

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

The Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations is off to a strong start in 2019 with our sixth year of participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and our fourth BWA coffee hour prior to the Giseikai. On January 21st, BWA members joined with PBA students and staff in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. Our marchers handed out origami cranes lovingly made by BWA members and PBA students. On Maui, United members participated in the MLK Peace March and were joined by members of the Federation of Jr. YBA who were meeting on Maui this past weekend.

On February 7th, members and guests joined in an informal coffee hour at Hawaii Betsuin for fellowship. Those in attendance also were able to see and purchase copies of Leaves of My

Heart, a translation of the works of Lady Takeko Kujo, founder of BWA. Hawaii Federation was a supporter of this publication at the Asoka level. You can purchase your own copy of this wonderful book at the Kyodan bookstore.

This year we are excited to welcome our first male members! At their January meeting, Hawaii Betsuin BWA introduced new members Rudiger Ruckmann and Dr. Benjamin Bruch, both staff members of PBA. On Maui, longtime BWA supporter Brian Hashiro joined the Kahului Unit.

Last year, BWA members across the state spearheaded fundraising efforts for the establishment of an endowment for an Eshin-ni – Kakushin-ni Endowed Chair at the Institute for Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. Due to their efforts and the generosity of temple members and organizations,

we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$11,000 with an amazing total of \$14,631! Mahalo to everyone for their hard work and generosity in this worthwhile effort.

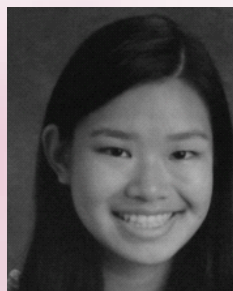
We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year planning and preparing for our participation in the 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention at the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco on August 31st and September 1st. The conference theme is "Live the Nembutsu," and Carol Valentine of Kauai will be Hawaii Federation's panel speaker. See your Unit presidents for more information!



Federation Student Exchange Program

Barbara Brennan

2019



Chloe Oshiro
Mililani Hongwanji

Katelyn Otani
Pearl City Hongwanji



There were four applicants for the 2019 Student Exchange program. All were very qualified. However, only two individuals could be selected to travel to Japan to represent the Hawaii BWA Federation. The program will be held from July 15th to July 26th or 27th. The students submitted applications and were interviewed by the selection committee in person and via Go-To-Meeting set up by Rev. Takahashi. Chloe Oshiro of Mililani Hongwanji and Katelyn Otani of Pearl City Hongwanji are the Student Exchange delegates.

Chloe Oshiro is a senior at Mililani High School. She has been active at her temple attending Dharma School, participating in Jr. YBA and Girl Scouts and volunteering for both the temple and her community. Chloe states in her essay "My grandmother was an active member of the BWA and was always my role model."

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HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Our 64th Annual Convention, hosted by Puna and Naalehu BWAs, was held at Puna Hongwanji on October 21, 2018, with the theme, "Embrace Change: Harmony". The booklet cover featured "Gumyocho: The Two-headed bird", and its contents included the fable of how conflict and selfishness destroyed its precious life.

We were fortunate to have Federation President, Lois Toyama, as our keynote speaker during the service. She gave an inspiring message about the BWA's numerous statewide activities that help support their temples and communities, and how humble she felt in leading such a great organization.

Hawaii Mayor Harry Kim, was the guest speaker at the conference and he related to us his rural life growing up in Olaa (now Keaau). His talk focused on disaster preparedness, and emphasized acquiring proper home insurance to suit your needs. He mentioned the lava disaster that was happening at that time, and how dedicated the men and women of the police force, National Park Service and Civil Defense department were. Many were on call 24/7 for the good and safety of the lava victims and the general public.

Election and installation of the following HIUHBWA officers took place: President-Linda Nagai; 1st Vice President/Rec. Secretary-Lynn Higashi, 2nd Vice President-Dorothy King; Gen. Fund Treasurer-Ellen Okano; Asst. Treasurer-Eileen Usagawa;

Ellen Okano

Auditors-Lillian Watanabe, Thelma Ryusaki, Claudia Chang, and Jean Tamashiro; Federation Directors-Karen Maedo and Shawn Sato.

Two centenarians from Kona BWA were honored with congratulatory resolutions of appreciation, and 32 new members were recognized and presented with a gift.

Upon approval, our \$600 Dana donation was given to "Neighborhood Place of Puna", a nonprofit organization that provides support and services to families at risk for child abuse and neglect.

OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige

OAHUHBWA Annual Education Seminar/Convention on Oct 6, 2018, at Pearl City Hongwanji. Following the memorial service and Dharma Message by Rev. Kojun Hashimoto, there was a discussion on "Changing Dynamics of Buddhist Women" by panelists Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Caroline Otani and Kano Hashimoto. Workshops followed on Financial Planning for the Mature Women (Grant Yamaguchi) and Organizing your Photo Memories (Janice Ito). Following lunch, the annual membership meeting was held.

The O'ahu United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Associations



has four active units (Mililani, Pearl City, Waipahu and Waianae) and nine members at-large from Aiea and Wahiawa. The most active unit is the Mililani Hongwanji BWA. Here is a list of activities gleaned from their newsletter: Ehime-maru cleanup/lunch outing on Nov 3, CARE day activity at Mililani Hale Adult Day Care/lunch at Waikole Golf Course on Nov. 5, visitation to Wahiawa Long Term Care on Nov. 13, annual membership dinner meeting on Dec 5, visitation

to Wahiawa Long Term Care facility on Jan 8, on Feb 4, the Mililani BWA donation of refreshment items for Mililani High School blood drive, March 9, Country Store and Rummage sale at the Mililani Hongwanji Bazaar. Due to a recent bylaw revision, newly re-elected BWA President Diane Yoza is an ex-officio member of the Mililani Hongwanji Board of Directors.

On Dec 24, the Pearl City Hongwanji BWA made their Elder Care Program visitation to Pearl City's new Furukawa Day Care Center for a Karaoke sing-a-long and song presentations by temple members.

Left to Right--Newly installed 2019 officers with Rev. Mariko Nishiyama: Past President June Asato, President Claire Tamamoto, Vice President Susan Morishige, Recording Secretary Diane Yoza, Treasurer Joyce Ogawa, Corresponding Secretary Joan Masaki, and Auditor Bea Sonoda (missing--Assistant Treasurer Doreen Sakamoto and Auditor Susan Ushijima)

MAUI UNITED BWA

Sharon Nohara



MUBWA held its 64th Fall General Membership Assembly on November 3, 2018 at Kahului Hongwanji Mission. Starting with an opening service by Reverend Richard Tennes, the business meeting followed thereafter. We recognized new members with MUBWA Welcome packets of an information folder with gifts of nenju and dish towel embroidered with a rainbow sagarifuji of Reverend Kiyohara's design. The Welcome packets were funded by the Federation membership grant. Our Dana Award recipient was Malama Family Recovery Center. They provide substance abuse treatment to women and is Maui's only women-specific addiction treatment center where babies and young children can stay with their mothers in treatment. Malama's graduate, Lisa Swoveland shared her rehabilitation story of alcohol and drug addiction which started with her

early childhood on Molokai and continued as an adult on Maui. We extended an invitation to the nuns of a Vietnamese Buddhist Temple. One of the nuns attended and gave gifts to each unit of writings from their founder Thich Nhat Hanh. We surprised our ministers with leis followed with an orei to recognize and show appreciation for their dedication and service to their temple and to MUBWA. The Election of the 2019 officers and board was followed by their installation as our new leaders. We ended our program with a message from Federation BWA President, Lois Toyama. After such a busy program schedule we all welcomed the catered Blue Zones in-



spired lunch with lots of "talk story" and friendship.

Women of the BWA along with other affiliate Hongwanji groups met in front of the Maui County Kalana O Maui Building for the Martin Luther King celebration and march. This year we were joined by Federation Jr. YBA members who were on Maui for their Winter Meeting. Each year MUBWA gather to promote peace by passing out origami cranes. We offer origami paper and instructions on how to fold cranes to the public attending this event and also drape a maile style ti leaf lei around the "Stone of Hope" Martin Luther King monument which fronts the County building. After the walk the African Americans of Maui Association that sponsors the event recognized the HSTA, HGEA and MUBWA in appreciation for their participation and support of this annual celebration with a plaque and certificate.

KAUAI UNITED BWA



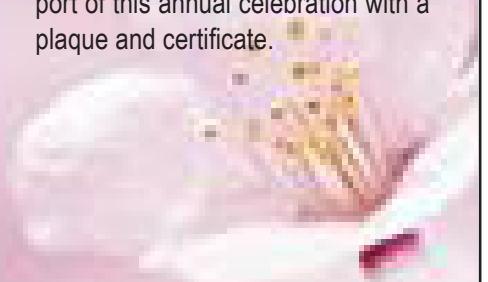
Lynne Matsumura



The KUHBWA held our Annual Fall Conference on October 14, which was also Ministers Appreciation Day. We honored our ministers by serenading them with a special rendition of "Thank You," and giving them a token of appreciation. The guest speaker for the day was Nadine Nakamura, from

the State House of Representatives, who explained the "Death with Dignity" legislation which became effective on January 1, 2019. A general membership meeting, luncheon, and hospital favors craft project completed a full day of learning, fun, and fellowship.

Photo: Gladys Fujiuchi, Lynette Miyamoto, Shirley Kakuda, and Diane Fukuyama accompanying singing of "Thank You" to our ministers.



HONOLULU UNITED BWA Wendie Yumori

Honolulu United Presents 2018 Dana Award To Kahauiki Village



Twenty-one BWA members and friends from Honolulu United BWA excitedly gathered on Nov. 19, 2018 at Kahauiki Village, near Sand Island, to see HUBWA President, Donna Higashi, present the 2018 Dana Award of \$1,000 to Duane Kurisu, a businessman who is carrying out his vision to provide permanent affordable housing for homeless families. The Dana Award is a three year commitment. Some of our former par-

ticipants in Family Promise have become residents of Kahauiki Village and they say, "It is a dream come true."

Duane Kurisu said that he had conceived of Kahauiki Village as a place where families bond with their community and

embrace the values of "generosity, trust, dignity, and honor," plantation community values that greatly influenced Duane as he was growing up on the Big Island. The prefabricated houses were originally emergency homes for tsunami victims in Japan. Features were added to give the homes a plantation look and metal roofing was selected which allowed for installation of solar panels. The sun is used to generate nearly all of the project's electricity! In time, this project is expected to house over 600 adults and children. Duane's

face lights up whenever he speaks of the children! As part of our tour, he took us to see the PACT-run daycare center and preschool, all part of the plan to provide a community network of support for the families.

In the beginning, Duane admitted to feeling alone in his mission but he soon found that many others were willing to do whatever they could to help. Most of the materials and labor to develop the housing units were donated and the first phase of 30 units was completed in only six months! To us, Duane's stories about the many who stepped up to volunteer their resources were examples of selfless giving, dana, in action.

This visit to Kahauiki Village was eye-opening and inspiring. We heard stories of the residents picking up trash and the children watering the trees and we could see that values of "generosity, trust, dignity, and honor" have guided this project throughout its development and are now Kahauiki Village community values.

Historian Extraordinaire: Ruth Tokumi

On behalf of the Hawaii Federation of BWA, I'd like to express our deep gratitude to Ruth Tokumi for her outstanding work as Federation historian over the past two years. In recent comments, Ruth shared some of her experiences as a historian for various Hongwanji organizations and the impact that it has had on her life.

"Being a historian for BWA has been a growing journey as I learned more about the organization (federation, districts, units), my temple, and my-

self. The friendship, fellowship, and fun I have enjoyed with my BWA ohana and temple sangha has enriched my life.

The journey started in 1998 when I was approached to be historian for Upasika Society before their 50th anniversary. In 2002, the Hawaii Betsuin Fujinkai merged with Upasika Soci-



Lois Toyama

ety and was renamed Hawaii Betsuin BWA. I became their first historian in 2003. It has continued to be a growing and gratifying experience for me. It became more exciting in 2010 when Paul Nitta of Moiliili Hongwanji posted Hawaii Betsuin BWA's photos, collages, and videos on the HFBWA website which Tamayo Matsumoto started a few years earlier.

Historically, although I was designated historian for HFBWA when president Irene Nakamoto asked me

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Ruth Tokumi continued from page 4

to fulfill that role in 2016. My interest in photography and use of computers to create collages and videos has been continuous for many years. Donna Higashi of Moiliili Hongwanji has been my mentor and encouraged my interest in historic preservation. She is the author of the history of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations on the HFBWA website."

Since 2016, much of today's Hawaii Federation's website has been upgraded thanks to the expert assistance of webmaster, Dave Atcheson. He and volunteer BWA members continue to maintain the site regularly.

Ruth has made and shared photo collages of BWA activities, managing to both capture the spirit of the event and to share Dharma teachings in her beautiful work. During the past year, Ruth has mentored Penny Atcheson who will take over the position as BWA historian. Thank you, Ruth, for documenting our BWA story in such a loving way, and thank you, Penny, for continuing this important work.

2019 Exchange Students Continued From Page 1

She aspires to be like her and hopes to perpetuate her legacy as a Buddhist woman in her temple. "... being a Shin Buddhist means understanding interdependence and impermanence and looking at the world with a heart of gratitude and compassion."

Katelyn Otani is currently a junior at the University of Northern Colorado. She is from Pearl City Hongwanji where she attended Dharma School and was active in Jr. YBA and participated in the YESS Camp and YBICSE programs. In the words of Rev. Mari Nishiyama "It is with a genuine sense of pride and gratitude that I recommend Katelyn for the Student Exchange program. Her dedication and devotion to the temple and community are acknowledged and appreciated by temple members...I have confidence that in the future she will benefit the temple as a member of the BWA." Her family, including her grandfather, the late George Otani, have been active members of Pearl City Hongwanji.

Chloe and Katelyn will have a unique opportunity to use their Japanese language skills when meeting BWA members in Japan and living with their host families.



More Photos from Maui United!



Making Origami cranes for the Maui MLK parade...



Marchers in the MLK parade...



The African Americans of Maui Association, sponsors of the Maui MLK parade, recognized the HSTA, HGEA and MUBWA in appreciation for their participation and support for the event.