

Spirit of S·T· M·A·R·Y·S

October 2011 — Volume 66 No. 10

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
961 S. Mariposa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

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The Rev. Floyd "Butch" Gamarra, Assistant Priest
The Rev. Jimmy H. Shiode, Deacon
The Rev. Canon Richard Van Horn, Priest Assisting

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Carolyn Morinishi, Editor, "The Spirit"

"Diverse and unafraid, with open hearts."



October 2011

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DATED MATERIAL

Special Dates

Sunday, October 2

9:45am UTO Sunday
Blessing of the animals

Sunday, October 16 (one all-parish service)

11:15am Vestry meeting
11:00am Boutique workshop

Sunday, October 23

11:00am Boutique workshop

Sunday, October 30

11:00am Halloween festival

Regular/Ongoing Events

Every Sunday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist (except
Vestry meeting Sundays)
8:30 am Choir Practice
9:45 am Holy Eucharist
9:45 am Sunday School/Nursery
11:45 am Holy Eucharist (Spanish) except
Vestry meeting Sundays

Every Saturday

Morning Altar Guild

Clergy Corner . . .

ON BEING NEW

My daughter and I both train at a small neighborhood taekwondo school. About a year ago our beloved school was sold to a new grandmaster. We've had to get used to new training techniques, hear that some of what we'd been doing wasn't up to speed, and get used to a new personality and style of teaching. At first, we felt disoriented, defensive, and a little discouraged about whether we were ever going to adapt to so many new things. What had been a place of familiarity was suddenly a place of change.

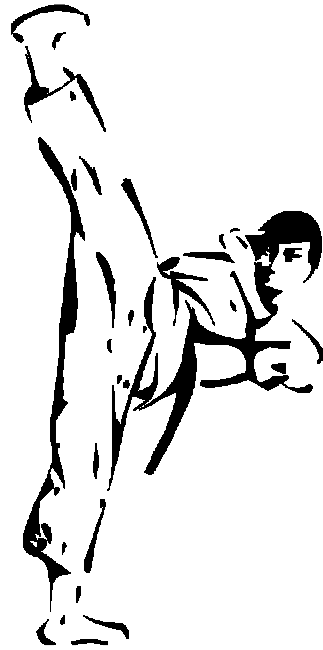
Our new taekwondo master is great. He's highly skilled, professional, patient and kind. I can see my skills improving under his teaching. But only almost a year later am I feeling truly at home again at the school, confident that I know what to expect and what's expected.

As priests, we don't have the same experience of church transitions as lay people. When change happens in church, more often than not, we either *are* the change, or we are part of the process of bringing about change. I've thought about my taekwondo experience as I try to imagine what this period of clergy transition feels like to long-time St. Mary's members.

It will take time for us to get used to one another at St. Mary's. My ways of doing things will be unfamiliar for awhile. It will take time for me to know the routines and rhythms and communication styles of St. Mary's. I'll change things without even meaning to, just because I'm not familiar with how things have been done in the past.

Our Christian faith teaches us that love overcomes all things. One of the ways we manifest love is by showing compassion. In your welcome to me you've shown such compassion for what's it's like to be new at St. Mary's. My commitment is to show you that same compassion when it comes to absorbing all this change.

In peace and love, *Mother Anna+*



GYMNASTICS NEWS!

ALYSSA KUBOTA, daughter of Carl & Lana Kubota and granddaughter of Marian Kubota, competed in her first-ever gymnastics meet (Level 4). For Level 4, age 8, she placed 1st on Vault, 4th on Bars, 3rd on Beam, 2nd on Floor and 2nd All-Around. Congratulations!

INTO ETERNAL LIFE

Long-time St. Mary's member LEROY ICHIDA, Honolulu-born resident of Winnetka, passed away on September 18 at home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at St. Mary's on Saturday, October 15, at 10:00am. Dress is casual; reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers or koden, the family requests that donations be made to "St. Mary's Episcopal Church" (memo: Bazaar/Capital Fund) so we can finish LeRoy's project of upgrading the church audio system. LeRoy is survived by his wife, Faith; son Kent; daughter Kisa; grandson Kyle, and many other relatives on the mainland and in Hawaii.

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers and condolences to **Penny Cox** in the loss of her brother, and to **Greg Sata** in the loss of his mother-in-law.

"May they rest in Peace and may Light Perpetual shine upon them ..."



Thank You . . .

AUGUST THANK YOUS

Memorial:

Bryan/Judy Shima
FLORENCE HATTORI
Kiyo/Kazie Higa

Endowment Fund:

St. Mary's Men's Club

Building Fund & EUIP program:

Clarence/Maxine Yamamoto

AUGUST ALTAR GUILD

Flowers in loving memory of:

WILLE & EARL GRAVELLY
Gravelly/Herndon families
JUICHI OKUDA, RAY OKUDA

Mioko Okuda & family

MIO TAKANO

Ayako Takano

Flowers given for:

birthday Ruby Ryoko Chuman

M/M Paul Chuman, Daniel

Lynn & Bill's wedding

Margaret Yuki

Candles in loving memory of:

YOSHIE NISHIBAYASHI

Margaret Yuki

JERRY JIRO NODA

DENNIS NODA

Margaret Yuki & family

HIDEO MURAOKA

M/M Masao Yasaki

M/M Mamoru Kanda

VIOLET OMATSU

Frank Omatsu

WILLE GRAVELLY

Sunday School teachers

JUICHI OKUDA, RAY OKUDA

Mioko Okuda & family

KEN & EMI ITO

Marcy & Margaret Yuki

Altar Guild Memorial Fund:

SHIG MASUOKA

NAOICHI MASUOKA

D/M David Masuoka

ARTHUR YUICHI IMAMURA

Atsuko Imamura

Thanksgiving:

for marriage of Lynn & Bill

George Oshita

About our members . . .

SUPPORT THE 2011 ALZHEIMER'S WALK – OCTOBER 29, THOUSAND OAKS

The Forget Me Nots are walking again for the 4th year to help reclaim the future for millions afflicted with this demonic disease (Alzheimer's). Thanks to many of you that have made past donations and supported our team, the Forget Me Nots were named the most successful team for 2010 and top fundraising team by the Central Coast Chapter of the California Alzheimer's Organization. More importantly, thanks to your support, NAPA (National Alzheimer's Project Act) was unanimously passed into law. Your continued support has given us the confidence to become advocates of this organization. Both of us wrote to our senators with a plea get this Act passed. By participating in the 2011 Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's™, we're committed to raising more awareness and funds for Alzheimer research, care and support.

Our future is at risk unless we can find a way to change the course of this disease. We both know firsthand how important this cause is. Roberta's Dad, Mom, Aunty Betty and Sarah's Aunty Louise all had to suffer with this disease. Hopefully, with more research a cure and preventative medicines will be found soon! We don't want to anticipate this dreaded disease for ourselves, our children, our grandkids and all future generations.

Again, we are asking for your support! Please fill out and mail in the attached form THANK YOU for joining our movement! The end of Alzheimer's disease starts here.

--Roberta Masuoka & Sarah Yamazaki-Wong

ALZHEIMER'S WALK – OCTOBER 29, 2011

Participants: Roberta Masuoka & Sarah Yamazaki; **Team Name:** Forget Me Nots

In memory of: Louise Yamazaki, Rose & Shig Masuoka and Betty Yano

Please make your check payable to: Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Donor Telephone # _____ Email address _____

Thank You So Much For Your Contribution! Mail this form and your check to:

Roberta & Sarah, c/o Technology Trading Co, 21124-C Vanowen St, Canoga Park 91303

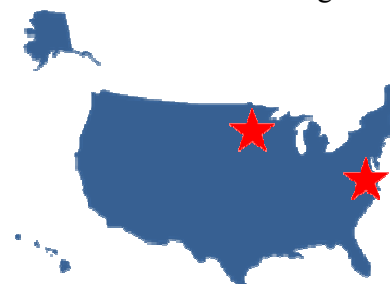
Parish News . . .

HIGHLIGHTING OUR EUIP INTERNS!!

My name is **Cyrus Allen** and I am from New Hope Minnesota. I graduated from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul Minnesota in 2011 with a BA in Philosophy. During my senior year of college I was struggling to figure out what my next step was going to be. A philosophy major alone didn't seem to provide a clear path into the job market. It was when I really reflected on why I became a philosophy major that my next step became very clear. I wanted to major in something where I would not only develop skills for the job market but develop skills to become a better person. Discussing issues of high moral and ethical weight everyday in class taught me how to think logically and critically and also developed further a sense of empathy, care, and service within me.

I was drawn to EUIP specifically because of its approach to service in a religious setting. EUIP appeals to and assists people of all different faiths and backgrounds without judgment and I believe it is with these types of efforts that the most benefit is received by both those who are being served and those who serve. I look forward to working at St. Stephen's & Delaney Wright and beginning a year's worth of service and learning. In my free time I enjoy any type of sport and exercise, singing, cooking, and reading.

"Hi! I'm **Gerard Miller**, from Baltimore, MD. After making 3-credit course, I will receive my B.A. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communications with a concentration in French. An East Coast boy through-and-through, I'm excited to spend my first time on the Left Coast being part of such an amazing project. I applied to EUIP because I needed an opportunity to get away from the routine at home and discern my next steps, leaving the world of undergrad education and pursuing graduate and career goals. One of the things that draws me about this program is the chance to explore intentional community in a faith-oriented setting and seek the heart of God as we journey together. Another thing that appeals to me is being able to make a direct impact in the lives of people. Few programs of this sort offer such a hands-on model of service, and the social justice agitator in me couldn't resist. I look forward to getting to know the other interns and program directors, getting involved in my job site, Health Services Academy High School, and in the local parish church. Trips to the beach, hiking through the high country, and riding up the Pacific Coast Highway are also high on my list... I'm excited for an enriching year!"

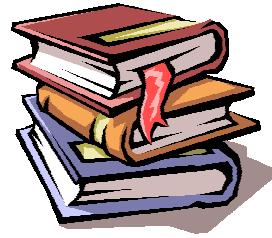


MOTHER ANNA'S WELCOME TIPS

For the next few months, I'm going to offer some tips: basic things that we can do to create a welcoming space for newcomers to our church. They are simple things. They have worked in other churches. They are things I don't see too many people doing currently at St. Mary's. Most of them will involve some sort of change to your Sunday morning routine. Not every tip is for everyone. Some things you might try just once or twice a month. If you read one, and say "I just won't be able to come to church if I have to do this," that tip is not for you. Trust that God will find someone else to do it.

TIP #2 – Help with the Juggle!

We love our books in the Episcopal Church. For a lifelong Episcopalian, there's nothing quite like picking up a prayer book that falls open to the beginning of the Eucharistic liturgy. The 1982 Hymnal has finally been around long enough that it feels just the right size and shape, and we know we'll find our old favorites there.



For new people, though, the sheer number of books and papers required to navigate an Episcopal service can be daunting. If you see someone new to the church, think about going over to sit with them during the service and help them find the pages they need in the Prayer Book and Hymnals and leaflets. This little bit of help communicates our hospitality, helps newcomers relax enough to enjoy the beauty of our service, and may just make you a new friend!

DESERT RETREAT

On August 26-28, 12 St. Mary's members and friends joined John Tokeshi and Gayle Kawahara on their Family Annual Desert Retreat. A full busload of 40 people left St. Mary's parking lot for Las Vegas and the ride was definitely not boring. John kept the entire group busy with brainteasers, gambling games like the exciting "Rabbit Race" and the ever popular "Who can guess what time the bus will pass under the State Line overpass" (yes, that was a high stakes game!). No one went hungry because the family stocked the bus with liquids and every kind of snack, healthy or otherwise. Gayle, John and family thought of everything to make the 5-hour trip fun and comfortable. Once the bus arrived at the California Club, John had one more game up his sleeve: Who can rack up the most points on the slot machine, or "Hit the slots button for 20 minutes as fast as you can or until your fingers drop off".

The St. Mary's travelers were all very thankful to be included in all the fun, laughter, the great buffet dinner and special cake for the Izumi/Tokeshi family annual retreat. Even the 4-hour layover in Barstow (due to a malfunction of the wheelchair lift) did not matter because everyone had such a wonderful time.

YOUR TOP FIVE

As we work on planning our music for the coming months, we want your input! Please give us your "top five" list: songs you love to sing in church. We want songs that make your heart glad every time they show up in the rotation, and that inspire you to sing and give glory to God. You can drop your list in the offering plate, or give it to Jeff, Mother Anna or Father Butch.

Upcoming Events . . .



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – OCTOBER 2

Sunday, October 2 is the closest Sunday to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We will have the Blessing of Animals after the 9:45am service in the patio. All animals are welcome for the service. Please be sure that animals that need cages or crates are properly contained (cats, hamsters, etc). Please have all dogs on leashes.

NEXT CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE WORKSHOPS –OCTOBER 16 & 23

The Women of St. Mary's will hold Christmas Boutique workshops on the following dates (all workshops are Sunday 11:00am, except as noted): Oct 16 & 23, Nov 13, 26 (Sat) & 27, Dec 3 (Sat). As always, we will share a delicious potluck lunch!

SUNDAY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARADE – OCTOBER 30

Calling kids of all ages! Grandparents gather your grandkids together!! Please join us at St. Mary's during coffee hour for Halloween trick or treat fun. Young and old, big and small are invited to dress in their Halloween best for our annual costume parade on Sunday, October 30. Candy and finger food donations are always greatly appreciated!

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 11AM – 2PM

Please invite your family and friends . . .

Women of St. Mary's

Christmas Boutique

Sunday, December 4, 2011

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Featuring gifts and handmade items by
Church members and other local artists & craftspeople
Proceeds to support various local charities

