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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



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
Newsletter

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July-August 2010

No. 7

Upcoming Events

- *July 9th-11th - Japanese Film Festival.*
- *July 19th-23rd - Vacation Bible School*
- *August 8th - Aloha Sunday.*
- *August 23rd-27th - Parking Lot re-sealing — Church facility CLOSED*
- *September 12th*
 - Welcome Back/Appreciation Sunday*
 - Sunday School begins.*

Notes from the Pastor

'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.'" (Luke 15:6&7)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! By the time, you are reading this article, I have been SJUMC for a year! I continue to fall in love deeply with the church and people! I thank God everyday for this great honor to work with you! Praise God!

I just finished the California Nevada Annual Conference 2010 and it was crazy busy! I would like to give you some updates. First of all, as of September 1, seven districts will be re-shaped to four districts. SJUMC is no longer a part of Delta District (under District Superintendent Jerry Smith) and we will join Bridges District (under DS Renee Extreum – Fernandez) The new district covers North of San Francisco to North of Sacramento (Pine UMC(SF), Lake Park UMC (Oakland) and Buena Vista UMC (Alameda) – historically Japanese American churches are also a part of this new district.) As you can see how big the district will be, we will be relying more on Circuit. Circuit consists of 6-8 churches in a similar area and we are encouraged to share resources together and do ministries together. My Circuit last year was a great one and most of pastors from the last Circuit will remain in the new Circuit so I am excited to do more things collaborately (Youth has done a program together already!)

Our guest for this year was Bishop Robert Schnase; author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregation* (Radical hospitality, Passionate worship, Intentional faith development, Risk-taking mission and service, and Extravagant generosity) His presentations were very inspiring and I had many ideas for our church to grow more. Lay leaders and I are talking about a special retreat for the church on these topics so please be ready!

During the Japanese American Caucus Dinner, we shared a great meal and wonderful fellowship. we had two visitors from Kyodan (United Churches of Christ Japan – Ecumenical office), we elected Rev. Roger Morimoto as a chair of California/Nevada JA Caucus chair, and we talked about appointment changes in JA churches (i.e. Rev. Dave Nieda (Blaine UMC, Seattle) becoming DS, Rev. Derek Nakano (Faith UMC, Torrence) moving to Blaine UMC, Rev. Kristen Marshall (Associate pastor of UJCC, Clovis) moving to Santa Rosa UMC, Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner moving to UJCC, and Rev. Brenda Vaca (Pine UMC, SF) moving to La Trinidad UMC, San Jose). It was a great addition to have Rev. George Nishikawa (a chair of National JA caucus) and Yoshiko san!

Thank you for SJUMC Lay delegates (Frances Lee and Kent Nakashima) to Annual Conference and Betty Suzuki who serves on many conference/national committees. I also appreciate Mary Nakamura who played Taiko for Ordination Service. Eight people are ordained this year and I am looking forward to all the great work they have done and they will do for the future!

As for SJUMC, Vacation Bible School is going to be something kids have never experienced before! We already have 20 kids and 40 volunteers! So if you know anyone (pre-school to 6th grade), invite them to this wonderful experience. I am thankful for Lori Lee who is heading this year's Aloha Sunday (August 8th). Ukulele players, we need you for that Sunday! I will share the results of our favorite hymn survey in worship services during the summer. I will start Garden series on becoming Green from September 12, Welcome Back Sunday. Many exciting things are happening at the church. Join us! We want to share love of Jesus with you!

SSIP Food Closet Update

Our congregation is a part of the South Sacramento Interfaith partnership (SSIP) which ministers to people in our area through the Food Closet which is housed at the Bethany Presbyterian Church at Fruitridge and 24th Street. Our congregation supports the Food Closet and SSIP through monetary donations, food donations, as well as volunteer giving through service in the Food Closet and on the SSIP Board of Directors and supporting committees.

In our church narthex (foyer) is a large plastic container to receive your gifts of non-perishable food stuffs for the Food Closet. Each Sunday check the "SSIP bag" in the worship folder to learn what food items is currently needed at the Food Closet. There is always a need for general and miscellaneous non-perishable food items, but the items in the bag each week are the current needs. The Food Closet also accepts brown grocery bags. SSIP is currently not collecting egg cartons at this time.

During the month of May, 2010----the SSIP Food Closet served a total of 4,760 persons which included adults, seniors, children and infants. This represents 1,236 unduplicated households. The number of person served and the food delivered express the importance of this ministry.

In May, the volunteers who credited their

hours to SJUMC were: Jane Combs, Richard Yokoi, Audrey Yokoi, June Tanihana, Sue Kashiwagi, Frances Lee, Frances Asahara, Lisa Tanaka, Lester Wataji, Derek Hironaka, Corbin Dahl, Terry Shint, Katie Marshall, Rev. Yamada, Brandon Lewis, Michael Gei, Samantha Fong, Jan Muraki, Cecil Combs, Meg Tanaka, Kimi Ronay, Mike Yui, Jason Chan, Yoshiko Nishikawa, Margaret Saito, Yvonne Kato, Ray Kato, and Shizuko Kurosawa.

We are still in need of volunteers to work inside the Food Closet on Mondays or to work in the metal shed storage locker bagging USDA commodities. Worker inside the Food Closet do a specific task; worker #1 prepares Bag#1 and worker #2 prepares Bag #2, worker #3 adds fresh produce and gets the number of USDA bags needed from a bin and worker # 4 adds rice, additional breads and pastries to the bags and call the client to the window. Workers who bag USDA commodities place 7-8 items in a doubled plastic bag and the tie the bag closed. The items vary each month depending on what is received from Food link and may include: a can of beans, fruits, vegetables, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, a bag of pasta, powder milk, etc. If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis or as a substitute, please call Frances Lee 427-7983, Jane Combs 443-2839 or June Tanihana 395-1355.

Letters to SJUMC

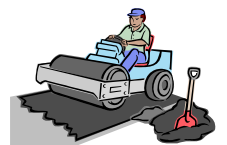
Dear SJUMC family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, concerns, visits & cards . It really meant alot to me. I am getting stronger each day and hope to worship with you all again soon.

God bless you,
Amy Shimada

Parking Lot RESEALING

The parking lot will be resealed the week of August 23rd-27th. It needs to cure before it is driven on, so the entire facility will be closed that week.



The Walk to Emmaus A Spiritual Retreat

A three day summer retreat that begins with a Thursday dinner and ends on Sunday evening can be a particularly special time in your life of faith. It is the Walk to Emmaus – a time to “walk” together with other women or men (weekends are separate opportunities for women and men). As one of the ministries of the Upper Room of the United Methodist Church, the Walk to Emmaus is active throughout the US and the world. During the weekend, 15 talks are given that reflect the essence of what it means to be in relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Combined with sharing together, prayer, communion times, singing and lots of laughter, each participant or “pilgrim” on the walk is blessed with time to grow spiritually. The upcoming walks, which will be the last ones in the region for 2010 will take place in Gardnerville, Nevada. The dates are: Men’s Walk, July 22 - 25; Women’s Walk, August 12 -15 Applications are available from any of the people listed below. There is NO COST to you as sponsors will support you as well as provide transportation. Registration deadlines are: Men – July 7, Women – July 28. Do consider this step forward in growing as a Christian disciple. Speak to Loretta Ashizawa, Mary Nakamura, Sue Teranishi or May Ukita if you have any questions or to get an application.



Hello UMW Members

Activities for the Month of July

SJUMC will have Vacation Bible School from July 19 - 23. It is a High Seas Expedition to explore the mighty love of God. If you would like to assist, we are looking for UMW members who are willing to help provide lunch.

Activities for Month of August

Annual UMW Outing - Wednesday August 18 - Save the date

This year's destination is San Francisco with planned stops at the Disney Museum and the Gum Moon Women's Residence. UMW annually donates to the Gum Moon Women's Residence so come and see how your mission donations contribute to the programs and services of this much needed residence.

Please give any announcements, flyers or notes of appreciation to Belle Ito. She has been doing a great job keeping the UMW board updated and uncluttered.

Thank you June Tobans for your contributions for the month. UMW June Tobans were Doris Taketa, Frances Lee, Helen Blaisdell, Arlene Hagiya, Joanne Ichimura, Noreen Ikeda, Jane Kakigi, Kiyo Sato and Etsu Yui.

Your Co-Presidents,

Elaine Maeda and Yvonne Kato



Invitation to Worship

July 4, 2010

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:1-6

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11, 2010

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 18, 2010

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52 or Psalm 82

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

July 25, 2010

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85 (UMH 806)

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13



Invitation to Worship

August 1, 2010

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

August 8, 2010

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

August 15, 2010

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

August 22, 2010

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

August 29, 2010

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (UMH 803)

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Ushers for July

July 4—Eddie & Sandy Koshino

July 11—Chiyoko Chida & Keiko Nakata

July 18—Yosh & Amy Kawahara

July 25—Max Noguchi & Jiro Sakauye

Ushers for August

August 1—Dale & Sue Fong

August 8—Yuri Harvey & Kumiko Sakata

August 15—Anne Miyasaki & Irene Osuga

August 22—Karen Fong & Joyce Oshiro

August 29—Lily Ikami & Meggie Tanaka

Aloha Sunday

Mark your calendars!

Our annual Aloha Sunday will be held on August 8, 2010.

Wear your "Aloha" attire to a fun filled worship service with music and dancing. After, share a delicious Hawaiian lunch and a short program showcasing our local talent. We anticipate ukulele playing and hula dancing!

If you would like to get involved, contact Lori Lee-Lewis at (916) 730-0601.

Driver's and Escorts Needed

SJUMC would like to begin a transportation program to take some individuals to church every Sunday.

In order to start, we'll need a pool of approximately 6 to 15 drivers and the same number of escorts.

The driver's will be responsible to drive the Asian Community Center van/bus, which is equipped with a wheelchair lift from the rider's home to church, and then return them to their home.

The escort is responsible to assist the rider to get on and off the van/bus.

The Asian Community Center (ACC) is willing to train all drivers/escorts. If you are interested, please call Lori Lee-Lewis at (916) 730-0601 or call Virginia directly at ACC at (916) 393-9026, ext. #333.

Youth News

Summer is off to an amazing start! If this is any indication of how busy the rest of the summer is going to be, we will need to extend summer for a few more months to fit it all in! We've been selling T-shirts and Jamba Juice to help with the cost of camps and mission trips and with your support we are sending 23 participants from SJUMC to 2 camps and 2 mission trips. The high school group went to New Orleans last month to help with the hurricane Katrina restoration. Vacation Bible School is right around the corner and we're looking forward to a week of fun. The youth group will be having outings on Tuesday and Thursday night of that week. We were able to attend a River Cats baseball game against the Reno Aces and enjoyed hot dogs, nachos, and ice cream. The Sacramento State Fair will be starting this month and I hope to take a group at the end of the month to spend an afternoon eating lots of fried food and "hanging around" on rides. Be on the lookout for upcoming events and news!

Congratulations to our 2010 Graduates!

Higher Education

Ashley Hagiya, daughter of Mark and Arlene Hagiya

Doctor of Medicine, University of Southern California (USC). She has been selected for a 4 year residency in Pathology at USC.

Corie Hagiya, daughter of Mark and Arlene Hagiya

Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design, San Diego State University

Alec Ito Kennedy, grandson to Belle Ito

Degrees in Statistics and Economics, UC Berkeley
Hired by Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco

Courtney Goto, daughter of Leo and Naomi Goto

Ph.D, Emory University
Courtney will be teaching at Boston University in the fall of 2010.

Michael Oguro, son of Keith and Sharon Oguro; grandson of Evelyn Akiyama

BA in Landscape Architecture, Cal Poly Pomona.

Ashlee Lewis, daughter of Tony Lewis and Lori Lee; granddaughter of Frances Lee.

BS or BA in Child Development, San Diego State University; She will be beginning Masters program at USC

Caroline Honbo, daughter-in-law to Dr. Wes and Patty Honbo; married to son, Brian)

Ph.D.in Health Policy, School of Nursing - University of California Med Center at San Francisco (UCSF)
Caroline has accepted a faculty appointment at UCSF School of Nursing and will begin teaching after her June 9, 2010 graduation.

Kristin Hiratsuka, daughter to Jeffrey and Stacie Hiratsuka

BA (Kum Laud) in Criminal Justice Kristin plans to attend graduate school in the near future.

High School

Austin Takechi, son of Curtis and Mindy Takechi

Rio American High School

Kevin Kato, son of Raymond and Yvonne Kato

John F. Kennedy High School He will be attending CSU Sacramento in the fall.

Elementary School

Ryland Fernandez, son of Ruby and Richard Fernandez

Helen Carr Castello Elementary School, Elk Grove, He will be in 7th grade next school year at Toby Johnson Middle School in Elk Grove.

Lindsey Shibata, daughter of Gregg and Kiyoko Shibata; grand-daughter to Victor and Shigeko Shibata

6th grade; will be attending Antioch Middle School

**Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
Finance Recap
May 2010**

General Fund

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Begin'g cash bal'nce 04/30/10 | | \$ 32,977.93 | |
| Cash Inflows | | | |
| Pledges | 13,675.00 | | |
| Offer'gs | 13,619.15 | | |
| Other Receipts | 2,306.32 | | |
| Total cash inflows | | | 29,599.47 |
| Cash Outflows | | | |
| Checks - improvements & maintenance | (2,749.00) | | |
| Assessments | (3,498.00) | | |
| Contributions | (11,805.26) | | |
| Total cash outflows | | (18,052.26) | |
| End'g cash bal'nce 05/31/10 | | \$ 42,524.14 | |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Reserves | |
| Unrestricted Cash | \$ 28,553.45 |
| Year's Op'n'g Fund | 7,961.49 |
| Part Fund | 5,126.33 |
| Total Cash Resources | \$ 42,641.18 |

Legacy Fund

| | | | |
|--|------------|----------------------|----------|
| Begin'g cash bal'nce 04/30/10 | | \$ 62,468.96 | |
| Cash Inflows | | | |
| Pledges | 5,391.73 | | |
| Interest & Dividends earned | 296.36 | | |
| Total cash inflows | | | 5,688.09 |
| Cash Outflows | | | |
| Mt. Mtg. local bill amortization payment | (6,328.00) | | |
| City Advisory Fee | - | | |
| Bank Charges | - | | |
| Total cash outflows | | (6,328.00) | |
| End'g cash bal'nce 05/31/10 | | \$ 59,824.62 | |
| 6/30/10 fair market value of stocks | | 93,724.14 | |
| Total Assets in Legacy | | \$ 153,548.76 | |

Special Events

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|--|
| Begin'g cash bal'nce 04/30/10 | | \$ 359,873.64 | |
| Fair Market Value of Stocks 02/28/10 | 197,943.18 | | |
| Money Market 05/31/10 | 137,131.64 | | |
| Percentage Loan - 05/31/10 | 10,962.12 | | |
| Checking Account | 33,337.42 | | |
| Total Assets in Special Events | | \$ 699,247.98 | |
| With List | | | |
| Secularly improvements | 25,303.80 | | |
| Total Assets in Special Events | | \$ 724,551.78 | |

2010 Japanese Film Festival

A Sunday afternoon has been added to the Friday and Saturday screenings! More info at: www.sacjapanesefilmfestival.net.



Fri. July 9, 8:00pm DEPARTURES (Okuribito, 2008) Winner of the 2009 Oscar for the Best Foreign film; 5 major Japanese Oscars. Koboyashi is unemployed and answers a want ad. He takes the job as a funeral worker who prepares bodies in a ceremony in front of the family. He learns a lot about himself in this wise, funny, and tender film. (Japanese with subtitles)



Sat. July 10, 3:45 pm K-20: LEGEND OF THE MASK (2008) is a big action, super hero movie. It's 1949; a phantom thief, K-20, steals priceless art and jewels. K-20 also wants a powerful transmitter which can destroy Tokyo. Heikichi is a poor circus acrobat who can soar from bridges and wage war against K-20. The final showdown is spectacular. (Japanese with subtitles.)



Sat. July 10, 7:30 pm THRONE OF BLOOD (1957) is a great masterpiece. Akira Kurosawa combines Shakespeare's MACBETH with Japanese Noh Theatre. Toshiro Mifune is Lord Washizu, a Japanese Macbeth destroyed by ambition. Isuzu Yamada is the unforgettable Lady Asagi with an immobile Noh mask face and gliding movements. (Japanese with subtitles.)



Sun. July 11, 1:30 pm WHITE ON RICE (2009) Jimmy is a clueless 40 year old who relocates from Japan to live with his married sister. He wants a new wife because his supply of frozen meals from his ex wife has run out. The movie's many laughs come from Jimmy's social denseness at work, at home, and with women. (English with some Japanese.)



Sunday. July 11, 3:30 pm MEMORIES OF MATSUKO (2006): A tragic-comic film with great heart and extravagant musical productions. Japanese pop star and singer Miki Nakatani delivers a wow performance as Matsuko who goes from Japanese school girl, teacher and bar hostess to prison inmate, but never, ever gives up. (Japanese with English subtitles)

