



# EXCHANGE

JAPANESE

FALL  
2003

## Japanese Gardeners "Spruce" Up City Garden

Six gardeners, four wives and Mr. Ono, the tour director, were in Independence Sept 8-12 to prune the Japanese garden into shape before the adult delegation visit for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After many hours of work on the city garden and the Temple garden, the group enjoyed some relaxing time with commission members and friends at Mike & Sue LeVota's for a boat ride and dinner, Lana White's for dinner and birthday celebration at Gerald Hancock's, and a potluck hosted by Rosie Smith where the gardeners and wives prepared and cooked homemade noodles as celebration of their completion of the gardening project. The Mayor's office and Bob Belote and crew from the Parks and Recreation department gave a heartfelt welcome and worked alongside the gardeners while they were here. The Sister City Commission is very appreciative of our friends in Japan who come every five years to lovingly care for the garden and our friends in the City of Independence for their support



Cooking Noodles at Rosie's



Saying "Thanks"

## 25th Anniversary Delegation Visit

As we continue a year of celebration for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Independence and Higashimurayama, final preparations are being made for the Japanese adult delegation visit October 3-8, 2003. There will be 36 adults coming from Higashimurayama to stay with 28 host families while they are entertained and shown around Independence and Jackson County by the Sister City Commission members. Highlights of the visit include: a potluck dinner hosted by John & Kathy Killip and the 2004 student delegation, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn, a tour of the Harley Davidson Motor Cycle Factory, a tour of historic places in Independence, introductions at Independence City Council Meeting, a visit to the Independence School District and Glendale Elementary School, and a tour of Powell Gardens. It will be a busy five days! If you see us around town, please make our Japanese guests feel welcome.

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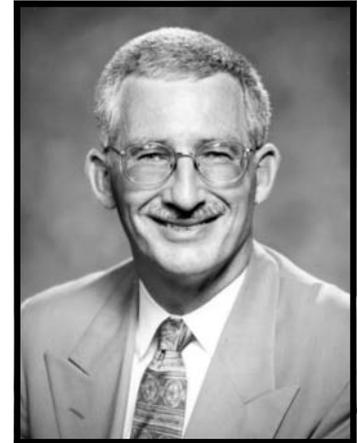
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## New Committee Member Appointed

The committee is pleased to welcome Joe Gall as the newest member of the Sister City Committee. Joe is an attorney practicing in Independence and has deep roots in the Sister City Program. Oldest son Adam was the first to travel to Higashimurayama with the 1994 Student Delegation. Since then they have hosted both students and adults on many occasions, enjoying each opportunity to build friendships and long-lasting relationships. Matt, a sophomore, will be a member of the Student Delegation to Higashimurayama in 2004.

Joe enjoys learning more about Japanese history and culture and is committed to promoting both student and adult exchanges. His goal is to "help perpetuate the good work the committee has accomplished over the past 25 years. I would like to see the committee continue to seek the involvement of more people from Independence as hosts and delegates."

Other volunteer activities include serving 11 years on the Independence School Board, church finance committee member, board member of the Truman/Midtown Corridor Redevelopment Commission and Independence Rotary Club, member of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Committee and Little League Coach for 11 years. Joe and his wife Ann, a Speech Therapist, are very proud of their four children and a Sister City grandson.



**Joe Gall**

## Glendale Japanese Club News

"I'm overwhelmed!" said Japanese Club Director Jeannae Segura Brown about the opportunity to perform at the Japan Festival on Sept. 13th. "We were in school just one day before we started rehearsing for the Japan Fest. The students are coming up to practice 3 days a week before school." This year's performance features a Japanese children's game song called 'Toryanse'. The students form the shape of a Torii Gate which closes on them and traps them. The songs end with a Tug of War Japanese style. "The children love to play this game! We're very excited to perform it for the festival", said Mrs. Brown. She expressed gratitude and thanks to the fantastic job the students did at the performance and for all of the help provided by parents. It was a most

auspicious beginning to the new year for the Club

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS:

Sunday, October 5th **Sports Day**

Tuesday, October 7th **Japanese Delegation Tour**



## 2004 Student Delegation News

The student delegation for the 2004 trip to Higashimurayama was selected in the spring of 2003. Seventeen students applied and were interviewed with ten students selected for the delegation. These students are: front row, L to R, Sara Moxley (Blue Springs), Alice Walkley (St. Ann's) and Matt Gall (Truman). Back row L to R are Kurt Hamm (Truman), Garen Parkes (Truman), Mallory Flippen (Truman), Brandi Fuller (Truman) and Keelia Killup (Truman). Not pictured are Mary Bohnert (St. Ann's), Abigail Dodson (Wm. Chrisman), They will be escorted by Deborah Orr, Principal at Glendale Elementary as reported in the last edition of Exchanges.

The group began meeting during the summer and became acquainted with one another. We have been preparing our program to present while we are in Higashimurayama. We have also been studying the Japa-

Future meetings  
toms and man-  
tional system and  
The group hopes  
nese delegation  
are planning fund-  
defray the cost for  
was rained out on  
rescheduled. We  
sion work at a



nese language and culture.  
will focus on Japanese cus-  
ners, family life, the educa-  
continued language studies.  
to be involved in the Japa-  
visit in October. We  
raising activities to help  
the students. A car wash  
September 13. It will be  
are arranging to do conces-  
Royals game and we are

planning to discuss sponsorships with individuals throughout the community.

Needless to say, the entire group is excited about our upcoming trip. We all count it as a great honor to be selected to represent Independence next summer and will do so with pride.

### Rosie Reveals All!

“The warmth of a meal is born of the warmth of the host.”

Rosie has graciously agreed to reveal the secrets of her famous Fried Rice recipe. She certainly exemplifies this old Oriental saying.

We are most grateful to Rosie for the many times she has worked so hard to prepare for many Sister City events. Most recently, she hosted an evening buffet for the Japanese Gardeners visiting Independence. Thank you so much Rosie for all you have done to make so many occasions into celebrations.

### FRIED RICE

(Serves 10)

- 2 cups raw rice
- 3 chicken breasts (deboned and diced)
- 4 slices bacon (chopped)
- 4 eggs (fried thin as paper and chopped, cook eggs with dash salt, pepper, accent and sugar)
- 1 green pepper (chopped)
- 2 carrots (shredded)
- 3 stalks celery (chopped)
- 1 bunch green onions (chopped)
- 1 large onion (chopped)
- 2 small cans mushrooms or fresh
- 1 Tbsp. Sherry Wine
- Salt, pepper, Worcester sauce, soy sauce, accent, cayenne pepper and cat-sup

Cook rice as directed, but not mushy. Set aside. Cook bacon until crisp. Add raw diced chicken in bacon and cook. Add chopped celery, onion, green peppers, carrots and mushrooms. Add wine, Worc. Sauce, pepper, salt, accent, red pepper and soy sauce. Cook 2 eggs at a time in skillet with seasoning and cut into strips. Add cooked rice to vegetable mix. Add some eggs, save the rest for garnish on top of mixed rice when you display on platter. Don't stir, but turn or flip to mix up rice and vegetables to avoid becoming mushy. Add green onion and rest of eggs last.

**ENJOY!**

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## President's Corner

"It was my privilege to attend the Sister Cities International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri July 23-26, 2003 with Lana White, Connie McQuain and Sue Valentine. The enthusiasm and excitement were evident from the moment we checked in. Countries from all over the world were represented, many wearing their national dress. This was most noticeable at the Parade of Nations Opening Session.

"Information we gathered from workshops was both encouraging and challenging for our Sister City Commission. We attended sessions such as "Strengthening Your Organization's Membership", "Equipping Tomorrow's Leadership Today", "Communicating Effectively with Your Members", "How to Build and Sustain a Successful Youth Program", and "Strengthening, Evaluating, and Rejuvenating Your Sister City Program". We came away with new ideas to build upon and encouragement for what we are doing well. St. Louis, Missouri was an excellent host for the international convention. Next year's convention will be hosted by Ft. Worth Texas. It's not too early to plan to attend.

*Lana*

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**The Gardeners enjoy their first ever Birthday Party that Gerald Hancock celebrated**