



11th BWA State Membership Conference
May 15-16, 2010
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
FINAL Information Bulletin
April 29, 2010

It's almost upon us! The Honolulu United Conference Planning Committee has worked diligently for 10 months and we KNOW that we will all enjoy ourselves! Once in 4 years...take the time to make a new acquaintance and renew your commitment to the BWA as we all gather together from the Big Island, Maui, Lanai, Kauai and Oahu!

Please share this bulletin with all those who are coming. It will really help things run more smoothly.

Bus Transportation: There will be two **bus pick-up times** at the interisland terminal:
7:30 a.m. (2 buses): Lihue, West Kauai, Makawao, Naalehu, Puna, Papaaloa, Papaikou, Hilo Betsuin, Honomu and Honokaa.

About 8:40 a.m.: Kahului, Lahaina, Kona. Lahaina's contingent will arrive at 8:17 a.m. so we ask for your understanding in waiting for them. Jikoen's ladies will be at the airport to greet and direct you. Please watch for their signs and smiling faces!

Special arrangements for Lanai have been made by Rev. Nishiyama. On Sunday, the bus leaves the Sheraton at 2 p.m. If you haven't already done so, please let Rev. Nishiyama know if you are not taking the bus on Sunday.

Conference registration: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. with coffee and water in the foyer. Conference packets will be distributed by units. Please send one person to pick up your units packets.

Hotel check-in & your overnight bags: May we encourage Oahu delegates who plan to stay at the Sheraton to come a little earlier and do a pre-registration at the hotel desk downstairs. You may not get your room keys, but you will have completed all the paperwork and will only have to get your keys at 4 p.m. For all others, the Sheraton will be doing the hotel check-in at the ballroom level, just for us, at 4 p.m. (after the 2nd workshop).

The Sheraton has also offered us two rooms (Iao Needle and Akaka Rooms) near the escalator at the ballroom level to **store our overnighters JUST FOR SATURDAY.** This will expedite things as you will check-in and be able to retrieve your bags at 4 p.m. all at the ballroom level. Moiliili Hongwanji ladies will direct you as to where to put your overnighters.

On Sunday, however, all bags need to be checked in at the bell desk. Conference goers will be leaving the hotel at different times so we will not hold bags. There is NO EXTRA CHARGE for leaving bags at the bell desk. A tip of \$1/bag would probably be appreciated, however. **NO bags** in the conference area please. It's for your own security.

Saturday Opening Ceremony: We are honored to have Shinmon-sama and Ruzumi-sama, the Governor General and the International Center head from Kyoto join us for our Saturday service. We would appreciate everyone being **seated by 9 a.m.** The service will start promptly at 9 a.m. because the special guests are on a tight schedule.

****PLEASE WEAR YOUR MONTOSHIKISHO TO BOTH SERVICES**

Maui and Kona contingents, we will guide you to your seats when you arrive. You will probably run a little late.

**If you are a United President, please identify yourself when you enter the Kauai Room as you will be seated up front for the offering of incense.

Saturday, General Assembly-Kauai Room: seating will be assigned. You will sit by United districts. There will also be a reserved section for the Hawaii Federation Board and those who offer flowers, lights and incense. Table placards will designate group seating areas. Moiliili Hongwanji ladies will also be at the door to guide you if needed.

Meals: We realize that you have paid for your meals through the registration, but we ask your utmost consideration in letting us know if you are not coming for a meal. Mottainai...it would be a wasted meal and we could save money. You can **contact: Lois Ohta (e-mail/phone number at the bottom of this page).**

Lunch seating will be assigned and will be indicated on your nametag. Dinner and brunch will be open seating except for some reserved tables. You will be notified if you are on a reserved table.

Saturday, after lunch speaker: We are most grateful that Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani will share his thoughts on “BWA, Pillar of the Hongwanji”. We will have an informal dialogue at our tables after his talk. Think about this: “Why did you join the BWA?” and “What has it meant to you to be part of this organization?”

Workshops: Everyone was given their first choices! Donna Higashi has e-mailed unit presidents or their contacts a list of members’ 1st choices. The workshops are being listed by numbers as:

- 1- Book Discussion: Buddha’s Wish for the World. Rev. Eric Matsumoto will be facilitating and requests that you take the time to read the book and bring it to the conference. This book will also be sold at the conference during the registration hour (8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and in the workshop).
- 2- Dressing Yourself in Yukata – Mrs. Jean Sakihara will be providing the yukatas.
- 3- Furoshiki: A Piece of Cloth will be led by Ann Asakura of Temari. She is asking that you bring at least (2) **SQUARE** pieces of cloth anywhere from 18” – 28” in square. It does not have to be a “real” furoshiki unless you already have one.
Also, bring some things to wrap (e.g. bottle, box)
- 4 – Meditation-How To will be shared by Rev. Ryoso Toshima.
- 5 – Stringing an Onenju will require a \$2 fee for materials which will be collected at the workshop.
- 6 – Unique Places to Travel in Japan will be hosted by JTB’s Mika Kobayashi

(Originally, workshop #'s 4, 5, 6 were B-1, B-2, B-3) Titles are the same, however.

Making an eyelash lei for 2011 World Convention: Federation President, Donna Higashi and V.P. Janet Honda would like **1-2 people from each unit** who already know how to make this type of lei to meet in the Kauai Room on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. They will review how to make this lei that will be worn by all attending the World Convention. Information about cost and how the materials will be distributed will be explained at this time. **Please make sure your unit is represented!**

Banquet Fashion Show: “Passing on the Legacy of the Kimono” will be something to see! Thank you again to all those “cooperative” ladies/gentlemen who will be our models.

Sunday Panel: A sincere thank you to the panelists and to Honolulu United's President, Irene Nakamoto for being our moderator.

Finally, we hope you have been 🎵 🎶 practicing "Peace Begins With Me" (Sunday service), and Asoka Garden (conference closing). When we lift our voices together, our spirits will surely rise! Mrs. Mitsuyo Saito, Hawaii Betsuin's Choir Director, will lead us in the singing of both songs.

This was a lo~~nng bulletin, but hopefully it has provided everyone with information as to what to expect. As for all things, we can only prepare the best we can. Come with a heart full of gratitude that we are all embraced by Amida Buddha, imperfect beings that we are.

It has been Honolulu United's pleasure to put together this once in 4 year conference. Let's make our greatest effort to ENJOY ourselves. Smile! Laugh! We all deserve it!

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me: Lois Ohta, Moiliili Hongwanji BWA at OHTAL002@hawaii.rr.com or (808) 942-1438 (r).

In gassho,
Lois Ohta
Chairperson
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