

FALL 2020 EDITION

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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

In the face of hardship and tragedy, the women of the Hongwanji have long worked hard to deal with the tribulations of daily life while spreading the Nembutsu. Lady Eshinni faced famine and plague as she managed her family property and was responsible for her grandchildren and many servants. Lady Takeko Kujo, founder of BWA, organized women in Tokyo to send relief packages to Japanese soldiers during the Russo-Japanese war and also to provide support to survivors of the Kanto earthquake. During World War II, when her minister husband was interned, Shigeo Kikuchi elected to stay back in Kau to support families and to spread the teachings.

During this pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns, members of the Hawaii Federation

of Buddhist Women's Associations have stepped up and organized themselves to meet the needs of the community. Seeing the need for protective equipment, members on every island

organized sewing groups to make and distribute masks and caps to hospitals, care homes, schools, and public agencies. They also organized elaborate systems of pick-up, drop-off, and delivery. Some members sewed six to eight hours a day!

Access to food was also a challenge, as people were told to stay home as much as possible and to avoid crowds. Since people were out of work, many could not afford food. Our members helped to conduct food drives. Some shopped for



elderly neighbors while others cooked for others on a regular basis.

Isolation was also an issue, especially for those who lived alone. BWA members made and sent cards to members and to those in

care homes. They made phone calls to keep people connected. Honolulu United collected 90 reflections and photos from members on how they are coping with the pandemic and how they used the teachings to support them during this time. These reflections were compiled into a book by Ruth Tokumi and will be kept in our archives. They were also made into a video by Wendie and Roy Yumori and shown via Zoom to about 120 people on August 8th as their education seminar.

I would like to thank all of you for your spontaneous offerings of dana in response to this challenging time.

MAUI UNITED BWA

Who can help us help someone?
We can do it!!



Alison Nakagawa

The year 2020 started off like any other year – we all helped our temples with our New Year celebration and started planning our 2020 activities. Then the Corona Virus hit us! Everything got turned upside down. We're all staying at home as much as possible, wearing masks and washing our hands all the time. We all miss gathering at our temples and meeting our friends. I hope you all found ways to "meet up" with your friends to put smiles on your faces and to share "good fun corona virus happenings". Also, if someone needs help in getting groceries, a ride, an extra mask, or just time to talk story let's help each other or find someone to reach out to during these challenging times.



On Maui we had started a "Souper" Canned Food Drive before the virus hit us, so we completed the drive and delivered canned goods to the Maui Food Bank. There are so many who

need the extra food that they can get at the Food Bank.

Our next project is the Peace Day

display. Each of our BWA units set up beautiful displays last year and are planning to do it again this year. Wailuku and Lahaina completed their displays (see photo) and the other temples are working on their displays. All will be ready by September 21. There will be peace exuding from our yards and our hearts! We wish to share our hope for peace with the world.



HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

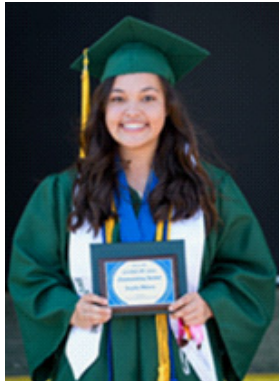


Linda Nagai

Annually the HIUHBWA presents two \$1,000 scholarships to our High School graduates. This year scholarships were presented to Saizen Ochi of Hilo Betsuin and Kayla Miura of Kamuela Hongwanji.



Hilo BWA ladies prepared dinner for the homeless at the Hilo United Methodist Church kitchen.



Honokaa BWA ladies participated in the first traveling Bon Dance, dancing at the Honoka'a Cemetery, Hale Ho'ola, a senior citizens care facility, and community members' homes. "Feeding the Keiki and Kupuna" program continues with meals being served at

Honoka'a Hongwanji. In the interest of safety, meals and bags are "drive through" or "walk up", to-go only, in the Hongwanji parking lot.

Although many of our members are in the high risk age group, this has not stopped them from going far beyond the call to help their Temples and community while keeping themselves safe.

Kona BWA ladies assisted with food distribution on numerous occasions to their members. And also produced their very first virtual cooking class in

August. BWA members Fujie Ichishita, Shigeko Nakasone, and Marsha Boyle shared their favorite tsukemono recipes and helpful cooking tips. (Tsukemono was included in the food distribution). Everyone enjoyed this exciting Sangha building activity. Be on the lookout for future classes!

BWA members of **Naalehu** have been busy sharing their Aloha by sharing produce, food, snacks and desserts with temple members. Marla and Velvet have been especially caring by providing soups to the physically in need. Four members got together and rolled sushi for all our members just to keep in touch and say we are thinking of you. Ladies have used the Lock-down period to crochet yarn items, like bed cover, "kata Kake" and caps. Anybody in need of these items?

Prior to the lockdown **Puna** BWA sponsored a Dana Sunday Service. The presentation included two children's stories that had a Dana theme. The Dana Calabash collection was given to the Puna Taiko Club.

Carole Tsutsumi's sewing circle ladies as well as the Kona and **Naalehu** Hongwanji ladies have been sewing and donating face masks during this pandemic.



HONOLULU UNITED BWA



Education Program on Zoom

Reflections on Covid-19 Experiences: Ichigo-Ichie

Cynthia Alm



The August 8 virtual education program featured a 40-minute video slideshow (in two segments) containing excerpts from the Memory Book. The video, produced by Honolulu BWA members, included reflections on how gardening, physical exercise, pets, sewing face masks, baking, cooking, writing poetry, art, and spiritual practice helped us through the lockdown, and made us

Our lives were suddenly and dramatically changed with the March 23 Covid-19 lockdown. To archive the varied experiences of our BWA members during this exceptional time, we invited submissions of reflections on

what we each felt was memorable and meaningful.

Over 90 reflections were carefully documented in individual scrapbook pages, and then printed and bound in a Memory Book.

more aware of the importance of being grateful for families, friends, neighbors, essential workers, and the online and Zoom temple services. The theme that emerged was ichigo-ichie: cherish this unrepeatable life, this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Members rose to the challenge to learn the technology to participate on Zoom. Over 120 members and 30 guests registered to attend.

The program included a Juseige video, an interactive game, door prizes, and time to socialize in small groups. A video of the all youth cast of Peace on Your Wings singing Ichigo-Ichie rounded out the program.

KAUAI UNITED BWA



Roberta Yanagawa

Lihue Hongwanji's BWA was busy working on a wonderful project. They made 400 masks for Wilcox Elementary School's Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students. An additional 21 adult masks were donated for the staff. Carolyn Yamasaki, LHWA First Vice-President, spearheaded the Mask Project with volunteers involved in measuring, cutting and sewing over a period of 4 days. It was a great example of interdependence as many helpers focused on one project to help our local students stay safe and healthy as they begin their

new school year. LHWA is most grateful for the support received from the Social Concerns Committee's Golden Chain Grant and for the opportunity to further serve the community.

West Kauai Hongwanji BWA has been concerned about the safety of their elder members and spent most of their time to shelter in place. Earlier during the lockdown, Shirley worked at home with friends to make masks for family and friends. Later they made masks for

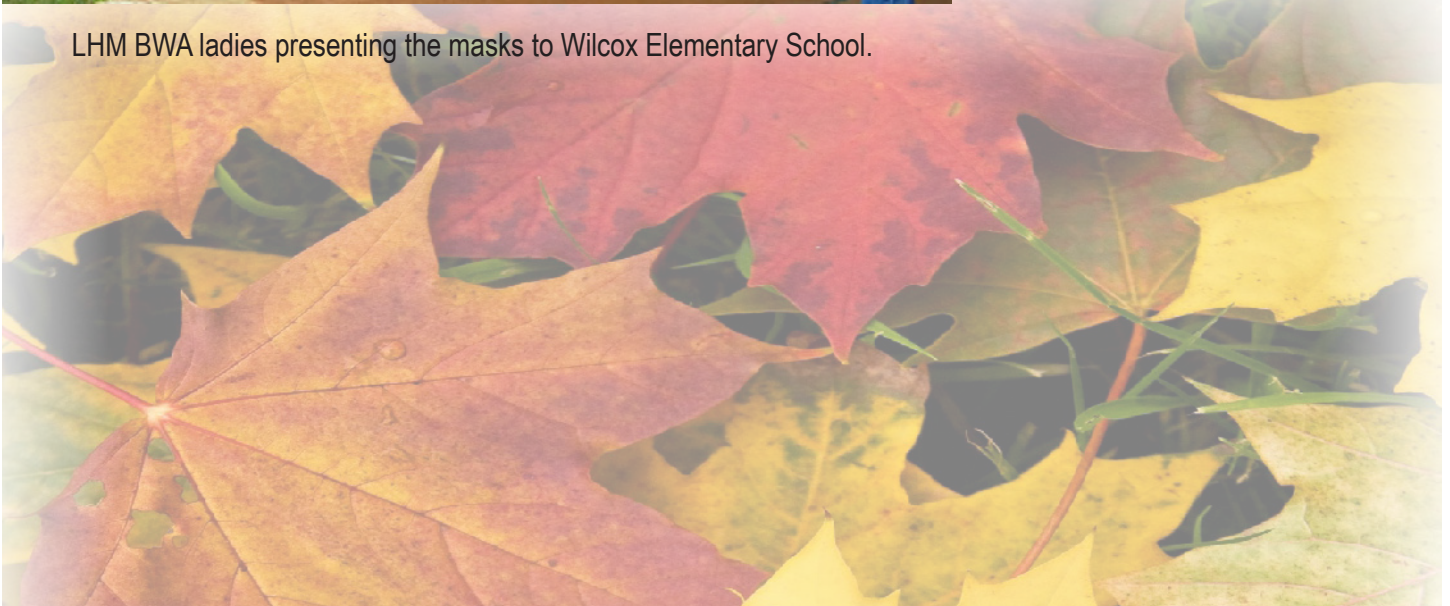
Waimea Care Center and Omao Care Home to keep the residents safe.

They are meeting once a week at a friend's garage to make cards to cheer the residents at Waimea Care Center. Each week when time permits, they write cheerful messages to each of the 40 residents at the Care Center. Chef Fay Tateishi has been cooking meals for older neighbors and BWA members in her neighborhood.

At Kapaa Hongwanji, Gloria and her sister Pearl have also been busy sewing masks for various groups of people. We have not had any group activities since the majority of our members are at risk and we are concerned about their safety and well-being. For Mother's Day, three members got together and arranged vases with roses and greens, delivered to the ladies and wished each a Happy Mother's Day. In August we helped to print and distribute tickets for the laulau plate fundraiser for the temple and also helped to prepare lomi salmon and cucumber kimchee.



LHM BWA ladies presenting the masks to Wilcox Elementary School.



OAHU UNITED BWA



Susan Morishige
Claire Tamamoto

The Covid-19 Pandemic struck Hawaii in March, and gradually Oahu had to shut down.

Oahu had planned to support the Jr. YBA's movie/Panda restaurant YESS camp fundraiser, but it was cancelled. At the February United meeting, there was a challenge to match Aiea's sponsorship of the PBA's Taiko Festival, then the Festival was postponed, and transformed into a virtual experience.

Mililani's Country Store/Rummage Sale at the March 12 Temple Bazaar and their annual meeting at Helemano Plantation on March 22 were cancelled, and efforts went into supporting the temple and community during the pandemic. Members provide weekly "liquid" support for their temple members who came to maintain and repair temple grounds. They also made nearly 40 face masks and donated them to foster families. They distribute information through email, and call members who live alone, feel isolated or have no email; on October 25th, a Zoom meeting is scheduled.

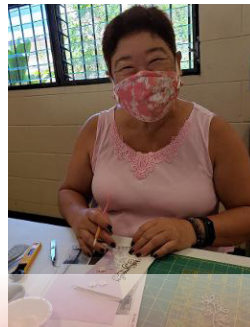
Aiea's Dana Day Bingo activity with Lotus Adult Day Care participants in February was a big success, and later, walker bags were sewn for the Day Care.

Aiea BWA replaced the industrial size refrigerator in the kitchen when it died, thankfully during the shutdown.

The members held meetings in the temple to avoid contact with the preschoolers. Members have been also text messaging and calling other members with news and to make sure they were okay. Aiea made 120 face masks and donated them to Pali Momi. During the shutdown they decided to meet for crafts, signing up four per class, for bon towel facemask and custom card making. Working at home, they folded over 1000 cranes, and will be sending the cranes to Nagasaki after displaying them for Peace Day.



Pearl City has also held no meetings, but they are sending out email information on



BWA members that have passed away, and calling to offer encouragement and help with errands.

Waipahu had to cancel their annual Memorial Day ti-leaf lei making for Punchbowl graves. Members will be helping with Fall Ohigan in person service.

Waianae has been able to meet since their numbers meet the indoor limit for gathering. They sent cards to their homebound and nursing home members.

Oahu held its first online meetings on May 24 and August 30 via Go-To-Meeting. It was so good to "see" friends. Our next meeting will be on November 8th at 12:30 pm. We are planning our Annual Convention and General Membership meeting for November 28th. We hope to be able to safely meet in person and/or virtually at Aiea Hongwanji. It is especially important to meet in person as we hope to adopt Bylaw amendments to: establish a Unit for At-Large members (ie, those without an active temple unit to join), authorize and elaborate on electronic meetings, and replace feminine with gender free references.



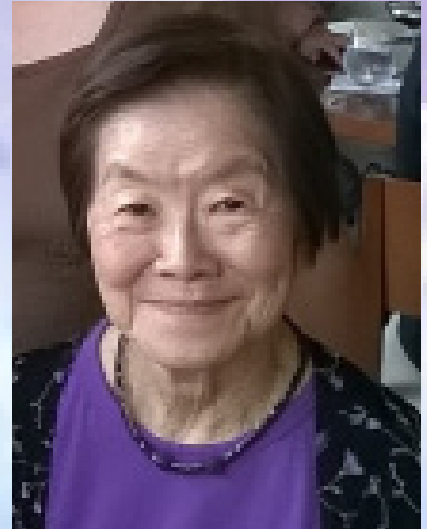
In Memoriam

The Hawaii Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

Carol Yamamoto

March 18, 1930 - March 14, 2019

Mrs. Carol Yamamoto (88) Hawaii Betsuin member, passed away on March 14, 2019 while residing at One Kalakaua. She was the 4th lay President of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations, serving from 2004-2007. She served as the World Convention President when Hawaii hosted the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention at the Hawaii Convention Center in 2006. She is survived by children, Lynne, Ryan, and Reid; four grandchildren, and two sisters. Services were held on June 1, 2019.



Tomi Fujitani

June 20, 1923 March 13, 2020

Mrs. Tomi Fujitani (96) passed away on March 13, 2020 while residing at the Hale Malamalama Nursing Home in Honolulu. She was the first Honorary President of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations while her husband, Yoshiaki Fujitani served as Bishop from 1975-1987. Mrs. Toku Umehara was the first lay President at the same time. She is survived by spouse, Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, children Patricia, Stephen, and Maya, and six grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for March 2021.



Rose Sadako Nakamura

July 11, 1928 - July 10, 2020

Mrs. Rose Nakamura (91) Moiliili Hongwanji member, passed away on July 10, 2020 at Maunalani Nursing Home. She was the 3rd lay President of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations, serving from 2000-2003. She led the Hawaii delegation to the 12th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She was also the co-founder of Project Dana along with Mrs. Shimeji Kanazawa. She is survived by daughter Gwen, two grandchildren, and a sister. A memorial service is planned for a future date.



When the going gets tough, the tough get going...

BWA responds to COVID-19 by making masks!

A few of the many BWA women who responded to the call!

