

# Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto President: Janet Honda Minister Advisor: Rev. Shindo Nishiyama  
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## Introduction of the Sosai-sama (Honorary President of the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha)

As the tradition of Jodo Shinshu was transmitted from Sokunyo Monshu (Koshin Ohtani Gomonshu) to Sennyō Monshu (Kojun Ohtani Gomonshu) on June 6, 2014, Lady Ruzumi Ohtani took the position of the Honorary President of the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. Lady Ruzumi Ohtani married Kojun Ohtani Shinmon-sama in March 2006 and gave birth to their first son (Takashi-sama) in May 2011.

At the Opening Service of the Buddhist Women's Federation of Japan's Council Meeting, Lady Ruzumi Ohtani said, "I think it is important for us to listen to the teaching with an understanding that the Amida Buddha's Working is directed to each of us, and also to transmit the joy of encountering the teaching. I would like to put my efforts together with each of you." We, the members of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association, would like to strive to conduct BWA activities centered on the Onembutsu under the guidance of the new Sosai-sama (Honorary President).

Lady Noriko Ohtani served as the President of the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha from April 1984 to June 2014 for 30 years. During her presidency, Lady Noriko Ohtani visited Hawaii Kyodan on several occasions for such as the World Federation Representatives Meeting in April 2004, the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention in September 2006, and the Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial and HHMH 120th Anniversary Celebration in September 2009, and those were truly great privileges for Hawaii Kyodan.



Lady Ruzumi Ohtani delivering her message at Honzan.



Lady Noriko Ohtani (right) and Lady Ruzumi Ohtani (left)

## Mahalo For Your Support!

Dear Fellow BWA Members:

My Hawaii Federation BWA Presidency will end on December 31, 2015. My tenure of four years felt like eons and eons but perhaps I can say, the time just flew by. During my tenure I met and made friends with so many wonderful people and got to travel a bit. I shall always remember the warm welcome wherever I went and a lifetime of friendship around-the world.



Here are some highlights that I will remember:

- Profiling us as “professional women” in this 21st century and not as kitchen women”.
- Walking in parades, holding our nice BWA banner and publicizing BWA to the public.
- Participating in 2015 at the 15th World Buddhist Women’s Convention in Calgary, Canada, as well as the 12th State BWA Membership Convention in Kona in 2014.
- Introducing our new BWA uniform purple polo shirt!
- Attending BWA Centennial Celebrations in the State.
- Being the first BWA Federation President to attend BWA meetings on the Big Island, Maui, and Kauai.

For the future let’s make an effort to increase our membership. If the majority of us “old timers” can step aside, than the younger women in this 21st century may be more in tune in direction and perspective on how to sustain BWA.

Take care everyone and thank you for ALL your Love and Support.  
With Gratitude and In Gassho,  
Janet



## HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

The fourth annual Big Island AIDS Walk was held on May 30, 2015, at Lili'uokalani Gardens in Hilo.

It was a gorgeous day, and it started out with some stretching and zumba exercises done to the music of a live band. After the two-mile walk, there were numerous snacks and drinks available for the walkers; and the crowd was entertained by hula, Tahitian and belly dancing performances.

Team BWA was represented by four walkers from Puna Hongwanji: Charles Tamashiro, Jean Tamashiro, Carole Tsunezumi and Clifford Furukado; and two walkers from Hilo BWA: B. J. Soriano and Ellen Okano. We were fortunate to have 26 sponsors who generously donated in support of Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation. All monies raised stay on this island.

Cindy Medeiros, Case Manager/Benefits Specialist, sent a very appreciative message for the BWA's continued support with this Walk. HIUH-BWA has participated every year since the event began four years ago.



Ellen Okano



## MAUI UNITED BWA

Sharon Nohara



Each year the MUBWA Obon Dance Committee sponsors Obon Dances at the Wailuku and Kahului Hale Makua residential care facilities which are the two largest on Maui. There are many elderly living there as long term residents. Many can no longer attend Obon at their own temples and this year the dances were held at Kahului on August 28 and at Wailuku on September 4.

This year marked the 30th year for Kahului Hale Makua Obon dance. On that warm summer evening, our members arrived to a transformed outdoor festival. Assorted colorful chochin lanterns and lights decorated the circular front driveway making a perfect dance ring. The patients, staff and residents, along with their family members were seated around the outer ring of the driveway circle. Against the backdrop of a clear evening sky, the rising full moon

greeted everyone as the first dance, "Tanko Bushi" began. Amid the dancers in their yukatas and happi coats, elderly residents joined in with their caregivers, who guided their wheelchairs as dance partners. The dancing wheelchairs in sync with the melody, kept time with the "heart beat" of the taiko drums. On the sidelines there was clapping and many whose graceful hand motions mirrored the dancers in the ring. Behind the background music, with smiles and sharing of nostalgic memories, everyone enjoyed snacking on traditional treats such as mochi and manju donated by the families.

In closing, the rapid taiko drumming of "Fukushima Ondo," gave way to the final dance, "Beautiful

Sunday". As families and friends said their goodbyes, the residents were escorted back to their rooms. It was the ending of another enjoyable Obon to remember. With anticipation we left looking forward to next year, as we continue the joy of our Obon tradition. Odorimasho !



## OAHU UNITED BWA

June Asato



The summer has been busy with obon and other temple centered activities. All of our eight temples have active BWA units which work cooperatively with their respective kyodans, but only four of these units participate actively in the United and Federation so OUH-HBWA is looking to reviewing our structure to meet the needs of the BWA in our district.

One of our active units, the Pearl City BWA will be observing its centennial in October and is taking this opportunity to share their heritage. For this occasion they have published Wisteria Delights II, a cookbook to share recipes as a fundraiser. The cookbook will be available from the Pearl City BWA in October.

Our annual meeting will be combined with our Educational seminar at Mililani in November at which time we will be revising our bylaws and electing officers in the business meeting. This annual gathering of the general membership is enjoyed by the women of the district..

## HONOLULU UNITED BWA

### Summer Excursions

Instead of winding down after the busy Obon season, the energetic women of our four units geared up for some serious fun. They know how to work, but they know how to play, too!

The BWA women of Betsuin had a two-step adventure. First, they had a hat making project. They each decorated a hat which they will wear on their excursion to Mari's Garden in Mililani.



Keeping with the farm tour theme, the women of Jikoen BWA, along with 11 guests, toured Kahuku Farms. The first stop of the day was Kailua Hongwanji where they attended the Sunday service. The Dharma talk and intergenerational activity led by Rev. Irene Nakamoto allowed everyone to share why they are a Jodo Shinshu follower and to connect with friends old and new. Kailua BWA members sent JBWA off with bags of snacks to fortify them on the long bus ride to Kahuku. At Kahuku Farms, they enjoyed a farm tour and a delicious vegetarian lunch of either pizza or panini.

Moiiliili BWA celebrated the 90th anniversary of their organization! They had a festive

Lois Toyama



lunch at Waialae Country Club, with 49 people in attendance. Past ministers were also invited. Seven of the members in attendance were 90 years of age or older.

Kailua's excursion is still in the planning stages. The most likely destination is the Hokulani Imaginarium, the planetarium at Windward Community College. All members of the temple will be invited to this event.

These summer excursions by our units are opportunities to invite friends to join us, to include temple members in our BWA activities, and to express gratitude to those who have helped us throughout the year. It's clear that BWA membership offers camaraderie, access to high fashion, good food, and longevity. We'd love to have you as a member, too!

## KAUAI UNITED BWA

### Sharing PowerPoint With Fellow BWA Members

Fay Tateishi

A workshop was held on June 27, 2015 at Lihu'e Hongwanji Mission, arranged and conducted by Carol Valentine, Lihue Hongwanji BWA member. She shared her knowledge with PowerPoint and KeyNote programs, a very useful tool when giving presentations, Dharma Talks and other applications. Eight people were in attendance from Lihue Hongwanji and West Kauai Hongwanji of which six were BWA members. Carol very kindly prepared and gave each who attended a flash drive loaded with articles, examples, photos and videos so everyone had hands-on-training in creating their own PowerPoint or KeyNote program on their laptops. Everyone enjoyed the information and the refreshments.





# 15th WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION

## Theme: "Embraced by the Oneness of Life"

Janet Honda,  
President HHMHFBWA

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation hosted the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary, AB Canada, on May 30-31, 2015 at the Telus Convention Center. There were delegates of Buddhist women from five World Districts—Japan, Buddhist Churches of America, South America, Canada, and Hawaii—totaling 2,000 in attendance.

Tomo Hojo, Rev. David Nakamoto, Rev. Mariko Nishiyama, Rev. Bert Sumikawa, Rev. Jan Youth, and Rev. Shigeaki Fujitani. Gomonshu-sama Kojun Ohtani of Honzan along with Governor of Hongwanji, Rev. Gyobun Fujino, was among the many dignitaries. Lady Ruzumi Ohtani was unable to attend the Convention but sent a congratulatory message.



Kauai BWA Delegates

The Hawaii Federation of the Buddhist Women's Associations was led by Honorary Federation President Tamayo Matsumoto, Federation President Janet H. Honda, Federation First Vice President Irene Nakamoto, Honorary Advisor Bishop Eric Matsumoto, and Minister Advisor Rev. Shindo Nishiyama. There were approximately 100 BWA members, relatives, and friends who attended this World Convention. Hawaii's ministers who also attended the Convention were Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Rev. Jeffrey Soga, Rev. Ai Hironaka, Rev.

There were two keynote speakers: Rev. Nana Yanase of Kyo On Ji Temple in Nara Prefecture, and Rev. Patricia Kanaya Usuki of the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in California. Both gave powerful speeches and listening to their speeches brought many audience members to tears. We have requested Canada Federation for their speeches so that we can share with everyone in Hawaii.

On the Panel of Speakers, Hawaii was represented by Lois Toyama of Jikoen Temple who spoke on how Bud-

dhism helped her make decisions in her career and personal life. Lois also talked about the teachings on non-dualistic thinking to embrace life more fully.

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Jikoen BWA delegates Lois Toyama, Lily Horio and Rev. Shindo Nishiyama



Noriko Ikuta (Canada) and Myrna Nishihara Honolulu United President

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On Saturday, May 30th, the Convention opened with a Processional which included Hawaii's representatives, Tamayo Matsu-moto and Janet Honda, as they carried a candle and flowers for offertory.

On Sunday, May 31st, before the World Buddhist Women's Association General Meeting, Janet Honda and Irene Nakamoto participated in the White Hat Ceremony and received certificates entitling them as Honorary Calgarians.

The Pacific Buddhist Academy sold hikari onenjus and the orange eyelash leis during the Convention and these items were a hit! Thank you to Fred Nonaka, Alton Miyamoto, and Pieper Toyama who as top salesmen with their winning smiles and personalities sold many items to support the Pacific Buddhist Academy.

The Hawaii Federation BWA would like to thank all the BWA members, relatives, and friends who attended this awesome 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention. A special thank you to JTB Hawaii for their assistance in all the travel arrangements. And lastly, our deepest Gratitude and a big MAHALO to Chair Susan Huntley and Canada Women's Federation for all their planning, production, and hospitality in hosting the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention!

The 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention will be held on August 30-September 1, 2019 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel. Theme: Live the Nembutsu. ([www.wbwconvention.com](http://www.wbwconvention.com)) The 16th WBW Convention website is not



Irene Nakamoto,  
White Hat Ceremony

quite ready; so stay tuned.) The Buddhist Churches of America BWA will be the official host. Let's plan on attending this World Convention!

Various workshops based on the Noble Eightfold Path were also part of the program.

One of them, "Right Livelihood" can be seen on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO6ffb0HF\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO6ffb0HF_E)



Rev. Jeffrey Soga, Rev. Nana Yanase, Lois Ohta,  
Naomi Ozawa, JTB.