

SD BWA 2023 Quarter 4 Chapter Report

Please use this to submit information on the projects and events planned by your chapter. Please submit by Dec. 6, 2023. Your responses will be posted on the SDBWA website: <https://southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com>

Email *

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Chapter Name *

Orange County BWA

Report submitted by: *

Chris Nakamura

Events and projects since October 2023. *

OCBWA Zoomed the 10/14-2023 SD Conference and SDBWA General Meeting hosted by Oxnard and Pasadena at OCBC. 30 members attended the the Zoom broadcast and 3 attended in person at Pasadena. A light breakfast, snacks and lunch from Juan Pollo were served.

Every year around the time kaki is in season, OCBWA honors Shinran's wife Eshinni, his daughter Kakushinni, and BWA members who have since passed away. This year, on November 18th, approximately 80 attendees gathered in the Hondo to listen to Rev. Dr. Wondra's enlightening Dharma message. She touched on the significance of the beautiful Kobushi flower that blooms near Eshinni's gravesite in Niigata prefecture and the touching letters exchanged between mother and daughter when they lived apart in the latter years of their lives. Feeling their strength to overcome hardships of the day, only reinforces our faith in the Nembutsu. After the installation of new officers, we gathered in the Social Hall where we ate a delicious bento, presented gifts to our 80-year-old members, and last but not least, played some fun games that had everyone laughing!

Our new OCBWA Cabinet for years 2024 and 2025 are:

Co-Presidents - Noreen Kamimura and Rumi Nakatani

Vice President - Nancy Suzuki

Recording Secretary - Jan Shoda

Corresponding Secretary - Janet Sakahara

Treasurer - Alison Yoshihara

Hospitality - Lily Hara

Religious - Karen Nakagiri

Membership - Nancy Hara and Joni Ukegawa

Activities - Debbi Wong, Laura Yamamoto, and Susan Yamamoto

Publicity/Historian - Chris Nakamura

Auditor - Linda Ishibashi

Religious Advisor - Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra

Advisors - Marion Nishimura, Irene Yamanishi, and Lynn Black

November 13th was our monthly BWA Senior Lunch where we celebrated November birthdays. 36 attendees and 70 Tomodachi Bento Project clients enjoyed a tasty bento which included salmon with crab topping, orange chicken, edamame corn salad, broccoli, and fresh fruit. The Tomodachi Bento Project volunteers deliver bentos twice a month to seniors who are isolated and would benefit from a visit with a friend.

Upcoming projects/events/activities in this next quarter. *

Our next Senior Luncheon will be on December 11th as we honor our birthday celebrants. Whether preparing food for the bento, decorating the tables, or just catching up with friends, we encourage BWA members to attend the luncheons on the second Monday of every month and as the saying goes, "The more the merrier!"

Our next BWA meeting will be held on January 14th, at 12:30 pm in the Kodo after the Ho-onko service and luncheon. Dues are \$15 and free for BWA members 85 years or older. If you have a friend that is interested in joining, please bring them to a meeting so they can meet the members and hear what fun activities are planned in 2024.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Pop-up Store. Our next Pop-up event will be held on December 17, the same day as Mochitsuki. So please come and shop when you pick up your mochi order! We always have new items! Our dried kaki packages sold out in minutes last month! Please stop by to see what surprises await this month!

Save the Dates: October 4-6, 2024 for the 47th FBWA Conference in San Jose, CA and October 19, 2024 for the Southern District Conference in San Diego.

Fundraisers you would like to announce:

Every month we have a "Pop-up Store" where we sell craft and food items our members make. Usually held on the first Sunday of the month.

Do you have ideas or strategies you have used or plan to use to attract new BWA members? *

A "Bring a Friend" event has been suggested to introduce new people to BWA. The suggested event is an English high tea which seems to be popular.

At a Boy Scout event, our President was unable to attend to speak and present gifts to those who had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. One of our male members represented the BWA and many people at the Boy Scout event did not know that OCBWA welcomes men to be members.

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