjunction with the Kyodan and other Community groups.

The Honokaa BWA members are exceptional because they worked tirelessly with various community groups. Included are visiting Hale Ho'ola Hamakua Hospital, making breakfast



with Hamakua Lion's Club, participating in the Honokaa Western Week Parade, preparing floating lanterns for the North Hawaii Hospice, participating at the Honokaa Plantation Days 20 Years Ago Since Closing, participating in the Peace Day activities, donating funds to Honokaa People's Theatre, etc.

Maybe it's due to their exposure in the community, four new members joined the BWA. They are Jan Hino, Naomi Campbell, Karen Takaki, and Cathy Perrins. They also remembered and honored Harue Furumoto, long time active member at the BWA State Membership Conference in Kona in May and honored centenarian, Yukino Kusano at the 60th HIUHBWA convention in Puna in October.

## KAUAI UNITED BWA

Lynette Miyamoto



"Path of Entrusting: Share the Peace" was the theme of the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Fall Conference, hosted by West Kauai Hongwanji on October 26, 2014. In line with our theme, the BWA members welcomed Chelsea Crapser, our keynote speaker from the YWCA who shared with us pertinent information on domestic violence in the elderly.

Approximately 37 enthusiastic participants from Kapaa, Lihue, and West Kauai attended the event. The general meeting was conducted by our president, Fay Tateishi. A delicious lunch was catered by Pupus Etc. and enjoyed by all attending. For the fun part of our get together, Alton Miyamoto led the group with a new dynamic Tanko Bushi and the Cupid Shuffle line dance. (If you want to see Rev. Takahashi and Rev. Hojo do the Cupid Shuffle, go to the 125th Anniversary service in Kapaa on Nov. 16).

Thanks to Shirley Kakuda, Lynette Miyamoto and Fay Tateishi for coordinating this conference. We welcome any female who want to join our group. Our next activity will be Fun Day, sometime in February, 2015.



## MAUI UNITED BWA Sharon Nohara

On the beautiful Monday morning of January 19, over 60 Maui United BWA members and their families gathered together to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March. Our Hongwanji ohana joined other community members at the opening ceremony held at the Stone of Hope Monument fronting the Maui County's Kalana O Maui building. The event hosted by the African Americans on Maui Association was led by their President Gwyn Gorg. With the message of spreading "peace" and "forgiveness" in memory of King, the march wound down the streets of Wailuku town. The march ended at the Market Street Banyan Tree Park. At the park, other BWA ladies welcomed our marchers with refreshment pro-

vided by each BWA unit. You could feel the warmth and enjoyment as we all shared food and "talking story" with each other. Our ladies wore an assortment of various BWA shirts, which led to curious inquiries about who we were. Sylvia Ishikawa and Barbara Parr of the Wailuku HM BWA were approached by new Maui residents asking about Buddhist locations on Maui. They were enthusiastically given information and invited to visit any of our Hongwanji temples. A young mother with children approached the refreshment table asking if it was a food concession. Her answer was a smile freely given with a plate of snacks for her children while learning about the BWA organization from a Lahaina BWA member. MUBWA's participation in this march and after event afforded us with an opportunity to reach out to the public and become a more visible



interactive community organization.

Being mindful of this year's 2015 slogan, "Embrace Change: Awareness" Maui United will continue to seek other opportunities to live and share the dharma.

## OAHU UNITED BWA President June Asato

The following were elected to lead the OUHHBWA in 2015: President June Asato (Mililani), Vice President Dale Shimaure (Wahiawa), Recording Secretary Diane Yoza (Mililani), Corresponding Secretary Joan Masaki (Pearl City), Treasurer Susan Ushijima (Waianae), Assistant Treasurer Joyce Ogawa (Mililani), Auditors Takako Desaki (Pearl City) and Susan Morishige (Aiea), and Directors Thelma Kawaguchi and Elaine Yamano-ha (Aiea), Kathleen Fukushima (Pearl City), and Lana Bender and Doris Matsuoka (Wahiawa).



The major task facing the OUHHBWA in 2015 is to restructure the United to address the declining membership and changing demographics in the BWA. All eight temples in the Oahu District have active BWA units but all units and the United need to address developing leadership skills and re-

cruiting younger members. The BWA members participate actively in supporting the activities of their respective temples and the OUHHBWA works collaboratively with the Oahu District Council, the Oahu Lay Association and the Dharma School teachers Organization.



# HONOLULU UNITED BWA

## BWA Federation Marches in Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Lois Toyama




On January 19th, about 35 BWA members, Hongwanji members, dharma school students, and PBA students gathered to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. Participants handed out origami cranes which were generously donated by Kailua Hongwanji BWA. The smiles on the faces of the people along the parade route who received the cranes are an indication that we should do this again.

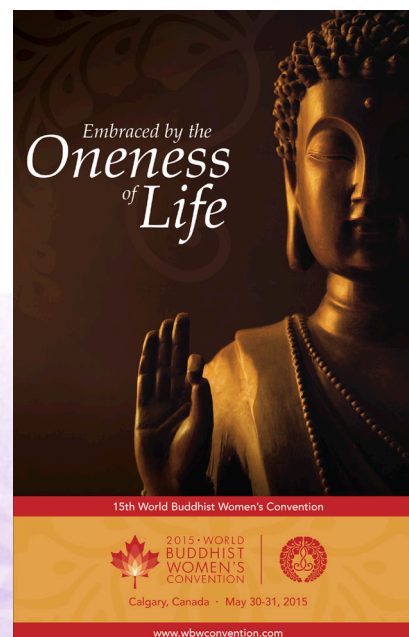
Josh Hernandez-Morse, Head of PBA, kindly gave his time to drive the PBA bus behind our marching unit so that all members could participate.

At the start of the parade route, two military families asked if they could join us. They are interested in Buddhism and asked when our services are. Their son just loved handing out the cranes.

Participation in this event gives us an opportunity to join with other organizations in our community to promote the values of equality and interconnectedness that are central to Buddhism.



  
15th World  
Buddhist  
Women's  
Convention  
May 30 & 31,  
2015



Telus Convention Center  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada