

SPRING 2023 EDITION

Volume LIII

Issue 1

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto President: Linda Nagai Minister Advisor: Rev. Shinkai Murakami
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Message from the President: Linda Nagai



As we move into the spring season, the BWA from across the state will begin to sponsor services to Honor Eshinni and Kakushinni the wife and youngest daughter of Shinran Shonin. Many regard Eshinni as the "Mother" of Jodo Shinshu, as the letters of Eshinni offer us a glimpse into the world of Buddhism as practiced by ordinary women. Also in these letters, Eshinni conveys her deep reverence for her husband Shinran. As Eshinni is revered for her dedication to Shinran during his productive years, her daughter, Kakushinni is known for being her father's caregiver in his final years. After Shinran's death, Kakushinni planted the seeds of an organization and propagated what has grown to be the Hongwanji of today.

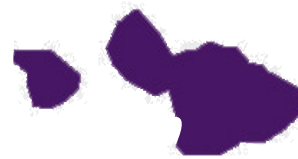
In 1978, at its convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the World BWA (comprised of BWA organizations of Japan, mainland U.S.A., Hawaii, Canada, and Brazil) passed a resolution to conduct annual services in memory of Eshinni. Then in 2002, the World BWA passed another resolution to similarly honor Kakushinni. In Hawaii Temples, the BWA honors both at the same service.

For the past two years, the Buddhist Women's Associations Units and United's across the state have been busily preparing to travel to Kyoto to attend the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention. There will be both men and women of the BWA from across our state attending this convention. These conventioners will also participate in the 800th anniversary of the founding of our Hongwanji and the 850th birthday of our founder Shinran Shonin.

Traveling to Kyoto for this world convention will be an auspicious event, because we can jointly honor the memory of Shinran, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism, celebrate the establishment of our Hongwanji, and join other men and women from around the world as we gather for the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention. At the closing of the convention the Hawaii Federation of BWA, will extend an invitation to our BWA members from the Buddhist Churches of America, Brazil and Canada, and Japan to join us in Hawaii in September of 2027 for 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention.

MAUI UNITED BWA

Sharon Nohara



Maui United Installation of officers

Maui United BWA held their 67th Fall General Membership Assembly on November 12, 2022. The day opened with a Memorial Service officiated by Rev. Shinkai Murakami in remembrance of members who passed away in 2022. We held a business meeting and installed the new 2023 MUBWA Officers, Board and Standing Committee Chairs. Amanda Ribao, the Executive Director of the Maui AIDS Foundation talked to us on the mission and goals of the organization. Founded in 1986 MAF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) health and social service organization providing direct services that include linkage to medical care, access to HIV medications, food and emotional and educational support free of cost. They are the only AIDS organization serving Maui County including the islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai. As a partner of the Ma'i Movement Hawaii they provide sanitary products for women in need. MUBWA's support of the Maui AIDS Foundation aligns us with the 9th World BWA Convention Resolution No. 30 related to the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) that was adopted in 1990. They are our 2022

recipient of the MUBWA Dana Award and beneficiary of our monetary and sanitary products collection drive. We ended the day with lunch and presenter Gayle Asato's "Succulent Planting Session", where each member was able to take home their own mini garden of succulents. Each year a Maui Hongwanji temple member is honored and recognized for their invaluable contributions to their kyodan and temple community. The Tadaichi Fukunaga Dana Award was established in 1982 by the Fukunaga family in honor of their father Mr. Tadaichi Fukunaga. He served his Wailuku Hongwanji temple as a leader until his passing in 1982. The award was created to perpetuate his legacy to recognize and honor members of the Maui Hongwanji temples for their contributions, services and dedication to their temple. Since the establishment of the

award, we find that significantly now more women of the BWA have received this prestigious award that recognizes their contribution to their temple. This is in keeping with the shift in the role that the women of the BWA are now serving. No longer held to the kitchen and cleaning duties of the past, we see more women stepping into the leadership roles of their temples as Kyodan presidents and officers. We are honored to recognize longtime fellow BWA member Ellen Nishimura of Kahului HM as their 2023 Fukunaga Dana recipient. Not one to

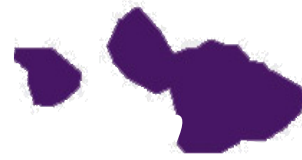
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MAUI UNITED BWA

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Sharon Nohara



look for the spotlight, Ellen has quietly worked in the background for 29 years in the temple finances and in all aspects of temple leadership.

The joy of sharing the BWA experience is special for many of our mothers and their daughter(s) who belong to the BWA.

Each of our Maui BWA units have women from the same families who have this bond. Makawao BWA member Bobbi Nakagawa's daughter Billie Victorino is a BWA member. Bobbi shared that "the daughter of BWA members have always been exposed to how much our BWA does for our temple...they help as little

or as much as they can and take pride in being members of our BWA." Tamara Manley and daughter Kyla from Wailuku HM BWA were not raised as Buddhist but embraced Jodo Shinshu and are BWA members. Betty Hirose of Makawao BWA has daughter Cathy Ikeuchi, her husband Eric and granddaughter Donna as Wailuku BWA members. Lahaina BWA Dawn Fujiwara and her two daughters Dawnalyn and Brendi have been BWA members for several years. When asked what made her join, Dawnalyn replied that it was because of her mom. Initially she was concerned with what little time she had available to give. She and her sister work full-time and have young children to raise and a household to care for. She has found that the BWA is appreciative of whatever time that she can give. Dawnalyn said she has learned many skills such as how to roll sushi, make mochi and received and made friends within the BWA. As we look to bring more members to the BWA why not consider asking your daughter to join so we may all share in the joy of gratitude.

KAUAI UNITED BWA

Karen Nishimoto

Greetings from the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association by Karen Nishimoto.

Members of the Kapaa Hongwanji Mission Women's Association have been very busy. They hosted the Kauai United Hongwanji BWA's Fall Conference on October 2, 2022 with Rev. Yuika Hasebe as the keynote speaker. Although this was via Zoom, Kapaa members provided all attendees with enjoyable activities. Pearl Shimizu led members in a bon dance favorite,

"Tanko Bushi." This was followed by Gloria Shimizu's cooking demonstration on how to prepare edamame rice. Gloria also used her sewing talents to fashion a fabric jar opener and cute bags made from bon dance towels. All conference attendees received these attractive and useful gifts.

Also in October, Kapaa Hongwanji celebrated their 100th Anniversary with a Commemorative Centennial Service. The BWA ladies assisted with the preparation, participated in the service,



prepared, and packed sekihan for the guests, and handed out programs and gifts at the reception table.

November was another busy month for Kapaa as they assisted with the annual Kapaa Interfaith Association's Thanksgiving. Kapaa Hongwanji was the site to pack and distribute the home deliveries to the homebound seniors and disabled. The ladies, Jr. YBA

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KAUAI UNITED BWA Karen Nishimoto



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members, and volunteers from various churches were able to send out 600 hot Thanksgiving meals.

On December 23, 2022 the temple had a Mochi Sale for members. The BWA ladies made kazari mochi for the Keirokai members and wished them a Happy New Year.

Kauai United BWA members, families and friends gathered at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe on November 10 for the Lonesome Grave Project. The graves were decorated with greenery and



flowers in preparation for the Veterans Day Service held on November 11. This project was started in 1998 as a way to honor and remember our veterans and continues to be a meaningful service project for our members.

Lihue Hongwanji Mission is fortunate to have Rev. Shawn Yagi as the new resident minister. In preparation for his arrival, the members of LHWA worked alongside church members to clean and refresh the minister's residence. Painting the walls, hanging curtains, setting out towels, and more were all part of a joint effort to provide

Rev. and Mrs. Yagi with a comfortable residence.

Members also coordinated a luncheon to officially welcome Rev. and Mrs. Yagi to Lihue Hongwanji Mission. The Welcome Luncheon was the first gathering of members since the pandemic and it was wonderful to see members visiting with one another

generously shared her talent and supplies with us. With her guidance, and the creativity of each participant, beautiful cards were made.

Installation of Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association officers took place



on January 22, 2023. This was followed by a luncheon held at Puakea Grill in Lihue. President, Lynette Mizuo, presented everyone with

once again in the social hall.

Carolyn Yamasaki organized a card-making session for LHWA members to attend on January 21, 2023. Karen Hiranaka was the instructor and

a variety of petite cream puffs and Vice President, Carolyn Yamasaki, put together Year of the Rabbit treats for everyone. This gathering was a wonderful way to begin 2023.



The Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association provides its members with many opportunities to gather together. It may be to arrange flowers for a service, to provide refreshments for fellowship, or to participate in a service project for the community. Whatever the activity, it is always an opportunity to share joy together.

HONOLULU UNITED BWA

C.A.R.E. Day (Compassion and Respect for Elders) THRIVES

BWA units across the State do many wonderful, compassionate activities in their temples and in the communities, they live in. Did you know that at the 12th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil (2002), a resolution sponsored by the Hawaii Federation of BWAs was passed which called for the observance of C.A.R.E. Day to promote awareness of the need to show compassion and respect to the elderly?

Moiiliili Hongwanji BWA has been recognizing this special day yearly since 2005. The format has changed over the years, but we continue to have C.A.R.E. Day on our calendar. We have had intergenerational activities, a fun activity and exercise day, and now, we do food deliveries to Moiiliili elders who were once active members, but no longer can come to temple. We try to spend some time talking with the elders as we realize that as they get older, they can easily become more isolated. We saw how the pandemic affected them and how it is so important

to take the time to engage with them in conversation and even to hold hands. (Shared by Lois Ohta)

Hawaii Betsuin ministers have restarted nursing



Handmade Care Day Cards – Hawaii Betsuin BWA



home visits following a pause due to the pandemic. Recently, residents who

participated in the service at Hale O Meleana received special Care Day/Bodhi Day "bookmark" cards. Each card was handmade by Penny Atcheson. Wendie Yumori composed a special Care Day/Bodhi Day message which was printed on transparent labels and added to the back of the cards. The service was conducted by Rev. Shingo Furusawa with new minister Rev. Char Kihara observing and BWA volunteers Jo desMarets and Dianne Ida assisting. Jo is organizing BWA volunteers to accompany ministers during the nursing home visits. In-person services for residents at Maluhia are also being conducted. (Shared by Cindy Alm)

Everyday is CARE Day with JBWA!

Hauoli Makahiki Hou! Ipee Nihee Deebiru! Happy New Year! As with Hawaii Betsuin and Moiiliili BWAs, Jikoen BWA travels the BUDDHA's path of caring for one another, especially our treasured KUPUNA!

For the last several years, BWA'ers made "aloha" phone calls, sent "thinking of you" postcards, made home visits with "talk story" time, shared foods, snacks and goodie bags (some from Project Dana). Enlisting help from young adult grandchildren, adult sons and daughters, sons and daughters-in-law, nieces, and nephews, all made possible the connecting of our KUPUNA to our Sangha via ZOOM.

Ann Nakata &
Donna Higashi



Now, gratefully and gradually as we emerge from lockdown restrictions, our KUPUNA especially are happy to be together again. Being able to see each other in person, talk and maybe even gently hug a friend has been a long time in coming. We are all thankful. Kindly view some of our happy KUPUNA from our recent New Year's party.



MALAMA PONO!
HAPPY 2023!
(shared by Judy Muramoto; photo by Suzie Nishiyama)

Moiiliili BWA has observed Care Day with their kupuna since 2005 - Photo collage from 2009 Care Day activities.

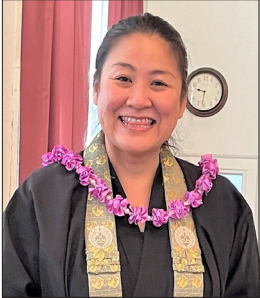


HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Ellen Okano



All Hawaii Island units maintain connections with their Sangha members and greater community through numerous supportive, caring, dana activities.



Rev. Hasebe

Hilo Betsuin BWA celebrated their 115th Anniversary in conjunction

with their Shinnen Enkai/General Membership event on January 29, 2023. This occasion brought together old and new members who created many "Sharing Joy Together" moments. Eleven 95 years and older members were honored and 11 new members, recognized. President Deborah Fried and her 29 committee members worked hard for five months to bring about this unrepeatable moment of enjoyment. The Reverend Yuika Hasebe, Acting Rimban at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, was their guest speaker. Her

meaningful message expounded on how little things can bring about joy and feelings of appreciation in all of us. She recounted many memories while at Hilo Betsuin; and related a story about a day when she was feeling down,

and someone's caring attitude and offer of a bento elated her and brightened her day. This sharing was pure joy to her.

An excerpt from Motoe Tada's 2012 guest speaker message was printed in their "Year of the Rabbit" themed booklet, and related how "Bukkyo Fujinkai" was established in 1907 by the Reverend Tessho Kato. In 1908 the name was changed to "Hilo Bukkyo Fujinkai". She recalled that "Fujinkai dues were 10 cents a month and Kyodan dues were 25 cents a month" at that time.

Josh Hernandez Morse and Liane Viloria along with 15 students from PBA joined them as guests at their special service in the temple followed by the General Membership meeting, lunch and entertainment in the Sangha Hall.



Safe Travels to our
BWA Members
Going to the
17th World Buddhist
Women's Convention
in Kyoto, Japan!



Members elected and installed for 2023-2024 were: President--Deborah Fried; Recording/Corresponding Secretary--Sandra Tomiyama; Treasurer--Jill Atwal; Assistant Treasurer--Amy Tsuchiya; and Auditors--Gayle Sato and Joni Onishi.

OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige



- The OUHHBWA 2022 General Membership Meeting and Conference was held at Aiea Hongwanji on Oct 8. Guest speaker Dr. Cullen Hayashida, director and founder of Kupuna Educational Center at Kapiolani Community College, spoke on the Importance of non-financial life planning even after retirement. Donations were collected for the Richard Taniguchi Ministers Welfare Fund.

Officers for 2023 are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| President--Susan Morishige (Aiea) | Vice President – Vacant |
| Recording Secretary--Joan Masaki (Pearl City) | Corresponding Secretary--Diane Yoza (Mililani) |
| Treasurer--Joyce Ogawa (Mililani) | Assistant Treasure-- Twila Castellucci (Mililani) |
| Auditors--Kumiko Soga (Waipahu) and Annette Sekine (Waipahu) | |
| Also Carolyn Uchiyama (At-Large) was re-elected Federation Director. | |

- Oahu amended its Rules and Regulations to recognize the At-Large group as a Unit, and to set Board Directors to two per unit. (The BOD also includes Officers and Advisor.) It revised its Financial Guidelines to increase dues from \$1 to \$4 and added a line-item donation to the Junior YBA. As the VP position is vacant, an ad hoc committee is amending the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.
- Aiea Resident Minister Rev. Shawn Yagi was reassigned to Kauai on Oct 1, 2022. Since then, OUHHBWA Advisor Rev. Mariko Nishiyama has been sharing her ministerial time between Pearl City and Aiea.
- Peace Day Project: Led by Carolyn Uchiyama, BWA members folded origami cranes; and containers filled with the cranes attached to straws or pencils were placed in local businesses. The businesses were very receptive to displaying the cranes, each of which had a message promoting peace.

UNITS:

- In 2023, Aiea BWA re-elected officers with the addition of new member Warren Tamamoto as Assistant Secretary; held its Year End Luncheon on Feb 4 and invited the Hosha men; and hosted a Feb 19th Kupuna Safe Fall presentation with Norman Kumura. A Craft and White Elephant Bazaar is planned for April 8.
- Mililani BWA held their dinner meeting on Dec 9. It was a potluck dinner with door prizes and awards for perfect attendance. After a monthly meeting they enjoyed singing holiday songs led by Rene Mansho. On Jan 15, they made and served zenzai to the Sangha. Everyone enjoyed eating it!
- Pearl City BWA observed their annual Memorial Service and Rededication Luncheon on Nov 27. The memorial service honored BWA members Tamie Betty Tokunaga and Beatrice Nakano. In her memorial message, Rev. Mariko Nishiyama reflected on her encounters with these women and expressed appreciation for their past contributions to the BWA. Members and invited guests then proceeded to the Conference Room for the Rededication Luncheon, an annual event through which members rededicate themselves toward continuing another successful year of working for the benefit of the temple while embracing the teachings of Amida Buddha. The program included games, lucky number door prizes and a delicious bento lunch. Members especially enjoyed this opportunity for fellowship and relaxation after going two years without it, due to Covid-19 concerns. Many who hadn't seen each other for a while enjoyed socializing and celebrating together. The Pearl City BWA is also grateful for many generous donations and manpower help from members and Kyodan friends who donated their time, prizes, desserts and favors. Heartfelt mahalos to all who helped make this a memorable occasion.
- Waipahu BWA had a BWA Hoonko service and temple 110th anniversary ceremony on Nov 20, 2022. Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto was the guest speaker and her speech was a wonderful way to share memories and talk about what it was like to be a member of the Buddhist Women's Association.

See photos on page 8

Oahu United BWA

Mililani Entertaining with their ukuleles and holiday songs.



Mililani preparing Zenzai for the sangha.

Jikoen kupunas at recent New Year's party.

**O'AHU UNITED BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING AND CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER
8
Saturday

**"WHO DO YOU WISH TO BE
WHEN YOU GROW UP?"**
IMPORTANCE OF NON-FINANCIAL LIFE PLANNING
EVEN AFTER RETIREMENT

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Service for BWA Members
Rev. Mariko Nishiyama

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. - General Membership Meeting
Installation of 2023 Officers

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Guest Speaker and Workshop
Dr. Cullen Hayashida, PhD.

Need to create post retirement identity to determine where you are going
with your life and the importance of finding purpose beyond yourself.

Registration and lunch: \$12.00, Non-members \$14.00
Marians (Vegetarian or Saturday Special)

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BY SEPTEMBER 30 • CHECKS PAYABLE TO OUHHBWA
Please JOIN US ... Everyone is Welcome

Aiea Hongwanji Mission
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Registration/Fellowship)
Don't forget to bring your own drinking cup

