

# 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

Buddhist Women's Associations Units and Uniteds across the state have been doing meaningful work in their communities. By sharing photos and reports, we can see what others are doing and replicate products that we feel would work in our own community. What we don't often see are the ripple effects of our actions and programs. I'd like to give two examples.

Eight years ago, then-Federation President Janet Honda felt that we should be more visible in the community and suggested participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. Maui and Oahu have participated every year since then. Pacific Buddhist Academy has worked closely with the BWA on this event since its beginning and recently required all students to participate every year. What everyone might not know are the ripple effects of this participation.

One year, the Hongwanji bought two tables at the NAACP dinner which is held every Saturday of Martin Luther King weekend. BWA members and invited guests of the interfaith community

filled our tables. At the event, we were able to mingle and connect with other attendees. Another year, Bishop Matsumoto and Mr. Alfonso Braggs, President of Hawaii chapter of NAACP, held a well-attended dialogue at the Betsuin where they discussed Buddhist beliefs and civil rights. Last year, when national leaders of the NAACP visited Hawaii, Mr. Braggs invited Bishop Matsumoto to attend. Because the bishop had a prior commitment, he asked Pieper and me to represent him. At that event, Mr. Braggs introduced us as being from the Hongwanji which is a strong partner with NAACP as advocates for civil rights.

In 2018, I attended the annual meeting of Maui United. At that meeting, they announced that they would begin a partnership with a group of Vietnamese Buddhist Nuns who resided near Kahului Hongwanji. Some of the nuns were present at the meeting and shared beautiful calligraphy by Thich Nhat Hahn. Last fall, when Maui United spearheaded the stunning displays of cranes at every temple in honor of Peace Day, the nuns participated in the Peace Day service at Makawao Hongwanji. Vietnamese Buddhist monks visiting from New

York changed their flights in order to attend. These monks and nuns led those in attendance in a walking meditation as well as a walking chant.

These cooperative efforts with groups in our communities strengthen our impact and deepen our awareness of interconnectedness. Thank you so much for all that you do, and trust that no matter how small your effort may seem at the time, there will be ripple effects with an impact beyond what you expected.





# KAUAI UNITED BWA

## Annual Lonesome Grave Project



Lynette Miyamoto

On November 10 of each year, the Kapaa, Lihue and West Kauai Hongwanji BWA members and their family, friends and temple members congregate at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery. Truckloads of flowers, ferns, and shrubbery are brought to help decorate each grave on Veterans Day. Some members come equipped with screwdrivers to open the grave flower holders, others come with garden hos-

es and buckets to fill the holders with water. Still others bring their 5 gallon buckets and plastic bags to hold flowers and shrubbery. We try to clean and decorate each grave with flowers.

We started the morning with a short service by Rev. Hojo, Rev. Majima and Rev. Kaufmann. By the end of the morning, the graves were beautifully decorated and it was a sight to behold.

It was nice to see members and friends from the three temples talk story and work together.

The Kauai Veterans Council received \$500 donation for our Kauai United BWA Dana Project in 2019; the donation will be used to help renovate the Veterans Center and to host their annual Veterans Christmas Luncheon.





## MAUI UNITED BWA

Maui United Buddhist Women's Association met in November, opening with a Memorial Service to remember all our friends who have passed this year. At our business meeting we elected officers for the 2020 year. We will be led by President Sharon Nohara, Past President Janet Kubota, 1st Vice President Diane Kosaka, 2nd Vice President Janet Shimada, 3rd Vice President Catherine Nohara, Secretary Phyllis Nakamura, Treasurer Aileen Cockett, Assistant Treasurer Sharon Higa, Auditors Bobbi Nakagawa and Susan Emura, Directors Diane Nako, Colleen Suyama, Tamara Manley and Sally Takahama.

We also introduced new members who have joined since the Spring General Assembly. We have 5 new members, Julie Bridle, Laura Vo, Laurie Fukushima, Sunny Larner and Phyllis Sato. We welcome our new members, we hope they enjoy our friendship, the fun times and our mission to help our temples in ways only women can. Another part of MUBWA is education. Part of the program this Fall was to introduce us to 3 different healthy teas: Ginger, Bitter Melon and Marungai. Try it!

January is always the Martin Luther King march. The adults and children marched around the block with signs of love, peace cranes and bagpipes playing. The parade ended with Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. We truly enjoyed the company and sharing the message of Peace.



Alison Nakagawa



Ellen Okano

## HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Our annual \$1,000 Scholarship Award was presented to Alyssa Okamura of Hilo Betsuin on May 5, 2019, at their "Honor the Graduates" service. She was very appreciative of the support she received from us, and is currently attending Creighton University in Nebraska.

Kona Hongwanji BWA hosted our 65th Annual HIUHBWA Convention held on October 20, 2019. Their program booklet featured a cover picture of "The Buddha's Feet" with doves flying overhead, appropriately embracing the theme: "Walk in Peace".

It began with a morning service officiated by the Reverend Blayne Higa, who

gave an inspiring message on peace beginning with each of us.

The Buddhist Education Seminar ensued in their Social Hall with guest speakers Ravi Inder Singh, a vegetarian, and Annie Kroeger. Their presentation was about the "Sikh concept of Dana" (true selfless giving), Sangha & Langar (anchor for the community)". According to them, "The core values of Sikhism include equality for all men and women, hard work, meditation and service before self."

About 11 months ago, Ravi, with the assistance of Rev. Bruce Nakamura, Miles Okumura, and many volunteers spearheaded the "Feed the Keiki and Kupuna" program at Honokaa Hongwanji Mission.

They serve free meals weekly to the community at large with no obligation, monetary and otherwise.

The General Membership meeting followed after lunch where we honored one Centenarian with a Resolution of Appreciation, and twenty new members were recognized and presented with a gift. Several Bylaws amendments regarding meetings were approved resulting in just two meetings per year, the spring Board meeting and the fall General Membership meeting. First meeting for 2020 will be held on February 22, at Kona Hongwanji.

Our 2019 Dana donation of \$666.50 (combination of dues and calabash collections) was presented to "Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island".



# OAHU UNITED BWA



Susan Morishige

On November 9, 2019, the O'ahu United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association held its Annual Seminar and Convention at Waipahu Hongwanji. The speaker at the Memorial Service was Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani of Moiliili Hongwanji. The theme of the seminar was "Walk in Peace, Go Green and Fall Safely" and there were two workshops: a Safe Falling Presentation by Kupuna Aikido Hawaii and a Going Green Presentation by Dave Atcheson. Both were very well received.

The membership of the O 'ahu United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association is composed of women who are part of the Oahu District Hongwanji Sangha, and who are reported to the OUHHBWA by April 30 of each year as active or associate members. Though there are six units which comprise the OUHHBWA, only Mililani, Pearl City, Waianae and Waipahu have elected to participate with the OUHHBWA. There are no BWA units at Ewa and Waialua. However, women may elect to be "At-Large" active members by paying their dues directly to the OUHHBWA.

Roseline Yano, a long-time leader of Wahiawa Hongwanji and of the Wahiawa Hongwanji BWA, passed away on September 15, 2019. Mrs. Yano was not recognized at the OUHHBWA Memorial Service because Wahiawa Hongwanji BWA has declined to participate with the OUHHBWA and did not report her name to the OUHHBWA. We do have several Wahiawa At-Large members but she was not one of them.

We would like to recognize her leadership and service in the past to the Honpa Hongwanji BWA at this time and ask that a moment of silence be observed.

I would like to be the first to announce that the Aiea Hongwanji BWA has voted to rejoin the O'ahu United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association as of February 5, 2020.



## The Oahu United Officers for 2020 are:

President.....Claire Tamamoto (Aiea)  
 Immediate Past President...June Asato (Mililani)  
 Vice President.....Susan Morishige (Aiea)  
 Recording Secretary.....Diane Yoza (Mililani)  
 Corresponding Secretary...Joan Masaki (Pearl City)  
 Treasurer.....Joyce Ogawa (Mililani)  
 Assistant Treasurer.....Doreen Sakamoto (Mililani)  
 Auditors.....Susan Ushijima (Waianae) and Beatrice Sonoda (Waipahu)  
 Advisor.....Rev. Mariko Nishiyama  
 OUBWA Federation Director.....(Spring meeting) Caroline Otani  
 (Fall meeting) To Be Appointed





# HONOLULU UNITED BWA



Ann Nakata and  
Wendie Yumori

## Always Walking Beside Us

Under a spectacular rainbow in the sky and amidst the rainbow-hued "SHARE PEACE" signs that we carried, the Hawaii Federation of BWAs, Pacific Buddhist Academy students and staff, and Honpa Hongwanji members and friends entered the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade route in Waikiki on Jan. 20, 2020. We remembered dear Dharma friend, Norman Hirohata Goto of Hawaii Betsuin, who was so committed to sharing peace at past Martin Luther King, Jr. Parades and other peace walks. Smiling as he walked, Norman was known for displaying bamboo poles strung with colorful origami peace cranes.

Norman passed away on Dec. 16, 2019 at the age of 79. So inspiring was Norman's legacy of peace, many of us in the Honolulu United BWA embraced the idea of honoring Norman by doing just as he did. We planned to make bamboo poles strung with origami peace cranes on Jan. 8 and 15, 2020 and we looked forward to holding our poles high during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Jan. 20.

What an awesome team effort it was! Albert and Liane Wong harvested the bamboo and Roy Yumori and Mel Ida cut the bamboo at seven feet lengths. Nineteen Honolulu United BWA members from Hawaii Betsuin, Jikoen, and Moiliili folded and strung cranes and tied the lines of cranes to long poles and short poles. The completed bamboo peace poles were a work of heart!

Contributing greatly to our effort to honor Norman was Jo des-Marets who crafted the five beautiful signs that read "Warmest Mahalo, Norman Hirohata Goto!" or "Norman Hirohata Goto, Always Walking Beside Us!" that we would carry in the parade. On the other side of Norman's signs were Jo's amazing "SHARE PEACE" signs.

At the start of the parade, holding a rainbow of signs and bamboo peace poles in tribute to Norman, we so appreciated the presence of Norman's wife, Amy Hirohata Goto, as a smiling parade participant. How grateful we were to be able to walk forward together and share peace. And yes, there was "Norman Hirohata Goto, always walking beside us."





## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade

Federation of BWAs Joined Other Hongwanji Organizations

On January 20, 2020 To Honor Mr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By Participating in the Annual MLK Day Parade From Ala Moana Park to Kapiolani Park





# Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade Continued

