

# *News From the Dharma Realm*

*Instilling Goodness Boys' School Student's*

*Award-Winning History Essays*

## COMMUNITY

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### *Winning essayists will be honored*

Winning essayists in the American History Month contest by Pomo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will be honored Tuesday in ceremonies at Oak Manor School.

The winners are Sara Vaughn, fifth grade at Oak Manor School; Nathan Dylan Backlund, sixth grade, Instilling Goodness Boys School; and Stephen Killian Shoptaugh, seventh grade, Instilling Goodness School.

Although the contest included grades fifth through eighth, there were no eighth grade entries. All contestants will receive certificates of participation during Tuesday's ceremonies.

In keeping with its observance of February as American History Month, the DAR chose "My Favorite Patriot of the American Revolution" as its contest theme. Winning essays from each chapter have been submitted in a district, state and national contest.

Four national winners (one from each grade) will be selected to receive additional awards in Philadelphia at the DAR Continental Congress in April.

The local Pomo Chapter, DAR, covers Lake and Mendocino counties. Christine L. Hill, chairman of the American History Month Committee and regent of the chapter, announced the essay winners will be introduced this month to remind the public the backbone of this nation is its history.

"All of our accomplishments are based on that history. It must be preserved and

remembered by all, young and old alike," she said.

"Pomo Chapter is very proud of the participants in this year's essay contest," she continued. "Students participating were from Nancy Todd's fifth grade class at Oak Manor School in Ukiah; the classes of Heng Chau, Buddhist monk; and Ernie Waugh's combined English and history classes at Instilling Goodness Boys School in Talmage; and Charlotte Oeding's class at Baechtel Grove School in Willits.

"In keeping with the essay theme, Pomo Chapter, DAR, honors those men who fought and died to secure our freedom," the regent stated.

## *My Favorite Patriot of the American Revolution*

*Thomas Jefferson*

*by Nathan Dylan Backlund*

*Age 11, 6th grade*

It is the general consensus that Jefferson was a great man. I think that too. But when a person is called a great man there has to be some reason behind it.

One of the most important things Jefferson did was write the Declaration of Independence. Now, you may ask why is the Declaration of Independence so important? At the time there were many such writings about liberty and throwing off control of monarchies like the English crown. What was it then that made the Declaration of Independence so great and so well remembered? It was the only patriotic document that lifted the power from the king and placed it into the hands of the people.

Jefferson was one of the few Patriots who believed that the people should rule the country. This is why the people liked Thomas Jefferson. He was one of the first real democrats.

Another example of what most Americans call democracy is peace. Jefferson showed that during the Louisiana Purchase. Instead of taking the Louisiana Territory by force, he bought it from the French government. By doing this, he avoided gigantic military spending, avoided the taking of countless lives, strengthened diplomatic relations with France, and still got the Louisiana Territory.

When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, he was writing one of the first genuine democratic documents ever which gave the people the power. So, Thomas Jefferson was really one of the first people who was democratic and had a high position in government. The Declaration of Independence was the backbone of the American Revolution. People then knew Thomas Jefferson was for the people, and they still do now. This is why Thomas Jefferson is my favorite patriot. George Washington was brave and strong, Patrick Henry had the fiery speeches, but Thomas Jefferson had all these qualities and more. He had the ability to deal with people, to work with people. He represented the people.

## ***Benjamin Franklin***

*by Stephen Killian Shoptaugh*

*Age 12, 7th grade*

I admire Benjamin Franklin because he was self-educated. He had only one year of school, but he was so determined and energetic that he educated himself almost solely by reading books. He taught himself four languages: Italian, French, Spanish, and German, just using books. Even though he had no teachers except his books, he was a very learned man.

Ben Franklin always enjoyed what he did. He had a lot of energy for doing things in many subjects. He knew himself well enough to know he had to discipline himself in order to be focused. He kept a book in which he recorded his progress in moral improvement. Some people have great energy but poor focus and other people can focus well but have little energy. But it is the great man who has a lot of energy and knows how to discipline himself.

Franklin was successful in business. He knew how to get along in the world of business. He kept expanding his printing firm. Starting as an apprentice at the age of 12, he owned his own print shop at the age of 23. He was a famous writer. More than 200 years after they were written, Poor-Richard's Almanac and his Autobiography are still read. He rewrote sayings in ways that were memorable. Because of his interest in the arts, Franklin formed the Junto Club to gather learned men and great works of art. The club met weekly to talk about prose and poetry. It also had the purpose of starting a library. Benjamin Franklin was greatly interested in literature. He was a printer, a publisher, a writer, and a reader. He was able to use his energy to focus not only himself, but others, as well.

In addition to all these achievements, he was a member of the Continental Congress as well as an ambassador for the colonies. He helped Philadelphia by making many civic improvements such as creating library, fire, and police departments, better streets, lighting, and by promoting the general welfare and learning. These improvements were so far-sighted, that even today the results are impressive.

Benjamin Franklin was a brilliant scientist. He discovered the connection between lightning and electricity, which led to many, many discoveries and inventions.

I admire Ben Franklin because he was such a renaissance man: printer, scientist, writer, ambassador, inventor, and statesman. He was good at everything he did. He enjoyed what he did and he used his energy well. This is why Benjamin Franklin is my favorite American Patriot.

### *Winning essayists receive awards*



*Winnifred Dunn(center), representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, presents awards to winners of the organization's essay contest, both students of the boys'school at the City of 10,000 Buddhas. The subject of the competition was American patriots. The youngsters wrote on Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. Young winners were Nathan Backlund (left) and Stephen Shoptaugh (right).*

Mrs. Winnifred Dunn, who presented the awards said, "We are really pleased and inspired by the quality and excellence of all the essays. We are really happy that there are still schools and teachers such as yours who impart these basic and important human values, to the future generation...To have produced two winners from the same school is really unusual. You must have very good school here for that to have, happened!"