

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

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Message from the President: Lois Toyama

I am honored and humbled to begin this term as your president. I am honored because you have entrusted me with this position. I am humbled because this is an organization that goes back generations, and your mothers and grandmothers have been members. I feel the import of that. With your support, I look forward to continuing the important work of the Buddhist Women's Association.

The BWA was founded in 1904 by Lady Takeko Kujo at the time of the Russo-Japanese war. BWA members sent comfort packages to soldiers at the front and gave support to their families at home. After the Tokyo earthquake in 1923, she organized her members to help the injured and orphaned. The very foundation of the BWA was community engagement.



During her tenure as BWA president, Janet Honda emphasized visibility within the community, and the Federation began to sponsor a unit in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. In January, we participated for the fifth year with incredible support from PBA and the Jr. YBA.

Under Irene Nakamoto's leadership, we focused on Dharma Leadership. We explored the questions, "What does it mean to be a Dharma Leader? What does that look like?" We looked at and reflected on the teachings.

I would like to further the work of these two amazing women with the theme, "Dharma Leadership in Action." My hope is that we can work together as a BWA and as a partner with other Hongwanji organizations to benefit our community.

The Hongwanji theme for 2018, "Embrace Change – Harmony (Accept Differences)" challenges us to do things differently, to accept differences in others, and to seek or create harmony. That is a big challenge indeed.

Takeko Kujo was also a poet. She said:
"Drawn by the power of Great Things;
Ah, how unsteady are my steps."

Let's support each other when our steps are unsteady. Let's work together, have fun, make new friends, and do Great Things.

HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Linda Nagai



Our 63rd Annual Convention, hosted by Honokaa and Kamuela BWAs, was held on Sunday, October 22, 2017, at the Honokaa Hongwanji Social Hall our theme was, "Embrace Change: Action (Open Communication)".

This was the first time we combined our Buddhist Education Seminar and our Convention, and it turned out to be a great success. Because Hawaii County is the first County in the nation to be designated as a "Blue Zone", we thought that it would only be fitting to have our Seminar focus on Blue Zones.

Hawaii County Blue Zone Project leaders presented a display, handouts and explained what Blue Zone was about and encouraged all Hongwanjis on the island to take on the Blue Zone Project and pledge: To live a longer, better life. Have more energy, feel stronger, and become healthier, meet new people and nurture supportive friendships. Discover your purpose and put it to work. Be the change that makes your community a better place to live. We had a food demo and samples to taste, like cauliflower rice, namasu, and vegetable stew using unpeeled vegetables. The Project people suggest "drinking your food and chewing your juice". In other words chew your food well and drink pulpy juice. Other suggestions to keep healthy are to eat only until you are 80% full, get enough sleep, drink lots of water, exercise and keep in touch with people socially,

At our Convention portion, Rev. Furusawa gave a Dharma message encouraging us to learn a new thing together everyday. Thirteen new members were recognized during the General Membership meeting: Yoko Hatada, Roanne Tsutsui, Stella Nojiri, Lynette Takajo, and Le Bel (Hilo) was welcomed back; Jeanne Clement, Constance (Connie) Fay, Royene (Ro) Ka-hoopii, Norene Yamamoto, Pamela Yeaton (Honokaa); Rev. Bruce Nakamura (Kona); Karen Mason and Misaki Saito (Puna). Resolutions of Appreciation and Congratulations were also presented to two centenarians: Mrs. Fujiyo "Violet" Kuroyama, and Mrs. Mitsue "Doris" Namihira both members of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin BWA.



OAHU UNITED BWA

Claire Tamamoto



The Oahu United members closed out 2017 with a combined annual convention, general membership meeting and educational seminar hosted by Mililani BWA on November 18, 2017. We recognized our Oahu District ministers in appreciation for their support, guidance, and friendship throughout the year.

We were honored to have as our special guests, Federation President Irene Nakamoto, Federation Vice-President and President-Elect Lois Toyama and Honolulu United BWA President Donna Higashi join us for the occasion. Of special note was the recognition of outgoing United President June Asato for her many years of dedication at the helm of anything Oahu. Truly the Dharma lives within her.

Our fellow Mililani BWA ladies orchestrated a hands on experience for us. Centered around the theme "Finding Dharma in Music" we enjoyed participating in group singing and music making. Ukuleles, guitars and handheld musical instruments combined with our voices added to the spirit of the day. Participants got a songbook with ukulele cords and words and each temple received a CD with the music to help refresh our memories.



MAUI UNITED BWA

Sandy Hirata

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, the ladies of the Maui United Buddhist Women's Association held their Fall Assembly at the Makawao Buddhist Temple. The highlight of this program was a panel discussion by five Muslim women. The head panelist was Emna Maksud. She was born and raised on Maui and graduated from Lahainaluna High School. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree and continues to promote world peace and religious understanding. She was joined by Fahima Baccar, Gloria Habbas, Afaf Hadi and Siham Jobran.



It was interesting to listen to these ladies share their experiences of living in America. To our surprise one panelist removed her head dress, and this is done only in the company of women. We truly appreciated our fellowship guests' insights of living a different culture and way of life.

The Maui United Buddhist Women's Association participated with friends, family and Dharma School students from the various Hon-

gwanji temples in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March. It was held on Monday, January 15, 2018 in Wailuku. The march began at the Stone of Hope Monument (a tribute to Dr. King) and continued around the County buildings.

The ladies of the MUBWA gave out and taught participants how to make origami cranes which were gratefully accepted.



Beautiful, Wonderful, Amazing Women's Tea Party

Lois Toyama

About thirty people from around the state attended the third annual BWA talk story session. Held prior to the Giseikai Rap Session, this gathering provides an opportunity for BWA members from throughout Hawaii to make connections and to share ideas in an informal setting. And of course to enjoy delicious refreshments prepared by BWA members.

This year we were privileged to host Gayle and Robert Noguchi and Kathy Terusaki from the Buddhist Church of Oakland who were here to attend our Giseikai. Kathy and Gayle are both BWA members.

BWA members from every United attended the tea party. Donna Higashi sold copies of Pat Masters' new book, "Searching for Mary Foster", a nineteenth century native Hawaiian Buddhist, philanthropist, and social activist. Plans are in the works for a follow up discussion of the book for members who are interested.



HONOLULU UNITED BWA June Nakamasu

SAKURA SAFARI

Hey, you don't need to travel to Japan or to Washington DC to see the Sakura or cherry blossoms. Kamuela (Waimea) celebrates the Cherry Blossom Festival on the first Saturday in February. Oahu also has its share of this beautiful dainty pink blossoms in Wahiawa, usually in mid- January or February.

On February 3, 2018 one of Honolulu United unit, Jikoen Hongwanji BWA members, family and friends ventured to see this spectacular display. They first visited Mililani Hongwanji to hear Reverend David Fujimoto's special Dharma talk. Reverend David Fujimoto emphasized "Arigatai." Later they went to Wahiawa Ryusenji Soto Mission to enjoy a bento lunch prepared by "Kitchen Delight Okazuya, home of the "Shock & Awe Breakfast for \$1.75."

After lunch, they met up with Rene Mansho, Mililani Hongwanji's Kyodan President and BWA member to begin the 90 minute trolley tour around Wahiawa Town. The main route was California Avenue which passes many cherry blossom trees. Unfortunately, most of the blooms were nearly over, just a little sprinkles of pink blossoms here and there. They were seen at Wahiawa Hongwanji, Iliahi Elementary School, Leilehua High School and residential yards. The day was filled with wonderment and wonderful fellowship too. After boarding the bus to return to Jikoen Hongwanji, the group sang "Asoka Garden" and were entertained by our harmonica players.



KAUAI UNITED BWA

Lynne Matsumura

The Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association held its Fall Conference on October 22, 2017 at West Kauai Hongwanji Mission in Hanapepe. The keynote speaker was Janice Bond, representing AARP, who spoke on the topic of Fraud Awareness. To end the day, Fay and Laurie Tateishi shared tips and tricks of making Macadamia Okoshi. What a full and educational day of fun and fellowship we had!

On November 10, the KUHBWA held our annual Lonesome Grave Project. In preparation for the Veteran's Day ceremony at Kauai Veterans Cemetery, we gather flowers and foliage and decorate every grave in the cemetery.



Laurie and Fay Tateishi make Macadamia Okoshi



Shirley Kakuda sorts flowers for Lonesome Grave Project