



# 2023 Winter NEWSLETTER

## Ring & Cape

### *Ceremony*

By Miss Stefanie



The 2024 Ring and Cape Ceremony occurred on a rainy Saturday in February at 4:30 pm. Fortunately, the torrential downpour did not deter attendance. Many Students and Alumni came to show their love and support for Shanti, traveling from all parts of California, and as far away as Lava Hot Springs, Denver and Chicago. Shanti was radiant in a light violet dress; she had been to many Ring and Cape Ceremonies in the past and finally she was attending her own. It was apparent how much this day meant to her as her face shined with a special glow of Love and Light.

This was my first time presiding over the Ceremony and was a bit nervous. I had big shoes to fill! However, after stepping on the platform, reading the Ascended Masters' Words, the same words read in countless Ring and Cape Ceremonies in the past, everything fell into place. Beloved Saint Germain had wrapped me in His Violet Flame Mantle, and I was at peace.

There were so many highlights throughout the Ceremony. It was an honor and privilege to be able to present our Senior with her ring and charge her cape with Ascended Master Consciousness! Shanti received them both with such grace and gratitude, which she showed as she approached Beloved Saint Germain's picture to dedicate herself to His Service. While the audience sang "Angels of Saint Germain," with the words 'Jewels of Light,' Beloved Saint Germain's Presence and Love could be felt enfolding Shanti as she knelt before Him at the end of the song. It was truly a beautiful moment that she will remember always.

We are so grateful for everyone who helped make this day possible: for Abraham for making the ring, for LaDawn and Dorothy Ann for making the cape, for Bud and Cheryl for the beautiful music, and for everyone who attended and supported our Senior on this special occasion. We are Eternally Grateful!





*Drama Class*

# Honoring Our Beloved America

*"Behind every stitch lies a story waiting to be told. This is mine..."*

This was Betsy's opening line in this year's patriotic School play, *A Flag for Our New Nation*, which honored a special patriot in our history of America, Betsy Ross. She is credited with sewing the first flag for our country, and helped with some aspects of the design. She sewed many flags for America during her lifetime, and also contributed by sewing clothes, tents, and blankets for soldiers.

The performance was beautifully staged under the Dome of the School as the audience was brought into the home of Betsy Ross. The characters were played by Shanti Asay as Old Betsy Ross, our Narrator; Miss Stefanie as Young Betsy Ross; Mr. Delgado as George Washington; Mika Garcia as George Ross; and Andrew Delgado as Robert Morris. Music helped to set the mood as various patriotic songs were heard in the prelude, background, quartet singing, and postludes. Miss Crystal was in charge of organizing the music, and we are so grateful to Cheryl Hansen for playing the piano for us.



When George Washington walked on stage carrying the flag of the United States of America, there was such a feeling of patriotism and love for our country in the hearts of all who attended. Everyone was on their feet singing the Star Spangled Banner and giving the Pledge of Allegiance and American's Creed.

The performance was short and sweet, leaving a smile on everyone's faces; and an impression on the heart of pride for our country, gratitude for its founding fathers and early patriots, and hope for its future.





*A Beauty among Mountains...*

## **“I AM” Class at Yosemite**

**I**n February, the “I AM” School was Blessed to be able to take a trip to Yosemite National Park for the Yosemite Weekend Class sponsored by the “I AM” Sanctuaries of Modesto and Oakland. The trip was highly anticipated by teachers and students alike because for most of us, this was our first time visiting Yosemite and the previous year was cancelled due to heavy snow.



When we entered the Park, we were greeted with breathtaking views of the entire valley showcasing several of the peaks and waterfalls. As we drove through the valley, we could see a rainbow reflecting off of Bridal

Veil Falls, huge boulders that had been deposited by Nature, and with every turn of the head, you could see the magnificent grandeur of the rocky mountainsides jutting straight up to the sky. When looking at the mountains and the sheer size of them, one could feel strength and power, which was balanced with a sense of peace and love.

After finding our rooms, we joined the group of “I AM” Students for the Opening Dedication by the river that flows through the valley. It was a great joy to be with old friends and make new acquaintances. The Classes were powerful and uplifting as we gave many decrees for America and the Younger Generation. The hikes

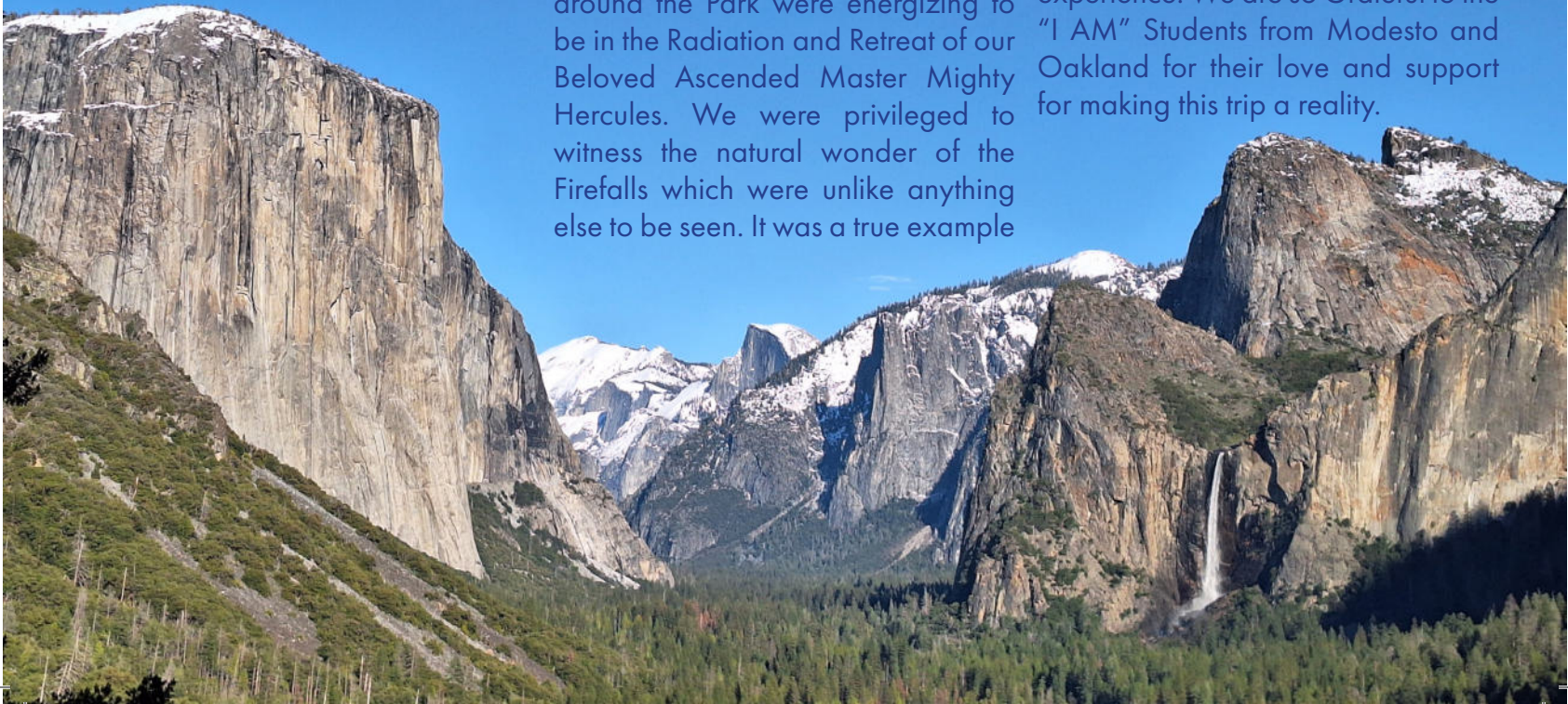


around the Park were energizing to be in the Radiation and Retreat of our Beloved Ascended Master Mighty Hercules. We were privileged to witness the natural wonder of the Firefalls which were unlike anything else to be seen. It was a true example



of Nature in her pristine beauty and uniqueness. As the sun set, the light illuminated the water from Horsetail Falls turning it into liquid light flowing down the mountain side. It was such an awe inspiring sight that brought everyone closer to God through Nature.

On the last day, all of the “I AM” Students gathered in front of Beloved Mighty Hercules’ Retreat to listen to His Dictation that had been given there in 1939. What a Blessing it was to be standing in the sunlight in front of His Retreat while His Dictation was being read. It was quite a humbling experience. We are so Grateful to the “I AM” Students from Modesto and Oakland for their love and support for making this trip a reality.





*It's the Busiest and*

## Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

*By Miss Crystal*

**D**ecember always brings thrilling moments as we prepare for several events and activities at the School. This year we were so grateful to the Snow King and the Beings of the Elements for the nice weather which allowed us to hold our Annual Bake Sale outside of a local grocery store. It was such a delight to see so many members of the community. We are so grateful for everyone's kindness and generosity. Thank you to the parents, students, and friends of the School for helping to bake such delicious goodies for our bake sale. A special big Thank You to everyone who stopped by to say hello, wish us a Merry Christmas, and for the donations and support for our Beloved School.



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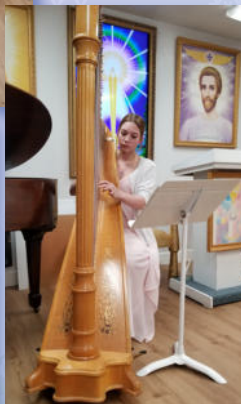
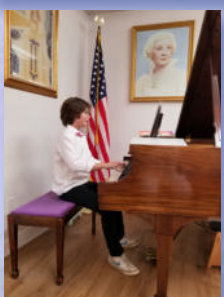


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## *Our Annual* Christmas Recital

*By Miss Crystal*



**A** couple of days after the Bake Sale, we had our Christmas Recital. It was so much joy to see the students performing their songs that they had been working on. The three younger students, Andrew, Legend, and Mika, performed songs on the piano for the first time in a recital. They were so cute and did a good job. They also sang and played a few Christmas carols on the chimes with the help of their teacher, Mr. Delgado. The three older students, Shanti, Zyan, and Bodhi, impressed the audience with their handbell skills as the bells weaved back and forth between hands and players. They did very well. We were also able to feature our handbell tree for a couple of songs. Shanti and Bodhi each learned a Christmas song to perform on the bell tree accompanied by chimes as a duet. A personal highlight for me was being able to sing two duets with one of my students, Shanti. They are talented students and "I AM" so Grateful for all of their efforts.