



Maui Strong!

We Stand With Lahaina!

FALL 2023 EDITION

Volume LIII

Issue 2

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

Honorary President: Yoshiko Umitani President: Linda Nagai Minister Advisor: Rev. Blayne Higa
1727 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96813 USA Contact us at (808) 522-9200 or www.hawaiibwa.org

Message from the President: Linda Nagai

Autumn has finally arrived and as we go busily about our daily activities, in the warmth of the Hawai'i sun, let's take some time for some self reflection and gratitude for Amida Buddha's Compassion as we relax in coolness of the evening and bask in the light of the moon.

About 112 BWA members attended the 17th World BWA Convention in Kyoto in May, and joyfully enjoyed and embraced the double celebration as well as the BWA World Convention. Some members even enjoyed tours traveling through Japan's countryside after the convention.

At the Convention, the Hawaii Delegation extended an invitation to BWA members from the Buddhist Churches of America, Brazil, Canada, and Japan to the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention, which will be hosted by us the Hawaii Delegation, in

Honolulu on September 11 and 12, 2027.

After returning to Hawaii, we said our Mahalo's to Tamayo Matsumoto our honorary president, for her dedicated service to the Federation, a true supporter and as my predecessors would concur, the right and left hand of the Federation for 12 years. Aiea Hongwanji BWA is so fortunate to have her now as a member of their BWA, as former Bishop Eric is now the Resident Minister of Aiea Hongwanji.

And, now as we turn the page and begin a new chapter, we welcome our new Honorary President, Yoshiko Umitani. Yoshiko, officially served on the Federation Board as our Student Exchange co-chair, however you may have seen her more active as our refreshment person, greeting everyone when we attended meetings at Hawaii Betsuin, and our go to person at our Bookstore. I'm looking forward to working with Yoshiko as she plays a more active role in our Federation. I say

this because I know she will be actively walking beside us as we prepare for the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention.



Buddhist Women's

And on the topic of the Convention, the planning has begun. We have secured the Convention Center, and several hotels, as well as identified the various committees needed to put on a World Class Convention.

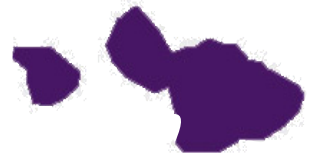
Our committee chairs will need everyone's talent and expertise. As they say it takes a village. Please consider being part of the planning and join us on one of the committees as we welcome what I estimate will be 2,500 to 3,000 people to the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention.

continued on page 3



MAUI UNITED BWA

Sharon Nohara



The Maui United BWA has always participated in projects, events, and activities in the spirit of Dana, selfless joyful giving, and service to others.

On May 20, MUBWA volunteered to teach origami at the Maui Cultural Society's second annual Kodomo no Hi community event held at the Kaahumanu Shopping Center. The families and children spent an enjoyable time learning to craft various origami paper folding designs.



Delicious deserts brought over on the boat by the Maui Group.

Each year under the sponsorship of the Maui County's Kaunoa Senior Program's direction the project of Memorial Day ti leaf leis for more than 1,500 grave markers at the Makawao Veteran's Cemetery are made and collected. This year MUBWA units participated in contributing ti leaf leis for May 29th Memorial Day.

MUBWA units of Kahului, Makawao and Wailuku supported Lanai Hongwanji July 8, Bon dance festivities by donating assorted cookies, chex mix, manju and other snacks for their concession. Rev. Shinkai Murakami and Dawn Fujiwara of Lahaina BWA organized the pick-up of the donations and

transported them to Lanai along with a travelling group of Lahaina Bon dancers. The Lanai residents started waiting in line for over an hour before the concession opened to purchase the homemade goodies that sold out immediately.



Lanai Hongwanji Mission temple with a line stretching down Frasier Avenue to attend the bon dance!

MUBWA is sponsoring a Peace Day Buddhist event on September 23 to be held at Makawao Buddhist Temple from 9:00 am to Noon. We will feature a service with a Peace message from Rev. Shinkai Murakami and Zazen meditation by Rev. Tomoki Hirasawa of Paia Mantokuji and the presence of our Vietnamese Buddhist nun friends. Craft activities by each BWA unit and light vegan refreshment will be offered.



The yagura adorned with chochin and lights. The yagura was set up by temple members and Lanai City Lions Club. The lights were provided by the Yamafuji-Dunlap family from Kula.

On August 8, destructive wildfires swept Lahaina of west Maui and the upcountry Kula/Olinda areas of Maui. The entire town of Lahaina was devastated as the intense fire driven by gale force winds took residents by surprise. Lahaina Hongwanji's temple, social hall, classroom building, residence, and office but the columbarium (nokotsudo) remains standing. The LHM Kyodan President and BWA member Aileen Cockett stated, "We are still Lahaina Hongwanji sangha and Lahaina strong!"

The support and generous kindness shown to Lahaina from Hawaii's Hongwanji community, the mainland and worldwide has been heartfelt. Here on Maui, the Hongwanji temples and the BWA have helped ease feelings of loss and displacement by welcoming and offering their kokua and facilities. A BWA friend shared that "just words of concern are like a blanket of compassion that warms you."

Continued on page 3

MAUI UNITED BWA

continued from page 2

Sharon Nohara



Lanai residents started lining up as early as 4:30 pm. The line on Frasier Ave went four houses down at its peak.



Makawao 2023 Peace Day crane display.



The bon dance started as the sun set over the Pine Isle.

President's Message continued from page 1

Being fully embraced by the all-encompassing Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha, let us all work to Welcome our BWA and Hongwanji Ohana from afar to our beautiful Hawaii.

KAUAI UNITED BWA

Karen Nishimoto



KUHBWA extends heartfelt condolences to friends and families on Maui. With love and support, along with a \$5,000 donation to the Honpa Hongwanji Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, we hope to assist in your recovery from tremendous loss and sadness and to help in rebuilding a brighter future.



Congratulations Madison Doo! She is the proud recipient of the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Scholarship. Each year the \$1,000 scholarship is given to an outstanding graduate who has actively participated at the Kapaa, Lihue or West Kauai Hongwanji temple on Kauai.

The scholarship was presented by Rev. Mieko Majima, resident minister of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, at the Baccalaureate Service on June 4, 2023. Madison, a 2023 graduate of Kapaa High School, will be attending Western Washington University in the fall and majoring in Elementary Education. She is the daughter of Erin Takekuma and Brian Doo.

continued on page 4

KAUAI UNITED BWA

Karen Nishimoto

continued from page 3



More normal routines in 2023 allowed for an in-person Eshinni-Kakushinni service. Members from West Kauai and Lihue temples traveled to Kapaa Hongwanji for the event. Rev. Yagi was the guest speaker and refreshments, including delicious rolls baked by Rev. Majima, were enjoyed by all.



After a three-year hiatus, bon dance season made an exciting comeback on Kauai. BWA members came together with family and friends to make tasty temple treats and prepare for the festivities. These Obon celebrations provided wonderful opportunities to welcome and reconnect with the Kauai community. The ability to once again share a refreshing shave ice, a savory flying saucer and the music of a favorite bon dance with others was a joyous experience.



Many bells will be ringing for Peace Day on September 21, 2023. The KUHBWA members will join in "Ring Your Bells for Peace Day" with a specially designed background made by Lynne Matsumura and wearing their purple BWA shirts.



HONOLULU UNITED BWA

Ann Nakata

“Shinran Shonin” Karuta Card Game



If you and your family can read hiragana, karuta is great for the young and old to challenge each other while using a special set based on the life of Shinran Shonin.

In the mid-1970's, I visited Nishi Hongwanji Honzan and purchased Shinran Shonin Karuta card sets from the Kametaro Yamamoto Butsudan store across the street. The game is played by laying the picture cards down on the table, a caller reads the text and everyone tries to grab the card with the correct hiragana.

My most memorable moment around that time was Koshin Ohtani's visit to Hawaii. (He was then Shinmonsama, Heir-apparent and now the father of the present Gomonsu). I invited him to my home one evening to play “Shinran Shonin Karuta.” Ernie Morikubo, Laura Fujiwara Nakasone, Donna Higashi and others came to my home and played Karuta! (see photos) Later, Rev. Tatsuo Muneto helped me with the Romaji translation while Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi translated the text into English. The Romaji and English translations were printed on to labels and are attached to the back of each calling card.

On my most recent trip to Japan for the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, I purchased several sets and will again share them with friends. Through the years, I've shared this card game with Hawaii Betsuin, Aiea, Jikoen, Lahaina, Mililani and Moiliili Hongwanjis, Arizona, San Francisco and Windward Buddhist Temples, and the Pacific Buddhist Academy. A limited quantity of these karuta card games are available at the Hawaii Kyodan Bookstore. It's an excellent game for the young and kupuna to play and learn hiragana together while learning about Shinran Shonin's life.

Hawaii Betsuin: Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers

Hawaii Betsuin BWA continues to collect aloha shirts for our overseas deployed soldiers. The shirts first get sent to a non-profit group in South Carolina. Check their website (by the same name) for more information as to how and why Gwen Pollard started the program eight years ago. We recently mailed seven boxes of aloha shirts to Gwen and are in the process of putting together another shipment. We were pleasantly surprised to receive a thank you message on Face Book from a soldier who received one of the shirts from our last shipment. We sincerely thank all the donors who helped to promote one of the purposes of our BWA group: To Promote and Improve the General Welfare of the Community. So please join us in this project. Aloha and Mahalo!



Jikoen: Bon Dance Strong



Like Maui Strong and so many other temples throughout the State, Jikoen Hongwanji recently returned Bon Dance Strong. The Jikoen BWA prepped food, readied chochin, decorated the yagura, manned booths, cleaned and did takedown too. This was held on July 22. Maybe it was due to the pent up feeling due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this one-night event translated into one of the largest crowds in our history. This inclusive and interdependent effort made it possible for Jikoen (like other temples) to revive this tradition of honoring those who came before us. With grateful hearts we were once again able to share this special time with all our community; whichever faith one embraces. “Ippee Niffee Deebiru!” (See more photos on page 6)

Jikoen: Bon Dance Strong continued from page 5



HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Jo Kim



ANNUAL

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS: This year's awards were presented by Karen Maedo, 1st VP, to Sienna Chanhmany and Tevin Atwal at Hilo Betsuin's "Honor the Grads" service.

Besides their many accomplishments and achievements at Waiakea High School, Sienna and Tevin attended Dharma School regularly at Hilo Betsuin for 12 years, participating in and assisting at numerous temple activities. They were active Jr. YBA members for five years and volunteered several times a year at the Feed the Hungry Program for the homeless.

At Hilo Betsuin, Sienna became a teen leader in the 4-H program and served as Treasurer for the Jr. YBA. Her parents are Nyssa Kushi, an active temple member who is the English Editor for the Buddhist Wheel, and Phonephet Chanhmany. She credits her ever supportive mom for "providing countless opportunities for her to grow and excel." Sienna is enrolled at the University of California at Santa Cruz, majoring in Business Management.

Tevin joined the Hilo Betsuin scouting program as a Cub, became a Boy Scout and has served as Vice President and Treasurer for the Jr. YBA. His parents are Jill Atwal, an active BWA member who serves as Treasurer for both the BWA and Kyodan; and Money Atwal, who encouraged him to think critically and taught him problem solving skills. He will be attending the University of Santa Clara, located in Silicon Valley, and his field of study will be Computer Science and Engineering.

They both credit Buddhism in their daily lives, diligence, and hard work in accomplishing their many goals, and have heartfelt gratitude for their dedicated mothers and grandparents.

ACTIVITIES: Our General Membership Meeting will be held on October 28, hosted by Kona BWA; and will be in conjunction with our Educational Seminar, hosted by Honokaa BWA.

OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige



The Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA (OUHNBWA) has 4 temple Units (Aiea, Mililani, Pearl City and Waipahu) and an At-Large Unit of Oahu District BWA members who are not part of the 4 temple Units. Other temple units have withdrawn from the United. Officers are elected for one year terms. We still have no Vice President. Treasurer Joyce Ogawa of Mililani has stepped up to chair the Bylaws (and Policies) committee.

OUHNBWA's third quarter BOD meeting was held in person on August 27 at Pearl City. Changes to our Bylaws were approved; and donations out of our Emergency Funds were authorized for Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief and omimai to Rev. Hironaka.

Oahu's Annual Conference will be held on Oct 28 at Waipahu Hongwanji. At-Large member Carolyn Uchiyama volunteered to chair the event. The conference theme is "Building Healthy Sanghas – Coping with the Future;" the speaker for the Memorial Service will be Rev. Eric Matsumoto, former Bishop and newly-assigned Resident Minister at Aiea; and the Workshop will be on Bokashi. As in previous years, voluntary donations will be accepted for the Ministerial Welfare Fund. Our fourth quarter BOD meeting will also be held at Waipahu Hongwanji on Nov 19. We thank Waipahu BWA for generously hosting both events.

Aiea BWA now holds its monthly meetings on third Sundays to better accommodate working members. Kitchen teams rotate providing refreshments after service and lunch to the hoshu groups each Sunday. The BWA collates the monthly JIKO newsletter and continues to work on crafts. The BWA was in the center of planning and work when the annual Bon Dance was unexpectedly moved to July 22. Life is going to be hectic at Aiea during the next few months as the Social Hall undergoes excavation and foundation renovation. Already the BWA has had to hurriedly empty shelves and storage areas in the kitchen but now needs to find storage since the sewing room will also need to be cleared.

On April 16, Mililani BWA had an anniversary luncheon at Mango Street Grill in Wahiawa and honored 3 charter members. Everyone received a bento box wrapped in furoshiki and a coin purse sewed by Gayle Nakamura. On April 22, the BWA visited the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park to clean the memorial and hold a short service. On April 23, June Asato was the guest speaker at the Eshinni-Kakushinni Service. The offertory collected was given to the United Jr. YBA of Oahu and to Ohana Arts' Peace on Your Wings World Tour. On April 30, the BWA awarded their \$1,500 scholarship to Ty Wakahiro, President of the Jr. Y B A of Oahu and valedictorian at the Mililani High School commencement. Mililani's bon dance was held in Aug and their Country Store was a great success.



Pearl City BWA observed Eshinni and Kakushinni Day on Sunday, April 23. The guest speaker was Rev. Barbara Brennan, part-time minister for the Windward Buddhist Temple.

The At-Large Unit is currently composed of two very busy members: OUHNBWA's Director Carolyn Uchiyama and member of the Federation's Education Committee and Myra Nohara who is Oahu's Council AND Lay Association Secretary, an active Taiko drummer at bon dances on Oahu, and a Director on the Hawaii Kyodan BOD. Hopefully the Unit as well as all of our Units gain more members in 2024 so that the United itself can grow.

More Jikoen Bon Dance Photos!

