

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

As this Fall BWA newsletter is distributed, we are participating in the first Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Joint Conference at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. The BWA will be holding their 13th State Membership Conference here, planning for the World Convention to be held in San Francisco next year. We will also join with members of the Lay, Ministers' Spouses, Dharma Educators, and Jr. YBA to attend workshops and develop connections with Hongwanji members from across the state.

In my first nine months as your president, I have had the opportunity to participate

in this amazing organization at the local, state, and international levels. This past April marked the 750th memorial of Eshinni's passing, and very formal services were held in her honor at Honzan, our mother temple in Kyoto. Bishop Matsumoto and I were privileged to attend these services as representatives of the Hawaii Federation of BWA. We joined BWA representatives from around the world to participate in services, meetings, and celebrations to honor this woman who is so important in Jodo Shinshu.

I was able to share this experience



through talks at Wahiawa Hongwanji, at the Kyodan Board meeting, on the White Way radio broadcast and through an article in the Kyodan Update.

In my Spring message, I acknowledged our founder, Lady Takeko Kujo, and the work she and the BWA did in helping earthquake victims in Japan. We can look forward to an anthology of her writings in the book, *Leaves of My Heart*, to be published by the American Buddhist Study Center this fall.

At the local level, Units and Uniteds are putting Dharma-Centered Leadership in action through educational seminars, nutrition workshops, community fundraising walks, and projects to help the homeless, in addition to all of the work they do to sustain their temples.

As a BWA member, you are an important part of a vibrant, impactful worldwide organization.

I hope you'll join us at the World Convention in San Francisco next year to deepen your connection to the BWA and to our members from throughout the world.

Eshin-ni – Kakushin-ni Endowed Chair

Kylie Urasaki, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Alan Urasaki of Jikoen Hongwanji, recently presented a gift of \$300 towards the BWA effort to raise funds for the establishment of an Eshin-ni – Kakushin-ni Endowed Chair at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California.

Kylie, a 2018 graduate of Aiea High School, wanted to give back to Jikoen temple with this generous gift. When asked what motivated her to do this, she said that her father graduated from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. She visited IBS last year when her family was in Berkeley, and she values the work that they do.



The fundraising campaign seeks to raise \$3 million from Hongwanji Temples throughout the world by having each temple contribute \$300. Hawaii's share is \$11,000. As of this writing, we are about halfway to our goal. Thank you for your generous support! If you would still like to donate, see your BWA president for information.

**Kylie Urasaki presents a donation to
June Nakamasu, JBWA President**

HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Linda Nagai



The seventh annual HIV/AIDS Walk was held on April 14 with Puna Hongwanji BWA/other temple members, and Hilo BWA members participating. Others who could not make it to the event made generous donations so Team BWA was able to raise more than \$800 to support Aids programs on Hawaii Island.

HIUHBWA annually awards two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. This year's recipients were LiAnn Yamamoto of Hilo Betsuin and Kaid Nickl of Kohala Hongwanji. Both have been active members at their respective temples and in their communities. LiAnn will be attending the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Kaid will be attending an accredited college of his choice.

The Buddhist Education Seminar was held after our Board meeting on May 19, with Professor Jeff Wilson as the guest speaker. His talk was titled "Refugee Shinran" and he explored the personal hardships experienced by the Shin Buddhist founder, and the reformer, Rennyo Shonin. He also related how they were led to teach an inclusive, welcoming Buddhism.

The seminar concluded after lunch with discussions led by the Rev. Eric Anderson, pastor of UCC, and Paul Normann of the Interfaith Working Group on Family Homelessness. They spoke of possible actions that can be taken on the growing homeless problem. One of programs mentioned was "Family Promise"; where a church or organization can provide a safe, warm place for a homeless family with children to go to for beds, showers, hot meals and place for kids to do their homework. This is a work in progress and was an appeal to our temple/organization to be one of the participants. Empathy and compassion should be followed by action.

Being A Bomori

Yoshiko Umitani

My husband, Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, was assigned to Moilili Hongwanji Misson as the resident minister effective on June 1st, 2018. My family, including two daughters, Naho and Riho, are all happy to be back at a temple.

Some of the BWA members may be wondering about the meaning and the responsibilities of Bomori. In the Jodo-Shinshu Hongwanji-ha temples in Japan, a head minister is called the Jushoku, and the Jushoku's spouse was recognized as Bomori. Our founder, Shinran Shonin, married Lady Eshinnni and together lived a life of Nembutsu. Since then, the ministers' and their spouses have been playing major roles in the spread of the Jodo-Shinshu.



Today, the number of female and/or single Jushokus have increased. Because of this the Jushoku's close family (spouse, parents, siblings, etc) also serve as a Bomori. The Bomori's responsibility is to help support the Jushoku. Bomori is a Japanese word and there is background that usually one minister's family manages and takes over one temple in Japan. However, in Hawaii, the situation is different.

I understand that ministers' spouses have religious freedom, and each minister's spouse can support the other in their own way.

In my point of view, listening to the Dharma and encouraging temple members to attend temple is the most important role as a minister's spouse. I enjoy participating in temple and BWA activities. I hope to continue walking the Nembutsu path with my family and the Hongwanji Sangha.

HONOLULU UNITED BWA

Dianne Ida



Hawaii Betsuin BWA Excursion: UHM Trees and Mu Ryang Sa Temple

On Saturday, July 21, 2018, 36 BWA members and guests enjoyed the annual BWA excursion. The first part was a tour to learn about trees in a selected area of the University of Hawai'i Manoa. The second part took the group to Mu Ryang Sa Korean Temple in Palolo Valley.

Our guide at UH, Noweo Kai, was adept at interweaving humor with information. The group was entertained while learning many new things.

Of special interest to the BWA was seeing the only magnolia tree on campus. The magnolia is associated with Lady Eshin-ni. We also saw the Ficus Religiosa, the Bo tree or bodhi tree. The UHM bodhi tree is from a cutting from Foster Garden. Foster Garden's tree was given to Mary Foster and is from the tree in India under which Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment. Noweo showed us kukui nut trees, the state tree of Hawai'i. She noted that kukui nut oil can be burned to make light and symbolizes light and enlightenment; one of the BWA ladies commented that the kukui should, therefore, be a tree of Buddhist temples.

Next stop was the Korean temple. The BWA ladies and friends excitedly admired the beautiful flowers, plants, pond, and colorful temple structures. We took off our shoes and entered the Dharma Hall and sat in pews. Abbot Do Hyun opened our visit with a chant. Then he shared with us the history of the temple. We moved on to look at the Memorial Hall and then sat in a hall that is used for meditation.

Several Mu Ryang Sa members prepared a delicious vegetarian lunch, consisting of miso soup (they make their own miso), bibimbap (rice with assorted vegetables), and watermelon. The group was quite tired but said they enjoyed themselves.



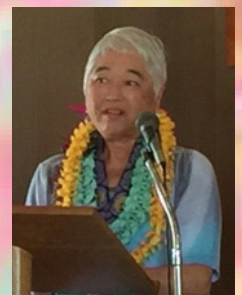
KAUAI UNITED BWA

Lynne Matsumura



The KUHBWA awarded two \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors, Rina Takabayashi and Jana Ogle, both from Lihue Hongwanji. Pictured with Rina and Jana are Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, former Advisor and Lynne Matsumura, President.

The Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association held our annual Eshinni & Kakushinni Service at West Kauai Hongwanji in April. Our guest speaker, Carolyn Uchiyama of Wahiawa Hongwanji, gave an informative and enjoyable Dharma talk about these inspiring women. Fun and fellowship followed the joint service.



MAUI UNITED BWA

Sharon Nohara

At Maui's Spring Assembly, 332 cans of Spam were collected from the various temples. A wonderful SPAM cookbook done by Sharon Nohara and distributed. The SPAM was donated to the Maui Food Bank on April 30.

The Junior YBA members built the SPAM towers at Kahului Hongwanji.



President Janet Shimada and Charlotte Wilkinson delivered the SPAM to Keith and Brandon at the Maui Food Bank.

OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige

The O'ahu United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association hosted an Open House on June 9th at Mililani Hongwanji as part of a membership grant from the Hawaii Federation of BWA's. The open house provided information on what the active BWA units do to meet our objectives and it presented a program on healthy foods—based on plant based recipes and Blue Zones Principles. There was delicious and healthy food sampling and demonstrations.

The second part of the grant is OUHHBWA Open House Featuring a Potpourri of BWA favorites at Hongwanji Gatherings. It will be held on Sunday, September 23, 2018 @ Pearl City Hongwanji and will feature "Tasty Delights of Pearl City Hongwanji"—Island Style Multicultural Pot Luck favorites. The Open House will explain what the BWA is, give a brief overview of the OUHHBWA and the Hawaii Federation, and present the active BWA units do to meet the BWA objectives. There will be food sampling and demonstrations—featuring recipes from Pearl City BWA's cookbooks, "Wisteria Delights I and II", from which food will be presented for lunch. The program is open to all women of the Oahu Hongwanji district and ministers of Oahu, including current members. RSVP needed to plan for food and any handouts.

The OUHHBWA's Annual Seminar and Convention will be held on Saturday, October 6, at Pearl City Hongwanji from 8:30am to 1:30pm. Following the memorial service with Dharma message by Rev. Kojun Hashimoto, there will be a panel discussion on "Changing Roles for Women in Jodo Shinshu Temples," then workshops on Financial Planning for the Mature Woman and Organizing Your Photo Memories. The membership meeting, election and installation of officers will be held following the lunch.

