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DANA (selfless giving)

The month of February has two special days. One is Valentine's Day and one is Dana Day. At Lihue Hongwanji, we are celebrating both days in the month of February with a special Food Drive. Please see page 11 for more information. In looking for more information regarding Dana, the following article came up on a Google search. It is a wonderful article by Dr. Taitesu Unno, first published in 2003.

Three Grapefruits

One small act of giving can have enormous repercussions in an interconnected world.

A few days before my family and I were leaving Japan in 1968 after a six-year sojourn, my friend from California came to visit and gave us three grapefruits from a carton that he had brought with him. Because of import restrictions, fruits from abroad, such as grapefruits, melons, and grapes, were a rarity and hence ridiculously expensive. A single grapefruit, for example, would cost several thousand yen, equivalent to twenty dollars at the exchange rate at that time. People bought these exotic, imported fruits primarily to give away as gifts on special occasions.

Since we were returning to California shortly, where grapefruits are in abundance, we decided to give away the three grapefruits. It so happened to be the day that my wife went to her weekly flower-arranging class, so she gave the grapefruits to her teacher. We thought nothing about it, but a couple of days later we received a special delivery letter from the teacher. Written with a brush on traditional Japanese paper and folded carefully, the letter had to be something special. People today use ballpoint pens to dash off missives. The teacher's letter began with very formal words about the weather, then she expressed appreciation for the three grapefruits. She wrote that she shared the first grapefruit with her grandchildren, who were thrilled with the fragrance and taste of an exotic fruit that they had never seen before. The second grapefruit she peeled and ate together with an old friend whom she hadn't seen for over twenty years, making the reunion a very special event. The third grapefruit she took to a hospital, where her best friend was dying of a terminal illness. She hadn't eaten for more than a week, but when she saw the grapefruit she wanted to try tasting just a little piece. When she finished the first

Continued on page 3

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	5	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	9	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	12	9:00 AM	Dana Day Family Dharma Service
Sun	19	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
		11:00 AM	New Year's Party Please see page 6 for more information. RSVP needed.
Sun	26	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

MARCH 2023

Thur	2	7:00 PM	Bon Dance practice In the Social Hall
Sun	5	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	9	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	12	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Thur	16	7:00 PM	Bon Dance Practice In the Social Hall
Sun	19	9:00 AM	Spring Ohigan Service
Sun	26	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service



Join us on the first
Sunday of each month
(check the schedule
above for any changes)

for Birthday and Monthly Memorial
Service. We also have a storyteller to
bring a smile to your face and help to
start your month with a laugh.

REQUESTS FOR HOME OR HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you would like Rev. Yagi to visit a family member
or friend who is homebound or hospitalized for any
length of time, please call him at 245-6262.. He is
always willing to help in any way that he can.

Columbarium Hours

Columbarium hours will continue to be from
8:00 am until 5:00 pm on **Friday, Saturday and
Sunday** every week. Thank you for your
understanding.

Refreshments!

Please join us on Sundays after our service
for friendship, talk story
and refreshments!



Continued from Front Page morsel, she asked for one, then another one, until she ate half the grapefruit. The family members watching all this were in tears, happy that their loved one was enjoying something to eat.

The teacher thanked us profusely from the bottom of her heart for the three grapefruits. My first reaction on reading the letter was, “Thank the grapefruits!” But I also reflected on what Hua-yen Buddhism [a school of Chinese Buddhism based on the *Flower Garland Sutra*] says about a small act of giving that has repercussions in an interdependent and interconnected world. According to this tradition, one small act of charity (*dana paramita*) is said to be equal to countless acts of charity. No one can measure the effects of a single act of giving, for its repercussions are beyond our limited imagination.

The grandchildren will always remember the sweet aroma and taste of their first grapefruit, overlapping with the loving image of their grandmother, even after she is long gone. The two women’s reminiscence about the past was made all the more memorable with each bite of grapefruit, the good feeling emanating and embracing those around them. The dying friend will live forever in the hearts and minds of her loved ones as she enjoyed each morsel of grapefruit. The letter from the flower-arranging teacher reminds me of the possible relevance of Hua-yen Buddhism for the contemporary world. In reflecting on *dana paramita*, however, I am reminded that it requires “three kinds of purity.” That is, according to Buddhism, true giving involves the awareness that there is no giver, no gift, and no receiver. Attachments of any kind—whether it be to self as the benefactor, the value of the gift, or the acknowledgment by the receiver—nullify the pure act of giving. In our case we had no attachments, not because we were selfless but simply because we didn’t pay for the grapefruits and merely passed them on to the teacher. This might be considered true giving, but it was a fortuitous act and had nothing to do with *dana paramita* as an act of selfless giving, free of self-interest, which leads to the other shore of enlightenment.

In fact, the true act of *dana paramita* involves giving up what we cherish the most—ultimately our ego self. I know a school teacher who encourages the practice of *dana* in children by setting an example. Once, he took his students to give fruits to the homeless. In doing so, he purchased the most expensive fruits at the grocery store. When one mother complained that the homeless did not deserve such extravagance, he explained two important things about true giving. First, it requires some sacrifice on the part of the giver. To give away something that one doesn’t need is not *dana*. Second, the act must not be condescending but must show respect to the one who receives the gift. In fact, one is grateful to the recipient who makes the act of giving possible.

Although *dana paramita* in the true sense is our goal, it is not easy to actually practice it. But, as in the case of our three grapefruits, even if giving does not come from our hearts, we want to return something to the world. When such a practice is repeated as often as possible, we may come to realize that just to be alive is a gift, a gift made possible by countless good causes and conditions. Whether we know it or not, every act of compassion, real or simulated, may have a positive significance far beyond our powers of imagination.

From *Shin Buddhism: Bits of Rubble Turn Into Gold*, © 2002 by Taitetsu Unno. Reprinted with permission of Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc.

(<https://tricycle.org/magazine/three-grapefruits/>)

Path to My Awakening and Everyday Truths

Once upon a time, a caravan traveled across the desert. There were five hundred merchants in the caravan. The desert was like a vast ocean of sand. It was boiling during the day and cold at night, blanketed by sand as far as the eye could see, with no rivers or lakes. The only places a caravan could find water were oases, like tiny green islands in an ocean of dry sand. As they crossed the desert, the caravan traveled from oasis to oasis to secure water. The caravan traveled with camels, unlike people who did not need to drink water frequently. One day, the caravan took a little longer to get to the next oasis than usual, and all the water they carried was consumed. When the caravan reached the mountainside, the young leader of the caravan told everyone, "The next oasis is over the mountain, but we need to feed the camels now. Please be patient for a while."

"We see some grass here, so let's dig the ground and see if we can find some water here." Some people started to feed camels, and some people began to explore. They dug and dug, but there was no water. Everyone was disappointed. Then someone shouted, "Gold!" He had found gold, instead. They were overjoyed and forgot about their thirst and started digging again. It seemed like enormous amounts of gold were reserved under the ground. The leader saw the camels were well fed and said, "Everyone, let's move to the oasis before it gets too late." He was concerned about the time needed to travel to the next oasis and people's health without water. He knew the situation without water was critical and could be fatal to everyone, but no one listened to him, and they continued to dig for gold, sweat dripping from their brows. The leader shouted, "Come on, everybody! Let's go!" But his warning fell on deaf ears. (Jataka Tales "500 merchants")

You can imagine what happened to the people in that caravan. Buddha said that if we are clingy and possessive, even about what very little we have, it's not true contentment. In this story, the people were driven by their desires, drowned by their ocean of selfishness, and ended their lives in a tragic, self-centered, and greedy way. They died for a better living. They died believing that wealth would bring them contentment. Buddha said, "True contentment is wealth."

Buddhism is a path/teaching of awareness. Everyone desires some form of understanding and happiness; however, when we misunderstand why and how we can attain happiness, negative results may happen. This example expresses the consequences which come about when we forget ourselves and the Three Poisons of "greed," "anger," and "ignorance/foolishness" overcome us. Understanding, reflecting upon, and practicing the Buddha/Dharma, the Universal Truths, is the path to my awakening and everyday truths. One does not need to go far to understand that this is the way or means to awaken truths. Just as darkness is all around, the Light of the Buddha is constantly embracing me/us as well. The Light of the Buddha brings clarity to see through the darkness.

The light of wisdom exceeds all measures,
 And every finite living being
 Receives this illumination that is like the dawn,
 So take refuge in Amida, the true and natural light. (Jodo Wasan #4)

Namo Amida Butsu

2023 HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII THEME AND SLOGAN

We are in the fourth year of our five-year theme: “Building Healthy Sanghas” with our slogan for 2023 being “Sharing Joy Together.”

2020: Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

2021: Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect

2022: Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

2023: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

2024: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

According to the *Dhammapada*, “To live a single day and hear a good teaching is better than to live a hundred years without knowing such a teaching.” strikes a deep chord when I read His Eminence Kojun Ohtani’s *Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching*,

“Namo Amida Butsu.

‘Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.’

This is the calling voice of Amida.

My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha’s awakening,

So the Buddha calls to me ‘I will liberate you just as you are.’

Gratefully responding to the Buddha’s call, I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.

And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,

And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others, I shall strive to live each day to its fullest”.

The deep joy that I experience of being accepted as I am and forever embraced by Amida Buddha’s all-inclusive Wisdom and all-embracing Compassion sustains me through thick and thin and, naturally, there arises the wish that others too, can come to know and experience this joy and happiness. I nod in acknowledgement of the saying “Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.”

More than ever, let us continue to live the Nembutsu by responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha by “Sharing (the) Joy (of Namo Amida Butsu) Together” by talking about Amida Buddha to others and reciting Namo Amida Butsu making manifest the saying “As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha’s compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly.”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Buddhist Study Center Interim Director, Office of Buddhist Education, and the HHMH Commission on Buddhist Education



NEW YEAR'S PARTY!!!

We will be having a New Year's Party in 2023. We will be having a luncheon on **Sunday February 19**. Food! Bingo! Prizes!

Join us for the fun at 11:00 am. The cost for the luncheon will be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. LHM will be helping out with extra costs. For those members who have joined since February 2020 or those who are 90+, the party will be free of cost. **We will need an R.S.V.P. by Sunday February 12.** Please let us know if you plan on attending by either calling 808-245-6262 or emailing us at lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com. Either way, please remember to include your name and indicate how many will attend.

Menu:

- ◇ Crab Baked Salmon, with imitation crab topping
- ◇ Grilled Chicken in white wine mushroom sauce
- ◇ Harvest Salad (Fuji apple, craisin, local greens, almonds/chow mein brittle, feta cheese, strawberry vinaigrette)
- ◇ Dessert: Cake
- ◇ Beverages include water and hot tea

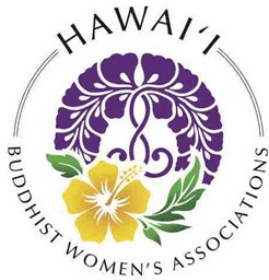


Emeritus Membership

To clarify the definition of "Emeritus Member", the following information is from the Lihue Hongwanji Bylaws.

"Emeritus members are adult persons who, because of age or illness, are not able to conduct their personal business. They are members who were formerly enrolled as regular members for at least ten immediately preceding and consecutive years and are enrolled by their guardians or are legal dependents of regular members. Exceptions may be approved by the Board of Directors.

Such members have the rights and privileges of regular members except a vote. Emeritus members are not required to pay dues."



LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome



Thank you to Karen Nishimoto for her excellent planning for the LHWA luncheon held at Puakea Grill and to Liela Nitta for donating the three floral arrangements on the luncheon tables..



LHWA Officers for 2023

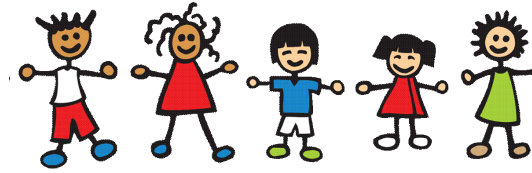
L-R: Diane Fukuyama, Yoko Takabayashi, Gladys Fujiuchi, Lynette Mizuo, Rev. Shawn Yagi. (advisor), Edith Ushio, Carolyn Yamasaki.

Card Making Workshop January 21, 2023

Thank you to both Carolyn Yamasaki and instructor, Karen Hiranaka, for a most enjoyable and well organized card-making activity.



LHM Preschool



Greetings everyone! Here's to a happy and healthy 2023 . . . the year of the water rabbit. We celebrated 100 days of school! We love school!

We've been studying the following character traits: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

In conjunction with being caring, the preschool will be happily joining LHM in their food drive in February for the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai.

Rev. Shawn Yagi visited with us, played jan-ken-po and taught us a song about a butterfly.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by eating noodles (for long life) and having a parade.

We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations: Carol Ozaki, Lynne Matsumura, Carol Valentine and Rev. Yagi.

100 Days of School Celebration



Rev. Yagi & the story of the butterfly.



Celebrating Chinese New Year!

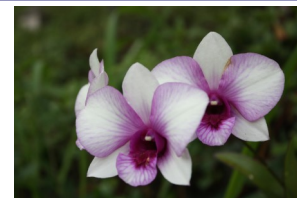


YWCA Talk

President's Corner

Aloha from Carol Valentine

News about the happenings at LHM and information from the Board of Directors.



- ⇒ We had our first Board meeting with our new board members; it is nice to see so many faces on our Zoom meetings.
- ⇒ ⇒Our Board meetings continue to be on Zoom in an effort to be more green.
- ⇒ Hurray! We are having our first New Year's Party since 2020! Please join us for this celebration. See the information on page 7 for details. Remember to RSVP for your attendance.
- ⇒ Gail Shibuya has stepped up to be the Bon Dance Chairperson for 2023. When you see her, please thank her. Also, when someone asks you to help with Bon Dance planning or to be a worker, please say "YES!"
- ⇒ Per the Buddhist Council, there has been a change in the date for the LHM Bon Dance. Our date will now be July 7 & 8.



Board of Directors
Installation

January 1, 2023

L-R: Carol Valentine,
Lynne Matsumura, Gail
Shibuya, Morton Yamasaki,
Dennis Muffly, Rev. Shawn
Yagi, Wayne Fujioka.

Note that this is a partial
listing of all LHM Board of
Directors.

Activities at LHM

Pickleball is still on-going. All levels are invited to join in the fun every Monday in the social hall at 6:00 pm. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm and a pair of tennis shoes. Come join us! Because we play indoors and are limited to a single court, we are limiting pickleball to members only.



Food Drive



In honor of love and gratitude in the month of February, we are sponsoring a food drive at Lihue Hongwanji. Bring your non-perishables or a monetary donation to Sunday Services in February, to the New Year's Party or leave your donations in the Food Drive box that will be located in the Minister's office. We continue to have keiki, kupuna and families across our island experience food insecurity. With your gift of dana (selfless giving), you will be sharing kindness and compassion with others.

With Gratitude



Dana Day will be celebrated on February 12

Dana Day is celebrated in February throughout the Hongwanji world. Dana, one of the Six Paramitas, is one of the most important practices in Mahayana Buddhism. It is selfless giving, with no thought of reciprocity.



Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai

All non-perishable and cash donations will go to the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai. All goods and monies received stay on Kauai to help our neighbors. If you are unable to bring non-perishables to our temple, monetary donations will be accepted. Please make any check out to **Hawaii Foodbank, Kauai**. Just a \$10 donation helps provide food for 22 meals.

Hawaii Foodbank, Kauai Branch

(808) 482-2224

4241 Hanahao Pl, Suite 101, Lihue, HI 96766

<https://hawaiifoodbank.org/kauai/>



MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

Hawaii Foodbank, Kauai most needed foods

Rice (in 2-5 lb. bags)	Canned Fruits, as well as fruits
Canned Meals (like soup, stew, chili and pasta)	in a jar or cup
Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, and other lean meats)	Canned Vegetables
	Canned Beans

Bon Dance 2023

Bon Dance Schedule

June 9-10	Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission
June 16-17	Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji
June 23-24	West Kauai Hongwanji Mission, Hanapepe
June 30-July 1	(No Bon Dance)
July 7-8	Lihue Hongwanji Mission
July 14-15	Waimea Shingon Mission
July 21-22	(No Bon Dance)
July 28-29	Waimea Higashi Hongwanji



LHM Bon Dance Practice

Open to the public!

Bon Dance practice will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:00 pm, beginning in March, in the LHM Social Hall.

Come join us for refreshing your bon dance skills or to learn how to do the dances.

Refrigerators Wanted



Do you have a used refrigerator you no longer want? With Bon Dance Festival coming up this year, we are looking for used refrigerators still in working order.

If you have one to donate, please call the LHM office at 808-245-6262. Leave a message if there is no answer. Or email at lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.



Our beautiful new sign lit up at night, using a solar lighting system.

If there are errors please email us at: lihuchongwanjimission@gmail.com or call the office at 245-6262.

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Juro Higuchi (25 Yrs.)
 Roger & Cheryl Lohman
 Gordon & Anne Higuchi
 In Honor of Asayo Sora (33 Yrs.)
 Carl & Faith Matsumura
 In memory of M/M Chohei Watanabe
 Dr. Donald & Joann Kawane
 In memory of Kiyoshi & Chiyo Kato
 Norman Kato
 In memory of Joplin Dee Shinno
 Alma Shinno
 In memory of Masaichi & Tsurue Morinaka
 Wilfred & June Morinaka
 In memory of Sumako Ichimasa
 Wilfred & June Morinaka
 In memory of Minoru Shimokawa
 Wesley & Marcia Shimokawa
 In memory of Tetsu Sasaki
 Blaine Sasaki
 In memory of Seichi Higuchi
 Blaine Sasaki
 Warren & Colleen Nonaka
 In memory of Sally Higuchi
 Blaine Sasaki
 Warren & Colleen Nonaka
 In memory of Barbara Omori
 Michele Tanaka

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of Kondo Family
 Emery Kondo
 In memory of Kazuo Fujimoto
 Gilbert & Helen Fujimoto
 In memory of Minoru Shimokawa
 Wesley & Marcia Shimokawa
 In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku
 Guy & Lori Toyofuku
 Sarah Date

HOONKO SERVICE DONATION:

Takaaki & Eleanor Kajiwara
 Mildred Konishi
 Roy & Arleen Tanaka
 Hideko Uemura
 Robert & Alma Yotsuda
 Glenn & Gail Shibuya
 Kenneth & Lynette Mizuo
 Winston & Marian Ogata
 Setsuo & Edith Ushio
 Arlene Fujikawa
 Diane Fukuyama
 Hiroko Kurashige
 Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki
 Natsuko Daida
 Gladys Fujiuchi
 Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE DONATION:

Glenn & Gail Shibuya
 Winston & Marian Ogata

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
DONATION:**

Hideko Uemura
 Roy & Carol Fujioka
 Shirley Hashimoto
 Alice Inouye (2)
 Diane Fukuyama
 Glenn & Gail Shibuya
 Lynne Matsumura
 Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki
 Arlene Fujikawa
 Setsuo & Edith Ushio
 Gladys Fujiuchi
 Daniel Yotsuda

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Ray & Joyce Morikawa

HAPPINESS DONATION:

Gilbert & Helen Fujimoto (**Bento**)

*Thank
You*

Please note that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters Update is not included in this month's newsletter. To read it, please check on the Honpa Hongwanji website:

<https://hongwanjihawaii newsletter>

If in day to day life you lead a good life, honestly, with love, compassion, and less selfishness, then automatically you will find peace.



Dalai Lama

MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

FEBRUARY - MARCH

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of February and March. In Jodo Shin Buddhism, memorial services are observed to remind the family members of the compassion of Amida Buddha in memory of the deceased. Lihue Hongwanji Mission recommends that the families and relatives of the deceased members listed below contact the temple office at 245-6262 for an appointment.

1st YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2022

2022 March 9 Gail Sakai
2022 March 13 Helene Tada

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2021

2021 February 2 Isao Sugibayashi

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2017

2017 NONE

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2011

2011 March 2 Betty Nakamoto

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2007

2007 February 23 Beverly Harris
2007 March 7 Shizuko Nakai

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1999

1999 February 8 Shigeo Inouye
1999 February 14 Tomoyo Yotsuda
1999 March 3 Masayu Toma
1999 March 4 Kenneth Kunikiyo

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1991

1991 NONE

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1974

1974 March 6 Kenichi Matsushima
1974 March 19 Akira Tanabe
174 March 20 Sakari Miyake

Food Drive

In the month of February, in honor of Dana Day.
See page 10 for more information.



New Year's Party!

Sunday February 19 at 11:00 am
Please see page 6 for more information

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

Lihue Hongwanji Mission
3-3556 Kuhio Highway
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Return Service Requested

Building Healthy Sanghas

(Sharing Joy Together)



Address Label

Email: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org