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Sacramento Japanese
United Methodist Church
6929 Franklin Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95823



The Sakura Dayori is published once a month by the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church to provide updates to our members and our constituents.

SAKURA DAYORI

桜便り



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church Newsletter

Senior Pastor: Rev. Motoe Yamada
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. George Nishikawa
Nichigo Ministry: Rev. Shiro Kazato, Youth Director: Gayle Kurasaki
Choir Director: Eileen Boyd, Pianist: Daniel Skaggs
Office Manager: Robyn Jovalis
Phone: (916) 421-1017 Fax: (916) 421-2150
Website: www.sacjumc.com Worship: Sunday at 10:30am

Volume 45

October 2011

No. 10

October Events

- ❖ October 1, Saturday - **SJUMC Annual Food and Cultural Bazaar**
- ❖ October 2, Sunday, - **World Communion Sunday**
- ❖ October 9, Sunday - **Crop Walk** -12:30pm - Capitol Steps.
- ❖ October 29-30, Saturday - **Youth Lock-in**
- ❖ October 30, Sunday - **Young People's Costume party and parade!**



Small Groups are starting up! Please join us. Details inside!

Why? Series - If God counts the hairs on our head, and knows every sparrow that falls, why is finding and understanding God's will so difficult at times?



Christianity 101 - Confirmation is not the beginning or the end of the faith journey. Confirmation is about making disciples.



Short Devotion - Join us as we spend a brief time to talk with others about scripture and read a devotion together?



Invitation to Worship

October 2, 2011

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 9, 2011

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 16, 2011

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Luke 16:19-31

October 23, 2011

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

October 30, 2011

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

October Security Tobans:

Winston Ashizawa, Kent
Nakashima, Victor Shibata



Greeters for October

October 2—Alice Kubo & Bernice
Dingley

October 9—Mary Nakamura & Sa-
chiko Konatsu & Tadashi

October 16—Bob & Betty Kimoto &
Jiro Sakauye

October 23—Ben Matsuo & Kathy
Gosney

October 30—Joyce Kimura & Kiku
Ito

Ushers for October

October 2—Karen Fong & Elaine
Maeda

October 9—Norman & Tsukiko
Robinson

October 16—Atsuko & Meggie Ta-
naka

October 23—Les Wataji & Phillip
Yuki

October 30—Mark McLean & Rich-
ard Yang



October Fellowship Tobans

October 2—TBD

October 9—Craft Club

October 16—UMW

October 23—
Education

October 30—Sunday
School



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church Finance Recap August 2011

		General Fund	
Beginning cash balance 07/31/11		\$ 25,841.11	
Cash Inflows			
Pledges	10,765.00		
Offerings	2,167.24		
From Special Events	15,000.00		
UMCOR donations & other pass throughs	315.00		
Other Receipts	2,477.81		
MYF Receipts	650.00		
Total cash inflows		31,375.05	
Cash Outflows			
Capital Improvements & maintenance	(2,292.75)		
Apportionments	(2,755.00)		
UMCOR & other pass through payments	(1,029.61)		
Operations	(23,822.72)		
Total cash outflows		(29,900.08)	
Ending cash balance 08/31/11		\$ 27,316.08	
		General Fund Restrictions	
		Unrestricted Cash	\$ 8,516.08
		Youth Group Funds	8,854.19
		Japan Mission Trip Funds	10,018.50
		UMCOR & other passthroughs	240.00
		Paint Fund	1,887.33
		Total Cash Balance	\$ 27,316.08

		Legacy Fund	
Beginning cash balance 07/31/11		\$ 38,877.90	
Cash Inflows			
Pledges	3,570.00		
Interest, Dividends & Capital Gains earned	221.92		
Total cash inflows		3,791.92	
Cash Outflows			
Multi-cultural hall mortgage payment	(8,320.00)		
Total cash outflows		(8,320.00)	
Ending cash balance 08/31/11		35,349.82	
		Multi-Cultural Hall Mortgage	
		7/31/11 Principal Balance	407,105.85
		August 2011 principal pmt	6,114.84
		August 2011 interest pmt	2,205.16
		08/31/11 Principal Balance	\$ 400,991.01
08/31/11 fair market value of stocks		98,037.27	
		Total Assets in Legacy	\$ 133,387.09

		Special Events	
Beginning cash balance 07/31/11		\$ 386,180.17	
Fair Market Value of Stocks 08/31/11			
Money Market 08/31/11	90,082.31		
Parsonage Loan balance	6,807.73		
Checking Account	10,671.08		
Wish List Sanctuary	36,031.56		
Ashizawa Gift - Restricted	12,109.72		
Total Assets in Special Events		\$ 385,706.17	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GENERAL FUND

As of August 27, 2011

In Appreciation for concern after Car Accident
Harvey, Yurie

Appreciation to Tina Weekly & May Ukita for
visitation

Mizuno, M/M Tom

Aloha Sunday

Miyasaki, Anne

Leadership Training

Kawahara, M/M Yosh

Nakashima, M/M Kent

In Celebration of 65th wedding anniversary
Ito, M/M Paul

In Celebration of Yosh & Amy's 50th wedding
anniversary

Takechi, M/M Curtis

In Memory of Audrey Tsuruda

Iwata, Grace

In Memory of mother Nuye Kobayashi

Kobayashi, M/M Richard

Sumida, Frances

In Memory of mother Yoshiko Kujubu

Miyasaki, Anne

In Memory of Roy Sakamoto

Sakamoto, Katherine

UMCOR Japan Mission

String Concert

Anonymous

Caligire, R.

Gowen, Kazuko

Honbo, Dr/M Wesley

Kawaguchi, M/M Kojira

Lange, Patricia

Matsuoka, M/M Walter

Teranishi, Sue

Tokie Ohara

MYF

Scholarship Youth 2011

Cal-Nevada Annual Conference

CHOIR FUND

In Honor of Paul & Shizue Ito's 65th Wedding
Anniversary

Kawahara, M/M Yosh

Taketa, M/M Bill

Prayer for the community

Comfort and Prayer for the families and friends of

- * George Nemitz (friend of Loretta & Winston Ashizawa)
- * Steve Yamaguchi (Cousin of Winston Ashizawa)
- * Miri Murakami (wife of Rev. Murakami)

Special Prayers

- * Amy Kawahara
- * Clif Toyama
- * Robert Otani
- * Micki & Christy Fukushima
- * Jean Shikuma
- * Marian Drown
- * Gerry Takehara
- * Sandy, Jason Weekley's mother
- * Nephew of Betty Hirata and Patty Koyama
- * Motoko Kobayashi
- * Florence Shikasho
- * Brian Kurasaki
- * Betty Foor
- * Shirley Gilette
- * Nancy Kay
- * People looking for a job.
- * People who are facing surgery.
- * People who are going through tough times.
- * The victims/survivors of natural disasters.



Thanksgiving

- * Sharon Oguro who is cancer free

Notes from the Pastor

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22&23a)

Did you notice any changes when you walk into the Narthex (a small hall way to the Sanctuary)? We have an Information/Visitor booth! When our visitors come to our church, the booth will be the first stop to get their name tag and get a welcome packet. We even have a visitor friend to offer to sit with them during the service and the fellowship time. We have been getting many visitors and we hope that they will be a part of our wonderful church! The welcome team is looking for volunteers who will sit at the Information/Visitor booth or to be a visitor friend to sit with them. So please sign up! (Stop by the booth to sign up and know more about it.) Also please remember to wear your name tag. It is a part of hospitality for our visitors and we will be happy to make you one if you cannot find yours on the cart. (The booth has the sign up sheet for name tags)

Did you enjoy the Church Activity Fair? Inclusiveness Task Force (Chair: Wes Honbo) decided to have the event so that church members can learn about each group as well as visitors. We had 25 groups at the Fair and each group provided a display and snack to give out. Many thanks for Ayako Marshall, the coordinator of the Fair and all the volunteers to make that day possible!

Tina and Jason Weekley became members of SJUMC this year and they have been helping the church tremendously already (Tina for the Caregiving Ministry and leading the Friendly Visitor Program and Jason for the Welcome Team and Small group) We are happy to inform you that Jason has decided to go to a seminary next September to be an ordained minister! The Church Council voted to recognize him as a person who is going into ordained ministry and he will be spending this year to learn different ministries of the church. We are so proud of them and we will pray for them.

We have just completed our third annual Garden series. This year's theme was the Fruit of the Spirit (5:22&23a) and we learned each three words each Sunday. Let us continue to make the Fruits and share them with others! We also had prayer stations/emerging service on the day of Picnic at the Church. It was the service for people to go around the table and focus on their relationship with Jesus. We heard positive comments on that service and we may do it again next year. In the month of October, we will be focusing on the Amazing Grace Movie. (The World Communion Sunday on Oct 2, Mission Sunday on Oct. 9, Laity and Stewardship Sunday on Oct 16 (Jason Weekley will share his testimony), Amazing Grace Sunday on Oct. 23, and Children's Harvest Worship on Oct. 30 (Children will be singing during the service) So please join us! Also please be ready to invite people for anytime, especially the advent/Christmas season. We will be learning about the Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem for Advent (there will be small groups on the same topic available). 11 small groups are available for the fall and it is a great opportunity for you to grow spiritually! May God bless you!



Youth News

Last month we had "one last summer care-free outing" to Sky High on September 4th. The youth got to let loose some of their energy bouncing on trampolines, jumping into foam pits, and playing dodge ball! The following Sunday was our Welcome Back and Sunday School kick off for the new year. The youth had a "Back to school" lock-in Saturday to Sunday where they did a "classroom hunt" around the church, they learned about "unlikely messengers" and acted out the story about Balaam and his talking donkey! We all took a whole class picture in front of the garden before Sunday School. There has been a very good turnout at



"Singspiration" our once a month contemporary worship session when we sing all the songs they learned at camp and mission trips. We had open gym scheduled for the 4th Sunday of the month, but when we were getting started Jill Kanemasu asked us if we would help with bags of grace and the kids agreed so they went and helped put together bags of grace instead of playing in the gym! I am working with a new curriculum this year through Group publisher called LIVE curriculum and so far it's going



really well. It allows me to use more activities to illustrate points which produces more discussion since they all just had the experience together!

This month we will begin Confirmation classes and small groups. I will be having a small group session once a month for the youth and we will be going through the WHY? Series along with

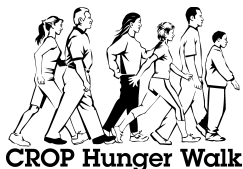
Why? Making Sense of God's Will

Kimi Ronay who will be leading a session for their parents. Kimi and I thought it would be good to have them go through the same small group material as their parents so that they could talk about it with each other and share their different perspectives with each other. Our Church Bazaar kicks off October as our first community service project for the year. The youth will run a booth and lend a hand in other areas as well! The Crop Walk will be the second Sunday in October and the youth will be participating with the adults! We will have a Singspiration on the 23rd and a Halloween Lock-in from the 29th to the 30th!



Children and Young People's Events:

October 9 - Family Worship and Crop Walk! Come with other young people as we walk to end hunger one step at a time.



CROP Hunger Walk

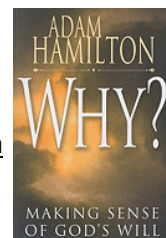


October 30 - Children's Costume party and parade! Join us at 9:30 as we have fun comparing our costumes and celebrate fall! Then process into the Sanctuary for family worship.

FALL SMALL GROUPS

Why? Series— When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation? When we lift our prayers to God, and no answer seems to come; when we earnestly seek to know the will of God for our lives, yet can't seem to discern it; when God seems far away; where is God? If God counts the hairs on our head, and knows every sparrow that falls, why is finding and understanding God's will so difficult at times?

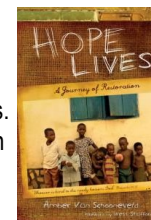
1. Wednesdays 10:30 am at the Church - on Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16 (led by Rev. Motoe)
2. Wednesdays 7pm at Alice Kubo's place Oct. 12, October 26, Nov. 9 and Nov.30



3. (led by Shigeo Shibata, Alice Kubo & Karen Kashiwagi)
3. Thursdays 7pm at Rev. Motoe's house Oct. 6, 20, Nov.3, Nov. 17(Led by Rev. Motoe Yamada)
5. Sundays 5pm to 6pm at the church October 23, November 20, December 18, January (led by Kimi Ronay & Clint Lee)
5. Sunday 9:30-10:25 am in the Garden Room on Sept. 25, Oct 16, Oct 23, Nov. 6 (led by Jim Williamson, Mary Nakamura)

Short Devotion - Sundays (starting October 23rd) 11:45am -12:15pm in the Jr. High room Led by Jayne Rasmussen and Andy Foot

Hope Lives — Compassion changes everything: how you view the world...yourself...even Jesus. Produced in partnership with Compassion International, this five-week exploration of compassion touches both the head and heart--And helps participants discover (and share) God's heart for the poor. The book contains 25 daily readings, divided into five one-week segments. Each of the 25 daily readings includes Scriptural support for the author's arguments, a page for journaling responses to challenging questions about the day's reading, and a prayer asking God for guidance through the issue at hand. Mondays at Weekley's place(led by Mary Nakamura and Jason Weekley)



What am I doing in this pit? - The valleys in life are lined with disappointment and discouragement. Some people seem to thrive on adversity, emerging from their valley with greater strength and deeper faith. Others stumble and fall, giving in to discouragement, unable to climb out of the pit. The difference in outcome is determined by the way we choose to handle discouragement. This study is designed to encourage and practice responding to each valley and pit with trust and faith. 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16 Sundays 12:00-1:00 pm in the Garden room (led by Mindy Takechi & Sayuri Sakamoto)

Christianity 101 (Confirmation class for Adults) **Sundays 12:15pm - 1:45pm** Garden Room Oct 23, November 27 (Led by Rev. Motoe Yamada)

Confirmation is not the beginning or the end of the faith journey. Confirmation is about making disciples. It is that simple and that challenging. Are there questions that you can no longer ask because you are embarrassed?

UMW Report

UMW Annual Field Trip

The UMW field trip was held on August 10. The August tobans coordinated a great trip. The day started with a bus trip to Tiburon then we took a ferry ride to Angel Island where we had a very informative tour of the Immigration Station. After the tour, we boarded the ferry for the return trip to San Francisco. The bus was waiting for us and took us to Japan Town. We had an entertaining lunch at Benihana's and time to browse the shops at Japan Town. The bus brought the weary but happy group back to SJUMC. Thank you very much August Tobans. It was a beautiful day in the Bay Area filled with information, fun and friendship. If you would like to read about the history of

Angel Island, two books entitled "Island" and "Angel Island" are available to check out from the SJUMC library.

UMW General Meeting - October 16

We will have a UMW General Meeting on October 16. Please plan on attending as we will be honoring several members of the congregation with the UMW Recognition Pins. We will also introduce the nominees for the 2012 UMW Cabinet. The Installation of the nominees will be held at the January Budget meeting.

Save the Date - November 5 - UMW Fall Rummage Sale

SJUMC is on Facebook!

Please join us on facebook



Our Faith Journey Booklets

We are now collecting stories of faith from members of our church family for our "Faith Journey" booklets. These stories are put together and made into booklets to be used for daily meditation. This is a most meaningful and useful undertaking because it allows the writer to reflect on the presence of God in his/her life, and it allows the readers to understand and appreciate members of our church family.

If you are wondering what to write about – your writing can include experiences when God was present in your life and how some hymns and music make you feel His presence. It could also be about someone God has sent to help

you when you were faced with some trying problems. It could also be about God being a comforter when you were feeling low. Along with your story, we would like to have an appropriate scripture on the top of your story such as in the Upper Room. If you wish, we can do that for you. And - if you do not wish to write your story, you can be interviewed and the writing can be done for you. If you have questions, please contact Helen Blaisdell.

Our Faith Journey Booklet Committee members are: Amy Kawahara, Kiku Ito, Margaret Saito, Robyn Jovalis and Helen Blaisdell. You can turn in your stories to anyone of us.

Letters to SJUMC

Dear Friends,

We thank you so much for your notes and expressions of sympathy during this time of grieving the death of our daughter-in-law, Theresa. Andy and the children have felt your support, as have we, and we are grateful that God has extended His love through your acts of kindness and compassion. Andy, Dusty, Nate and Nick are making their way anew and will continually be guided by God's loving hand. Bless you.

In Christ,
Gary and Debbi Grundman



Please join us as we walk together to raise awareness and funds to help people who must walk miles to get clean water and food. All ages are welcome! This year, the CROP Walk will take place on 10/9/11. Registration opens at 12:30 pm near the west steps of the Capitol and the walk begins at 1:00 pm. All walkers will need to bring a canned good in lieu of a registration fee.

Come and be the feet of Christ and join us as we walk in solidarity with those who are suffering from hunger or malnourishment in our own communities. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from this walk will go to hunger relief agencies in the Sacramento and surrounding area, including the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet.

If you would like to sign up, please contact Mary Nakamura after church service. If you wish to sponsor a walker, you may do so online or give the donation to the walker in person. This year there will be two routes: a 6.5 km (4 mile) walk through downtown and Land Park, or the Executive WALK (1 mile) around Capitol Park. Here is the link to the SJUMC team page: <http://www.churchworldservice.org/goto/sjumc2011>

New Deadline for Newsletter Articles

In an effort to get the newsletter out earlier, the deadline to submit articles is now the 5th of every month.

Please submit articles to Joanne Mikami at hankojo@starstream.net

The Right to a Home
*Ending Israeli Government Policy
of Palestinian Home Demolitions*

Saturday, October 15, 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
2100 J St. Sacramento



Dr. Jeff Halper is co-founder and director of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions (ICAHD), a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and author of *An Israeli in Palestine: Resisting Dispossession, Redeeming Israel*. ICAHD is a nonviolent, direct-action organization established to resist Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza (more than 24,000 to date). Schools and entire communities have also been destroyed along with land and crops. ICAHD also supports rebuilding of homes. Sponsored by Sacramento Sabeel Conference Committee Endorsed by Jewish Voice for Peace & American Muslims for Palestine-FMI contact : SabeelSacramento@gmail.com



SSIP FOOD CLOSET UPDATE

During August nearly 7000 (6988) people were served. This is the third month in a row that this many have been served. The number represents 1892 families. Forty percent of the food was provided for children. Nearly ten percent of those receiving food are seniors. The need for food is putting a strain on our resources. Churches are asked to do what they can to promote donations of food and money.

It's not unusual to serve between 90 and 100 families a day. This keeps all of our volunteers working hard. Our food closet volunteers are awesome people! There is a need for volunteers willing to be called as substitutes when regular volunteers are unable to come. Anyone willing to be placed on the substitute list may call the Food Closet at 428-5290 or contact Margaret Brown at 443-2971.

George Baladjay, representing Church World Service, talked with the Board regarding the history and purpose of the CROP Walk. The SSIP Food Closet is one of the local organizations that receive funds raised by the Sacramento CROP Walk. This year the SSIP received over \$1500 from the 2010 Crop Walk. All of the SSIP Churches are encouraged to participate in this year's Walk which will take place on Sunday, October 9th starting from the west steps of the state capitol.

The KCRA3 – Kids CAN food drive will start the first part of October and conclude November 13, before Thanksgiving. Last year about 30 schools selected our food closet to receive their collected food. This drive is a major source of canned goods for the winter months.

SSIP is considering obtaining t-shirts and aprons with an appropriate food closet logo and selling them to raise some funds. When worn, they would also be a visual statement about the presence of the Food Closet in our community. Please let your church representative know if you would be interested in purchasing one of these items. T-shirts would probably be about \$10 and aprons would be \$12-\$15. More information to come.

Mission update

Thank you to each of you for your part in helping to support the Mission Committee efforts taking place in our community.

We wish to thank Stephen and Anne Millington of Millington Strings, along with LuAnn Higgs who donated their time and talents and treated us to beautiful music on August 21 at the benefit concert for Japan Relief.

Thank you to the SJUMC Choir members who brought refreshments for the post-concert reception. And special thank you to Amy Kawahara and the team of ladies who helped set up the reception: Belle Ito, Mae Kohaya, Betty Hirata and Mitzi Ishisaka.

Thank you, again to each of you! We couldn't have done this without all of your efforts! Total raised at the concert was \$629.

In addition to planning for the mission trip to Japan later next year, we are also planning on sending a team to help the people of Missouri who were affected by the tornado earlier this year. If you are interested in serving on a mission trip in the US or in Japan, please let me or Rev. Motoe know.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,
Mary Nakamura
Chair, Task Force for Japan Relief

To support Mission Teams to Japan,
Make a check payable to SJUMC
(memo line Mission Trips)
To support humanitarian needs in Japan,
Make a check payable to SJUMC
(memo line UMCOR or online <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>)

SJUMC Adult Literacy Program

Pleased to meet you; my name is Robin. I am new to SJUMC, although some of you may have seen me at a couple of the recent Sacramento Japanese Film Festivals distributing movie evaluations with persistence and vigor. In addition to being a Film Committee member, I am a mother and a teacher, an actress and (something of) an athlete, a farmer and a student. As a student, I have been studying the Japanese language – when my work schedule permitted, when classes were available, and when I could find a conversation partner – since August of 1989; this date was also my introduction to the field of English as a Second Language. I worked as a tutor (for Butte Community College near Oroville) and later taught (primarily at Bach Viet Association in Sacramento, but also in Japan) people in America and overseas who wanted and needed to learn the English language and American culture.

Some of you will be soon seeing me as the new Coordinator of Adult Literacy, sponsored and supported by SJUMC. Many of you probably already know about this program, which was founded and managed by Helen Blaisdell for almost thirty years. Our program matches volunteers with students who work together to help the students learn English and various aspects of literacy. These collaborations often

become much more than a simple student/teacher relationship. They can become a genuine sharing of language, culture, life experience, and friendship.

For me, working with second language students has been a life-changing experience. It is a little like traveling without the hassle of going through airport security. I have learned about aspects of other cultures and languages that I would never have heard of, even had I taken the most intense and sophisticated of tours. Seeing my own language and culture through the eyes of people from other countries and cultures has given me an added understanding of my own culture. It has also given me insight into the values and circumstances of the lives of people in the Bible who have done so much to create the beliefs we live by.

To participate in this interpersonal adventure, it is not necessary to have any specialized teaching experience or a high degree of training in English grammar or language development. It is only necessary to have basic English language skills, the ability to listen and work with others in a positive and supportive manner, and the ability to donate about five or six hours a month. I hope you will join us.

-Robin Sweany

Senior Open Gym - Every Thursday 9:30am - Walking 10 - 11:00 am - Exercise

Wayne Shimizu from ACC, leads us every other Thursday in a fun and energizing program. Alternate Thursdays, another personal trainer, leads us. Both programs will help you stay fit while having fun!

Older Adult Dance Group

Hula (Oct 4, 25, Nov. 8 & 15) and Line Dance (Oct 11 & 25, Nov. 8 & 29)—every Tuesday 9am to 10am. Please contact Fran Sumida for more information.

SJUMC QUILTERS

We are forming a new quilting group and are in need of 100% cotton material. We will be making lap blankets for children in the hospital and our shut-ins. For more information contact Emi (Gladys) Alicaya at (916) 685-5183 or by email at ealicaya@frontiernet.net.

